
DIR25S2\100069

Conservation and poverty alleviation through sustainable ranching in Paraguay

This project will stem forest and biodiversity loss while mitigating socio-economic vulnerability by building capacity for, and implementing, sustainable ranching practices in collaboration with local communities, government, and academia. Paraguay's leading meat processing company will support these efforts and contribute to large-scale industry standard adoption.

Interventions will be scaled by large and small-scale Chacoan ranchers committing to sustainable practices in exchange for market access and multi-disciplinary expertise, thus reducing deforestation pressure, enhancing biodiversity protection and improving welfare of vulnerable communities.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Maria
Surname	Fleytas
Website (Work)	
Tel	
Email (Work)	
Address	

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Maria
Surname Fleytas
Website (Work)
Tel
Email (Work)
Address

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Wildlife Conservation Society
Phone	
Email	
Address	

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Conservation and poverty alleviation through sustainable ranching in Paraguay

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR25S1\100123

DIR25S1\100105

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Paraguay	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2019

End date:

31 March 2022

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total request
Amount:	£128,031.00	£131,538.00	£139,563.00	£ 399,132.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Our confirmed matched funding includes £X from the WWF "Forest Agriculture Alliance" Project, £X from Minerva Foods, £X of WCS's own funds and £X of WCS in-kind contributions. In addition, we expect an unconfirmed match from CONACYT of £X.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost 38%

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This project will stem forest and biodiversity loss while mitigating socio-economic vulnerability by building capacity for, and implementing, sustainable ranching practices in collaboration with local communities, government, and academia. Paraguay's leading meat processing company will support these efforts and contribute to large-scale industry standard adoption.

Interventions will be scaled by large and small-scale Chacoan ranchers committing to sustainable practices in exchange for market access and multi-disciplinary expertise, thus reducing deforestation pressure, enhancing biodiversity protection and improving welfare of vulnerable communities.

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q8. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
24-001	Inaoyom Imong	Improving forest governance for Cross River gorillas and Nigerian farmers
24-011	Oscar Loayza Cossio	Wildlife-friendly agroforestry and sustainable forest management in Bolivian indigenous territories
23-024	Elizabeth Matthews	Securing marine fisheries, livelihoods and biodiversity in Myanmar through co-management
23-014	John Polisar	Improving livestock management for economic-environmental stability in Mesoamerica's Mosquitia
24-003	Ben Swanepoel	Conservation and poverty alleviation through scalable agro-biodiversity practice in Laos
23-020	Ambroise Brenier	Sustaining biodiversity, livelihoods and culture in PNG's montane forests

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q9. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and

responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.

This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide Letters of Support for each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B. There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Website address:	wcs.org
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	<p>For over 20 years, WCS Paraguay has helped global communities adopt wildlife-friendly, sustainable agriculture practices that improve food security. In Latin America, WCS plays leadership, technical and support roles on participatory planning, partnership building, implementation and scaling in seven countries.</p> <p>With Darwin, USAID and USFWS support, WCS designed and implemented ranching plans protecting 170,000 hectares of globally significant forests, wetlands and grasslands in the Paraguayan Chaco that would have been otherwise converted to pasture, resulting in a 50% decline in the retaliatory killing of jaguars and illegal hunting of peccaries, tapir and deer in target sites.</p> <p>From 2015 to 2017, WCS assisted 98 small producers in southern Paraguay increasing productivity by 60% per hectare through improved range management and husbandry.</p> <p>To scale project successes and enable long-term impact we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish participatory mechanisms to engage multiple stakeholders.Foster synergies to leverage resources and increase impact.Design and implement environmentally sustainable, economically profitable practices tailored to small and large ranchers.Design and implement improved water management (participatory decision-making, sustainable resource use, and water treatment) leveraging our recent success in the Pilcomayo watershed.Perform M&E for continuous improvement throughout the project lifetime.Develop comprehensive reporting to enable future scaling.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Minerva Foods (MF)

Website address: <https://portal.minervafoods.com/en>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Minerva Foods (MF) is currently Paraguay's largest meat-processing company, with 60% of the market share. Under their social responsibility policy, they are committed to assist small and large ranchers equally, and now assist some 900 producers in Paraguay. MF will be a key partner in the support, implementation and adoption of sustainable practices while also contributing industry expertise on adequate herd practice. As an industry leader, MF's participation will ensure that sustainability standards are validated with the possibility of developing international market traction that translates into widespread market adoption across the industry, benefiting the project's impact by incentivising sustainable ranching practices. Through MF's involvement, small ranch-holders will be able to access market opportunities not currently available to them.

MF will:

Provide additional funding for field implementation in the form of one part-time extension officer and resources for working in the field.

Share herd practices from across various ranch scales and contexts.

Help spread improved practices validated in the field with ranchers and WCS by promoting their adoption in their production chain.

Disseminate sustainability standards to the meat-packing market

Help tailor production types to market demands, thus securing sales and subsequently livelihood for small-scale cattle producers.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

2. Partner Name: The National Vice-Ministry of Livestock

Website address: <https://www.facebook.com/viceministeriodeganaderiaparaguay/>
<https://twitter.com/vmganaderiapy?lang=es>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The Paraguayan National Vice-Ministry of Livestock is a government agency that will support the scalability and replication of this project. This agency works directly with approximately 150 small-scale ranchers in the Chaco, and indirectly promotes the adoption of improved practices between 145,000 small ranches nationwide.

Specifically, the Vice-Ministry of Livestock will:
Provide feedback and lessons learned on sustainable ranching outcomes based on their prior experience across their geographic area of influence.

Broker WCS access to small-scale ranchers interested in project participation during the development and implementation stages of this project.

Incorporate lessons learned through this project into their future assistance initiatives, leveraging gained knowledge to their large, nationwide small ranch stakeholder base.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: Faculty of Veterinarian Sciences, The National University of Asuncion

Website address: <http://www.vet.una.py/web/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The Faculty of Veterinarian Sciences (FVS) is an academic unit of the National University of Asuncion, the highest ranked and most well-regarded university in Paraguay. FSV provides training and field experience in Veterinarian Medicine and Animal Production to students who will then become Veterinarians, being able to influence deployment of required technologies to the national development process of the country related to ranching. Importantly, these professionals are trained with natural resource use and ecological functionality to benefit human health. They also promote extension and provision of services to the community.

The Faculty of Veterinarian Sciences will work with WCS to:

Provide technical support in animal husbandry for small-scale ranchers in situ; evaluate animal health and the effect of current practices and recommend adequate improvements, as part of the sustainable ranching modules lead by WCS.

Incorporate project components as part of the university's field practice opportunities, therefore building the local capacity to assist and support sustainable ranching (e.g. graduate project development).

Facilitate access to different university divisions capable of contributing broader technical expertise to various project components (e.g. project planning/rural economy staff that could help in the elaboration of business plan for small ranchers).

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

4. Partner Name: Government of the Department of Alto Paraguay

Website address: <https://www.gobernacionaltoparaguay.gov.py/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The Government of Alto Paraguay (GAP) is mandated with policy development, land use planning and improving the welfare of their constituent population. This is achieved by GAP's promotion of sustainable natural resource use and management, providing access to clean water and improved water management.

Through WCS's facilitation, GAP will support community organizations' training and project specific water quality improvements to:

Facilitate identification of small-scale ranchers and women's groups thus enabling their participation in the proposed project.

Contribute knowledge on adequate water management standards relative to sustainable ranching practices.

Incorporate resulting water management approaches and sustainable ranching models gained through this project into broader natural resource use plans.

Facilitate scaling of water management and sustainable ranching adoption post-project.

Support the monitoring of conservation agreements signed by beneficiaries of the Department during the project and especially after its finalization.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):


No Response


Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes No


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the Project, please use the text field below.


No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 **WCS Cover Letter and Letters of Support**

 03/12/2018

 21:40:21

 pdf 4.24 MB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q10. Key project personnel

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Maria del Carmen Fleytas	Project Leader	50	Unchecked
Angel Brusquetti	Sustainable Ranching Coordinator	70	Unchecked
Laura Villalba	Coordinator of Species' Conservation	70	Unchecked
Belen Ortiz	GIS Officer	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked

Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Cesar Bareiro	Extension Officer (Minerva Foods)	20	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above. Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 **Ref DIR25S1-100105 CVs WCS Paraguay**

 03/12/2018

 19:17:21

 pdf 657.15 KB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 7 - Problem Statement & Conventions

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

Spanning over 1,000,000 km², the Gran Chaco is the second-largest forest and second-largest jaguar stronghold in the Americas. Paraguay holds 25% of the Gran Chaco, home to additional priority wildlife including the Chacoan peccary, giant armadillo, and giant anteater.

The Chaco is also home to 170,000 km² of cattle ranches, which exert a significant environmental impact. Land conversion for cattle has resulted in the fastest global deforestation rate of over 3,000 km² of forests per year. Biodiversity loss is exacerbated by habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict, including retaliatory killing of carnivores by ranchers. Negative impacts are significantly higher from large ranches covering over 136,000 km², than in small ranches covering less than 34,000 km².

Despite Paraguay being the world's sixth beef exporter, many of the 182,000 Chaco inhabitants have unmet rudimentary needs. In Alto Paraguay, where this proposal will work with small ranchers, ranching employs 49.5% of the population and the Basic Unsatisfied Needs (NBI) index shows over 40% of its population has at least two basic needs unsatisfied in housing, water and sanitation, education and/or subsistence capacity, being the highest percentage in the country. This situation is aggravated by the area's relative

geographical isolation, and weak government technical assistance.

To address the coupled issues of biodiversity loss and access to basic needs, WCS will support environmentally responsible and efficient livestock management, with a minimum of 8 large ranchers and 150 small ranchers, increasing production efficiency, access to markets and subsequently, income, and decreasing over-exploitation of natural resources and conflict with wildlife. Project beneficiaries will commit to conservation actions in exchange for receiving assistance with livestock management and access to clean water, through agreements signed with WCS. This model, explicitly tying improved ranching practices with broader biodiversity benefits via technical support and shared responsibility could be scaled across the region.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below:

No Response

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the objectives of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Q12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement.

CBD, Aichi Strategic Goals:

Goal A, mainstream biodiversity:

We will work with decision makers, such as local and national-level government agencies, market stakeholders, technical staff from academia and the government's extension services, and ranchers at all scales, to implement plans for sustainable production and consumption, reducing the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits (Target 4).

Goal B, reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use:

Sustainable cattle ranching practices will be introduced, increasing efficiency in already converted areas. Improved efficiency will reduce pressure on as yet unconverted habitats, mitigating further forest loss (Target 5). Areas under ranching will be managed sustainably through conservation agreements between ranchers and WCS, ensuring biodiversity conservation by reducing conflict with wildlife (Target 7).

Goal C, improve biodiversity status:

By working with sustainable ranching practices and large ranchers surrounding the Defensores del Chaco National Park, a large area of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services will be conserved. This will be achieved through well connected systems of protected areas, sustainability interventions across the broader landscape matrix, and other effective area-based conservation measures

to improve productivity and avoid horizontal expansion of production, such as increased stocking rate, rotational grazing, and improved management leading to higher birth rate (Target 11). With the installation of non-lethal carnivore control techniques, extinction of known threatened species, such as jaguars, will be prevented through decreased human-cattle-carnivore conflict. Their conservation status will be improved and sustained (Target 12).

Goal D, enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services:

The needs of rural groups, especially women and local communities, are addressed by safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential services, including water, that contribute to health, livelihoods and wellbeing (Target 14). Reduced deforestation through sustainable ranching practices will result in improved conservation of degraded ecosystems, whereas reduced risk of fires contributes to better quality of life, carbon stock conservation and mitigation of climate change (Target 15).

Goal E, enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building:

Sustainable ranching will be improved by incorporating and disseminating local lessons of small and large ranchers and knowledge of project partners (Target 18), and building the capacity of ranching communities and natural resource managers (Target 19), focusing on the most vulnerable socio-economic sectors.

We will also support:

The CBD Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity: as we will target the promotion of the positive effects and mitigation of the negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity in agro-ecosystems.

The CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity: as our project activities are aimed at the conservation of forest biodiversity through the transformation of ranching practices towards more efficient ones, diminishing the need for further forest conversion and thus protecting habitats for biodiversity.

Q12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS/ABS/ITPGRFA/CITES/CMS/Ramsar focal point in the host country?

Yes

Please give details:

Paraguay's focal point for CBD is the General Directorate for Biodiversity Protection and Control at the Ministry of Environment (DGPCB - MADES). WCS has a history of collaboration with DGPCB. The institutions led a 2-year process (2014 to 2016) resulting in the WCS-MADES co-authored first National Management Plan (NMP) for the jaguar, *Panthera onca*.

A letter from DGPCB, supporting the implementation of the proposal and acknowledging the close relationship between WCS and DGPCB is included. WCS will maintain ongoing communication with DGPCB on project activities and results. WCS will support one strategic line defined in the NMP for *Panthera onca*.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Goal 1 - End poverty: we will promote health through the provision of clean water; gender equality through women-specific training in family water management; knowledge on animal health/husbandry and

improved ranching practices with partners in academia, national Government and Minerva; adoption and improvement of standards for markets and then increased access to markets with Minerva; and scaling testing and adoption on new knowledge with the Vice-Ministry and Minerva whose combined assistance covers a large part of the country.

Goal 2 – Zero hunger: we will improve agricultural productivity for 150 small rancher families by providing extension services, knowledge and market opportunities for more efficient use of natural resources, which directly impact their income and provide food security.

Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation: we will provide greater access to clean water to at least 30 families. We will increase women’s knowledge through training and provide equipment for water treatment and management. The local Government of Alto Paraguay will help us identify and convene women-based training events.

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production; we will base our intervention on finding, testing, implementing and then fostering replication of models of sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources in the production of beef.

Goal 15: Life on land: We will mitigate deforestation by implementing ranching practices that improve efficiency per hectare without further conversion of forested landscape for agricultural development. This will protect biodiversity habitats and help prevent the extinction of threatened species while reducing ranchers’ conflict with wildlife.

Section 8 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

This may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you should update or refine as necessary.

Theory of change:

We will halt deforestation, habitat destruction, human-wildlife conflicts and subsequent retaliatory killing of predators, resulting in the decline of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and quality of life for rural communities, by delivering technical assistance in environmentally responsible and profitable livestock to small and large-scale ranchers. This assistance will increase production efficiency and local income, as communities will have their sales secured through the partner Minerva, which will source production adhering to sustainable standards. In the case of small ranchers, for whom we will also provide training in improved water management, the project will also benefit family health. To avoid increased efficiency leading to further ranching expansion, beneficiaries will sign explicit conservation agreements with WCS, where they will commit to conservation outcomes in exchange for the assistance.

WCS will work in close collaboration with partners to deliver this project, with each partner bringing their unique expertise (partners’ roles described in detail in section 9.)

Selecting beneficiaries:

WCS will select 8 large ranchers (more than 1,000 cattle and approximately 4,000 hectares each) and 150 small producers (around 100 cattle and less than 300 hectares each). We will prioritize an area of at least

150,000 hectares of large ranches surrounding Defensores del Chaco National Park in Boqueron and Alto Paraguay to consolidate a key conservation corridor. We will compile ranch baseline data through personal surveys and remote sensing. Income level and basic needs mapping for small ranchers will be obtained at the family level. Environmental data will include forest connectivity and forest cover from satellite imagery and habitat quality, with jaguar and prey abundance as ecological proxies to evaluate biodiversity status and benefits arisen from the project.

Model development:

Proposal partners have identified "low calf production" as the primary ranching problem in the Chaco. Forest conversion has been the historical response to decreased cattle productivity. We will address this through a combination of adjustment in stocking rate, rotational grazing, improved pastures, cattle nutritional and reproductive management improvements, adequate animal health care, improved cattle inventory systems, reduced livestock-carnivore conflict and comprehensive ranch plans, achievable without further land conversion.

Conservation Agreements:

WCS will sign an agreement with each beneficiary where they commit to avoiding depleting natural resources in exchange for in-kind and technical assistance. Commitments will include: controlling deforestation, respecting areas of high conservation value, limiting hunting; and tolerating large carnivores. Agreements will be monitored officially once a year and randomly throughout the project by WCS staff.

Disseminating and scaling up:

A printed material will showcase best practices for its wider replication. Large and small ranchers will interact via field exchanges. Programs in two local radio stations will disseminate lessons and encourage model uptake. The Vice-Ministry of Livestock will incorporate improved practices in their ongoing direct assistance to 150 small ranches, and indirectly to over 145,000 small-medium ranchers in Paraguay. Regional crosspollination and lessons learned will be promoted via presentations at "Encuentro Mundial del Chaco", a bi-annual regional forum attended by ranchers, national authorities, Academia, NGOs, and the media.

Q14. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

Short term:

a) Conservation of forests, ecosystem services and biodiversity: at least 30,000 hectares of forest and their ecosystem services will be conserved through improved management practices that increase production efficiency per hectare, avoiding the need for further forest conversion and thus reducing the rate of forest clearing by 50% in 8 target large ranches. Avoidance of habitat destruction and fragmentation benefits Chacoan biodiversity, including about 300 bird species, 60 mammal species, and many other taxa. Non-lethal predator control, including light and sound deterrents, tailored to each ranch, will reduce killing

of jaguars and other large carnivores by 50% in the 8 targeted large ranches. Conservation agreements between WCS and all participating ranchers will enforce this commitment.

b) Increased livestock management capacity and economic benefits, resulting in improved livelihoods: knowledge and skills will be transferred to 150 small ranchers and 8 large ranchers, which will translate into higher production per hectare. Such efficient production will be tailored to market needs through the intervention of Minerva, facilitating access to markets.

c) Reduction of social and economic vulnerability of small ranchers: by adopting sustainable production practices, production efficiency and access to markets will increase by an additional 20%. This is achievable by tailoring production types to market demands helped by Minerva, thus securing sales. Additionally, access to clean water will increase due to adequate management systems. The project will also increase household inclusion in natural resource decision-making through skills enhancement. Indirectly, some 24,000 people (one third of the Boqueron and Alto Paraguay Departments population) will benefit by the protection of critical watersheds and ecosystem services they depend on, through improved land management and ranching techniques.

d) Empowerment of local women: A minimum of 30 women and their families will be included in project activities such as training and water management, comprising 20% of the total number of small producers benefitted.

e) Improved capacity of Paraguay to meet its CBD and SDG obligations: by sharing valuable information and lessons learned and providing policy recommendations to national governments. This project addresses Aichi targets 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15 18 and 19 and all 5 Strategic Goals. Specifically, we will reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable natural resource use and strengthen local capacity for sustainable ranching and water management. The proposal will also contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 6, 12 and 15, by transferring knowledge, increasing productivity and improving livelihoods on small-scale ranches; including women in development processes; reducing forest and biodiversity loss and providing greater access to safe water.

Long term: sustained reduction in deforestation and natural habitat degradation, and improved biodiversity conservation and socio-economic wellbeing will be achieved through a scalable, sustainable ranching model that could be further improved and replicated. It will also serve as an input for the Vice-Ministry of Livestock, which aims to cover some 145,000 small ranchers throughout the country.

Q15. Gender

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

The Government of Paraguay (GOP) estimates that almost 40% of Paraguayan households live below the poverty line, and female-headed households fare worse than male-headed households in economic well-being. As of the last National Census in 2012, more than two thirds of families in the Chaco reported a male head of household, rendering a third of the households more vulnerable simply by virtue of being headed by a woman. Generally, the cattle ranching industry, and most local leadership positions, are male-dominated realms.

In consideration of the above, we have connected with the Government of Alto Paraguay and they have provided a preliminary list of 150 potential beneficiaries, owners of small ranchers, of which less than 10% are women. Therefore, we will devote our efforts to at least double this figure, reaching a minimum of 20% women with other project benefits, such as training, participation and subsequent empowerment.

We will provide direct training and inputs for improved water management and training in related issues, such as organizational skills, participatory decision making and sustainable resource use, to a minimum of 30 women. Women will be focal points for water management within the participating households, ensuring project benefits are more equally distributed across genders, and starting a more equitable division of responsibilities and leadership in overall ranching.

This project will facilitate gender inclusion by ensuring female participation in 100% of baseline development (surveys), by requesting women's participation during survey development, and facilitating their participation by adapting times and dates considering their other tasks.

We will disaggregate data by gender from the baseline collection to the end of the project and within the final evaluation of success indicators.

Q16. Exit Strategy

State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

This project fits into WCS long-term strategy and permanent engagement for wildlife and wild places conservation in the Chaco, by integrating biodiversity protection, sustainable natural resource use and development. Therefore, we will continue measuring long-term benefits for biodiversity, local capacities and socio-economic welfare, and seeking additional funding over the lifespan of this project.

Training and capacity building will continue through our established relationships with local actors such as the Government of Alto Paraguay the Vice Ministry of Livestock, the Academia and Minerva Foods, which are committed to provide this type of assistance throughout the country in the long-term, now based in the sustainable models resulting from our project. WCS will also continue to seek engagement of other actors that can reinforce this objective. Trainees will also help sustainability as they can demonstrate to other small and large-scale producers, economic and environmental benefits of the model, thus encouraging replication.


Minerva Foods will also seek to open sustainable beef markets for Paraguay producers, helping perpetuate the sustainable ranching model and its subsequent biodiversity benefits.

Water management and improved production practices will be promoted in the long term by the Government of Alto Paraguay, tasked with policy development and legislation in its territory.

Please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below:

 **PHOTOS-WCS activities in the Paraguayan C**

haco since 2011

 03/12/2018

 19:20:48

 pdf 2.94 MB

Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q17a. Harmonisation

Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Development of existing work

Please give details:

This project builds upon WCS's work in the Chaco, implementing sustainable ranching with local communities lacking this kind of assistance. We aim to address the 2017 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock report, which states the National Programme's failure to increase cattle birthing rates in medium and small ranchers is primarily related to a lack of technology tailored to these sectors, in addition to market price variations.

From 2015 to 2017, in partnership with Fundacion Moises Bertoni, WCS assisted 98 small ranchers in Pilcomayo Watershed in southern Chaco resulting in 60% higher meat production efficiency/hectare, and 50% reduced cattle mortality, through improved management and husbandry. Our work with other 160 families resulted in an 80% decrease of incidence of water-related diseases, especially in children.

From 2011 to date, WCS has designed and implemented individual cattle and range management plans with ranchers resulting in protection of ~170,000 hectares of pristine ecosystems and 50% decline in retaliatory killing of jaguars in target sites in the Chaco.

During a 2012 WCS beekeeping project in two small Pilcomayo watershed indigenous communities, the Mistolar and Fischat requested assistance with cattle ranching techniques to diversify their agricultural practices and add a source of protein and income.

Q17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

Q18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the Guidance.

WCS has worked in Paraguay since 2011 and is committed to building credible and independent science-based understanding of biological diversity, ecosystem integrity and their vital contributions to human wellbeing.

WCS systems ensure adherence to labour, finance, banking, and registration regulations specific to the nearly 60 countries where we work, in addition to U.S government regulations. WCS has a Duty of Care policy, and the institution creates an environment of safety and concern in the fulfillment of our mission.

WCS is a founding member of the Conservation Initiative for Human Rights (<http://www.thecihr.org/>) and works to ensure ethical approaches to biodiversity conservation. These efforts are supported by the WCS Institutional Review Board (IRB), which is charged with reviewing the level of risk to human subjects in research, assessing the methodology and protections afforded those subjects, and mitigates risk by ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been obtained at all levels of our engagement with local communities. Our partnerships with local people strive to understand natural resource governance in the context of valuing and applying traditional knowledge to addressing biodiversity and poverty alleviation challenges.

This approach contributes to local efforts to improve human wellbeing by affirming cultural identity in the face of rapid change, while making explicit our shared interest in finding more sustainable alternatives to dominant approaches to economic development. These principles apply to our engagement with

communities in the Chaco, and guide our interactions with national and local government entities and the private sector in Paraguay.

Specific to this project, we will ensure:

Respect for the rights and privacy of project participants, ensuring no personal information sharing without consent.

Results will be shared directly with communities, so that they can learn from their own experience.

Inclusion of women and girls in capacity building activities.

Q19. Safeguarding

(see Guidance Note 3.8)

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, we would like projects to ensure they have the appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please tick the box to confirm you have relevant policies in place and that these can be available on request.

Checked

Section 10 - Biodiversity & Project Information

Q20. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

Local level: We will create radio programs to be broadcast via two local stations, which will maximise outreach to isolated communities and encourage participation. Agreements between WCS and ranchers will also make the link between biodiversity and ranching practices explicit.

National: the Vice-Ministry of Livestock (VML) develops annual, small rancher assistance Operational Plans. Our models will be presented to VML, who has agreed to incorporate successful project practices into their annual small rancher plan. This model will be the product of collaboration between WCS and project beneficiaries, and VML will distribute printed and digital materials funded by other donors on the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts in support of this initiative. We will also host at least two events to share project results with NGOs, government entities including CBD focal points and ranchers, advocating for national policies that favour the adoption of best ranching practices.

All meetings and outreach materials will promote awareness of the value of biodiversity and the importance of sustainable land use and ranching practices.

International: "Encuentro Mundial del Chaco" is a bi-annual forum where lessons learned between Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and other countries are shared. WCS Americas Program, which comprises more than 10 countries, will help diffusion and replication through our human-wildlife co-existence strategy, which WCS Paraguay has led and implemented since 2017.

We expect to publish at least one press article each year, and in at least one outlet such as National Geographic by Year 3, highlighting our efforts to harmonize biodiversity protection with production. Social-media will be widely implemented to share project updates.

Increasing livestock productivity, safeguarding wildlife, and alleviating poverty are central governmental concerns. Once we have a final model tested, WCS will approach agencies to promote the tool through government extension efforts.

Q21. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

Building the capacity of local communities, natural resource managers and government entities is at the core of WCS's conservation strategy, and a particular focus of this project.

Direct training:

a) We will provide technical assistance and training for sustainable livestock management through our Sustainable Ranching Specialist and an extension officer (both Agronomists), two WCS biologists, a Minerva extension officer (also an Agronomist) and a professional from the Faculty of Veterinarian Sciences. These technical activities will be implemented in the field, including theoretical and practical hands-on training.
b) We will also provide training in organizational skills; participatory decision making; sustainable resource use and water treatment to 30 women at small ranches, in cooperation with the Government of Alto Paraguay.

Cross-pollination: we will invite some 100 small farmers for field exchange visits to be held in large ranches serving as model farms, to enable interaction between large and small scale ranchers' and allowing exchange of concepts and practices in a participatory fashion.

Conservation Agreements between ranchers and WCS: these agreements have a capacity building element in that they raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity, and also ensure each participating rancher takes ownership and responsibility for implementation, enforcement and monitoring of conservation actions planned within the project.

Sustainable ranching models for replication: the combination of livestock management and biodiversity conservation commitments from small and large-scale ranchers, coupled with the resulting improved productivity, is a highly replicable model that national government agencies, other NGOs, cooperation agencies and academia can easily replicate in other parts of the country, and even regionally. It can foster interest of other ranchers beyond the project period to continue testing similar practices and thus expand the capacity built by this project.

Q22. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific funds you are seeking from the Darwin to fund this.

WCS is a science-based organization that is committed to an evidence-based approach to conservation. The project will make all analytic outputs publicly available through the WCS Paraguay website (paraguay.wcs.org), such as the final publication systematizing the sustainable models developed during the project. Training and outreach materials will be made available to local stakeholders in printed media and

online, and through oral presentations in workshops. This will enable access by those audiences with poor to no reading skills, limited electricity or no internet access.

Project results will also be shared with the CBD focal point in Paraguay, and the UK Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Projects news and updates will be freely accessible to all interested parties on WCS's website in Spanish and English. We will also disseminate project information through the WCS Paraguay Facebook page, mailing lists, social networks such as LinkedIn, and partner websites. Text, data, and images will be unprotected from searches, and users will be able to freely use information, provided they agree to properly attribute the source. WCS's work to develop data-sharing mechanisms ensures that the data generated from this project will be securely housed and openly available for decision making and planning, which is particularly important when safeguarding social and environmental systems that are potentially threatened by unchecked agricultural conversion in the Gran Chaco. With the exception of the Darwin reports, all outputs will be in Spanish.

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q23. Logical Framework

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome if funded. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

Impact:

Implementing sustainable cattle ranching in the Paraguayan Chaco results in reduced deforestation and land conversion, improved biodiversity conservation, and strengthened livelihoods of the most vulnerable socio-economic sectors.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

Outcome:

Reduced deforestation and biodiversity loss are achieved through implementation of sustainable, efficient and scalable ranching practices in the Chaco, which protect biodiversity while improving the welfare of vulnerable rural populations

0.1 Local Livelihoods (income): By the end of the project, at least 150 households (750 people) in rural districts of the Paraguayan Chaco, will directly benefit from a 20% increase in production efficiency (more kilos of meat per hectare), and 20% more sales in local markets, as a result of trainings and knowledge acquired through the project, compared to a baseline survey in 2019.

0.2 Local livelihoods (access to clean water): At least 20% of the 150 households will experience a reduction in water quality-related diseases, thanks to trainings and knowledge acquired through the project, compared to a baseline survey in 2019.

0.3 Biodiversity: Retaliatory killing of jaguars is reduced in 50% in 8 targeted large ranches; and populations of large and medium sized predator such as the jaguar and ungulate prey species (red deer, collared peccary) will be stable or increasing compared to a 2019 baseline, in 8 target ranches with at least 150,000 hectares, and species composition become significantly more similar to that of the intact Defensores del Chaco National Park forest.

0.1. Local Livelihoods (income): Baseline family survey in 2019 disaggregated by gender and subsequent survey in 2022; calving rate, sales' records. Project reports.

0.2. Local livelihoods (access to clean water): Water analysis and/or local health services reports. Project reports. Surveys to beneficiaries.

0.3. Biodiversity: Quantitative baseline data in 2019 and subsequent monitoring data in 2020 and 2021, obtained from personal surveys with ranch workers, analysis of camera trap sampling in forests at target ranches to obtain species composition, and comparison with Defensores del Chaco data base. Project reports.

0.4. Forest cover: Baseline remote sensing images from 2019 of each large property showing forest cover and subsequent annual monitoring in 2020 and 2021. Project reports.

0.1 Local Livelihoods (income): changes due to improved ranching practices are effective and measurable and no significant disease, climatic or market conditions diminishing cattle production during the lifespan of the project.

0.2. Local livelihoods (access to clean water): changes due to training and subsequent improved knowledge are effective and measurable during the lifespan of the project.

0.3. Biodiversity: Fluctuations due to climatic conditions, major disease outbreaks and/or forest fires are not significantly to diminish wildlife populations during the project. Participant responses to baseline and final jaguar killing surveys are honest.

0.4. Forest Cover: There are no extreme climatic conditions, major disease outbreaks and/or forest fires that significantly diminish forest cover. Satellite imagery is available for window of project execution.

0.4 Forest Cover: By the end of the project, the rate of deforestation in 150,000 hectares of private ranches in the Defensores del Chaco National Park buffer zone is reduced by 60% from 2019 baseline in the same area.

Output 1:

1. Improved sustainable ranching systems: more environmentally sustainable and market-ready production models are designed, tested and adopted by 150 small cattle producers and 8 large ranchers in two Departments of the Chacoan region.

1.1 At least 150 small ranchers (20% women) and 8 large ranchers participate in baseline economic, social and environmental surveys by Year 1.

1.2 At least 150 small ranchers (20% women) and 8 large ranchers receives a minimum of 20 hours each of practical and theoretical training in improved ranching practices such as stocking rate, rotational grazing, improved pastures, cattle nutritional and reproductive management improvements, animal health care, reduced livestock-carnivore conflict and others, by Year 2.

1.3 At least 30 women (20% of the small ranchers' families) receives a minimum of three day training in water treatment and management, in the form of practical and theoretical training by Year 2.

1.4 150 small ranchers and 8 large ranchers implement at least three improved production practices each (adequate stocking, rotational grazing, native forest management, non-lethal carnivore control, etc.) in their properties by Year 3 (baseline = 0 in

1.1. Digital and/or physical surveys completed. Reports on the findings.

1.2. Individual training proceedings / lists of attendance (in the case of group training). Photos of the training. Project reports.

1.3. Training proceedings / lists of attendance. Photos of the training. Project reports.

1.4. Reports from field visits by WCS and partners, with photos. Ranchers' logs showing improvement in productivity and sales. Changes in knowledge and practices captured by pre and post surveys.

Small and large ranchers are willing to participate in project activities.

Women are not culturally banned from participating in training events.

Women will feel comfortable participating, and will have adequate time to contribute in a way that will not negatively impact completion of their normal daily tasks.

2019).

Output 2:

2. Conservation Agreements: agreements between project beneficiaries and WCS are signed to commit to conservation outcomes by 150 small ranchers and 8 large ranchers from two Departments of the Chaco.

2.1. Conservation agreements signed and implemented by Year 2, by 150 small ranchers and 8 large ranchers, including conservation commitments to reduce lethal carnivore control, reducing forest conversion and others. Baseline: 0 conservation agreements.

2.2 158 Conservation Agreements (150 with small ranchers and 8 with large ranchers) are officially monitored by WCS once per year each, from Year 2 on, and randomly throughout the year, outside official monitoring dates.

2.1 Signed agreements, photos, project reports, list of attendance to preparatory events.

2.2 Monitoring visits reports, with photos and list of attendance. Project reports.

WCS and ranchers are able to reach consensus over the terms of each agreement.

Output 3:	3. Diffusion and replication: the model where improved ranching practices help to achieve broader biodiversity benefits via technical support and shared responsibility is disseminated in order to expand future impact	3.1. By the end of the project, a publication is produced, summarizing livestock management practices, knowledge, attitudes, wildlife-human conflicts and other aspects measured during the project, and outlining the effectiveness of sustainable ranching, and shared at national, regional and/or international events by Year 3.	3.1. Digital and 500 printed versions of the publication, attendance list and pictures of presentations/knowledge sharing event at national, regional and international level.	<i>No Response</i>
		3.2. By Year 3 of the project, at least 600 people (beyond project target beneficiaries) know about sustainable production practices through local radio programming, press reports, national outreach by the Vice-Ministry of Livestock and participation in regional and international conferences, from a zero baseline in 2019.	3.2. Lists of attendance to presentations of project results at national, regional and international events, including presentations to extension agents at the Vice-Ministry of Livestock. Radio campaign media outputs, including number of people reached. Copies of outreach materials (digital and/or printed materials and presentations, leaflets, press, radio spots). Project reports.	
		3.3. At least 3 exchange visits, involving a minimum of 100 people, are held between small and large ranchers in the Chaco, to share sustainable ranching concepts and practices and thus promote wider adoption, by Year 3 (baseline = 0 exchanges).	3.3. Participant lists of field exchange visits. Photos and project reports	

Output 4:	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>			

Output 5:

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities (each Activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

The word count for each individual activity should be no more than 25 words.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.1

Activity Details

Conduct baseline economic, social and environmental surveys: with 150 small and 8 large ranchers. Questions adapted to target small and large ranches.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.2

Activity Details

Deliver training for sustainable ranching: stocking rate, rotational grazing, improved pastures, cattle nutritional and reproductive management, animal healthcare, reduced livestock-carnivore conflict

Activity details

Activity Number

1.3

Activity Details

Deliver training for water management and treatment: to small rancher who are highly vulnerable and lack basic infrastructure and services such as safe water provision

Activity details

Activity Number

1.4

Activity Details

Assist ranchers with field implementation: ranchers willing to implement improved production practices will receive in situ assistance to implement at least three practices.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.1

Activity Details

Generate Conservation Agreements: with 150 small and 8 large ranchers, from two Departments and 6 communities, committing to reduce lethal carnivore control and forest conversion.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.2

Activity Details

Monitor 158 Conservation Agreements yearly, from Year 2 on, and randomly throughout the year, outside official monitoring dates, to identify deviations and implement continuous improvement.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.1

Activity Details

A final publication capturing livestock management practices, knowledge/attitudes, wildlife-human conflicts, and

effectiveness of sustainable ranching. 500 digital/print copies shared at national/regional/international events by Year 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.2

Activity Details

Local, national and regional diffusion of best practices: ≤600 additional people reached via local radio, outreach by VML, conferences, WCS and partner social networks/websites/events/publications

Activity details

Activity Number

3.3

Activity Details

3 field exchange visits: involving ≤100 people. Small ranchers will learn from large ranchers, share sustainable ranching concepts/practices, discuss challenges/successes, thus promoting wider adoption.

Section 12 - Implementation Timetable

Q24. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add columns to reflect the length of your project.

For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

↓ **Darwin R25 - Stage 2 - Implementation Ti**
metable FINAL Dec 3

📅 03/12/2018

🕒 19:55:56

📎 xlsx 19.45 KB

Section 13 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see "Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance").

Monitoring and evaluation has been integrally designed into this project to achieve multiple objectives:

1. Provide a rigorous, objective, and independent framework for project evaluation and collection of lessons applicable to comparable scenarios in Latin America and beyond.
2. Build a sense of ownership of the project among national partners, to promote the sustainability of interventions.
3. Monitor resources, activities and implementation to ensure effective project operations, value for money, increased capacities, and adaptive management.
4. Increase awareness of the potential impact of sustainable farming interventions on biodiversity and poverty alleviation by diffusing lessons learned.

The WCS Project Director together with WCS Sustainable Development Specialist and Species' Coordinator, will be in charge of the project's M&E, working closely with partners to track project implementation during the entire life of the project, and even post-implementation, as all partners will continue working in the area after the end of the project.

We will concentrate on two kind of metrics:

- 1) Improved livelihoods/human welfare: based on the quantitative and qualitative indicators we will collect in the initial baseline survey, we will evaluate progress in livelihoods, basic needs, level of knowledge acquired, level of adoption of sustainable livestock management practices, improvements in water provision and management, status of wildlife-human conflicts, and others, all of these measured by indicators as per the log frame.
- 2) Biodiversity and forest conservation: we will employ remote sensing images to quantify initial forest cover in large ranches and then, will monitor them annually. To calculate reduction in deforestation, WCS will use historical deforestation trends derived from remote sensing analysis and contrast them with actual changes observed during the project. We will compare medium and large mammal species presence and density through camera trapping. We will use personal surveys complemented with camera traps data to monitor jaguars and their wild prey' presence as habitat quality indicators, and the effectiveness of jaguar-human-cattle conflict reduction measures. We provide related indicators in the log frame. We will share these results with ranchers to engage them actively in project activities and increase their appreciation of local species present in their properties.

Data will be translated into information products including presentations, written media and reports.

Adaptive Management and Dissemination of Lessons Learned:

At least once each year, monitoring data will be reviewed with ranchers, communities, project partners, local governments, NGOs and other stakeholders and compared against expected results to adapt each subsequent year's work plan. Changes in local livelihoods and environmental status will be closely monitored to ensure improvements are introduced in time and manner if needed.

Total project budget for M&E (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)

Number of days planned for M&E	20
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	8

Section 14 - Funding and Budget

Q26. Budget

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.


[Darwin and IWT Budget Template](#)


Please refer to the [Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance](#) for more information.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 **[WCS Paraguay Darwin 2018 Budget FINAL](#)**

 03/12/2018

 20:06:39

 xlsx 48.5 KB

Q27. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

WCS consistently prioritizes efficiency and value for money. At every decision point in field budget development, we have considered cost effective alternatives. WCS will provide most of the basic infrastructure (i.e. office space, office equipment, laptops, telephone, one vehicle), thereby maximizing the impact of the Darwin funding.

The project is leveraging significant additional resources since 38% of project costs are covered by other partners.

WCS will use its technical expertise acquired from previous projects and will secure optimal use of Darwin funds through partnerships, contextual knowledge and lessons learned to implement culturally-appropriate and feasible activities. Project staff are all country nationals, thus securing local workers who are motivated and technically enriched through their engagement with this project.

We will maximize economy and efficiency of Darwin funds by:
Ensuring inclusive interventions, targeted to real needs of vulnerable communities and that they will be accepted and later sustained by participants.

Working with partners as integral team members, thus building capacity and promoting sustainability.

Providing permanent and regular presence in the area and performing participatory evaluations that ensure stakeholder satisfaction and interventions are having the expected impact.

Improving livelihoods of 150 families (average of 5 members per household), totalling some 750 people with an total investment of £532 per person for the three years of the project, working in a remote and highly isolated region of the country with the lowest population density of the country: less than 7 people every 10 km², located 900 kilometres away from the capital, 7 hours of travel over rough terrain each way), This illustrates a high value return on investment.

WCS's expertise and history of successful operations in challenging and remote locations will lend success to this initiative where politically motivated government extension services, conservation and development projects usually do not reach.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

We will purchase a 4WD truck, to be used in addition to the one we already own, that will serve to cover the highly isolated and distant communities we are planning to reach.

We will continue using this vehicle for the same kind of work after the project ends. It is a key tool to reach isolated landscapes and communities of the Chaco. WCS mission is to address threats to species, habitats and ecosystem services, and issues critical to improving the quality of life of local people whose livelihoods often depend on natural resources. For that purpose, we perform our conservation work especially in those isolated places where biodiversity coexists with productive activities.

Q29. Match funding (co-financing)

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
WWF - Forest Conservation Agriculture Alliance		GBP	<i>No Response</i>
Minerva Foods		GBP	<i>No Response</i>
WCS		GBP	In-Kind: Toyota Hilux 4WD truck (1p/km); and 50 camera traps and its accessories)
WCS		GBP	WCS own Funds

Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
30 April 2018	Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)		GBP	Results expected in December 2018.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Q30. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

WCS has world-class financial management procedures in place that ensure transparent financial management, and absolutely minimise any risks from operating in the field. Our operations in Paraguay, regionally in Latin America, and at our head-office in New York, have been designed and refined over the years to ensure full accountability to our donors, as well as streamlining the implementation in the field. WCS has adopted a number of institutional policies and standard procedures to ensure compliance with applicable international laws and regulations and with the highest standards of ethics.

A team of expert financial managers are already involved in the project design for smooth delivery, ensuring that the budgets, procedures, and partner arrangements are sufficient.

The team will continue to be directly involved with the project, and have been budgeted accordingly.

WCS has more than 7 years' experience operating in Paraguay with international best-practice financial procedures, and has passed numerous audits to multilateral agency standards (e.g. USAID, Darwin Initiative, as well as annual independent audits.

We will hire an external financial auditor to independently verify the responsible, efficient, and transparent use of project funds by WCS and its partners.

Section 15 - FCO Notifications

Q31. FCO Notifications

Please put an X in the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Unchecked

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 16 - Certification

Q32. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Wildlife Conservation Society

I apply for a grant of

£399,132.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- **I have uploaded CVs for project principals and letters of support.**

- **I have uploaded our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report.**

Checked

Name	Joe Walston
Position in the organisation	Senior Vice President, Global Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 <u>Joe e-signature</u>  03/12/2018  20:17:43  pdf 11.43 KB
Date	03 December 2018

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance (including Guidance for Applicants and Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance)	Checked
Have you read, and can you meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	Checked
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Checked
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP?	Checked
Have you checked that your budget is complete and correctly adds up?	Checked
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?	Checked
Have you uploaded a 1 page CV for all the Project Staff on this project, including the Project Leader?	Checked
Have you uploaded a letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations?	Checked
Have you included a cover letter from the lead organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed?	Checked
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Checked

Have you uploaded a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?

Have you checked the Darwin website to ensure there are no late updates?

Have you read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK?

We would like to keep in touch! Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Unchecked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organization, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).