
DIR25S2\100063

Securing wild tulips and pastoral communities in the Kyrgyz mountains

Kyrgyzstan's 27 wild tulips species, a third of species globally, are declining due to recreational cutting and overgrazing of montane grasslands, which also threatens grazing communities' livelihoods. The project will improve grassland management, secure threatened wild tulips populations, enhance pastoralist livelihoods and engage 2,000 people in cultural activities. Work with 300 pasture users will ensure sustainable pasture management on 500ha, tulip conservation measures on 100ha and establishment of a Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement will impact 100,000s hectares of grasslands.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Fauna & Flora International
Phone (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Securing wild tulips and pastoral communities in the Kyrgyz mountains

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

DIR25S1\100350

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	Kyrgyzstan	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:	£101,223.00	£108,247.00	£99,904.00	£ 309,374.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

This project is FFI match funded for office costs and staff time, plus in-kind office costs from the Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan, and staff time from Bioresources. An in-kind contribution for time is provided for Dr Samuel Brockington by Cambridge University Botanic Gardens. In addition funds from the Finnis Scott Foundation are contributing towards tulip conservation activities, and a NERC Case studentship is paying for time for PhD student Brett Wilson to engage in fieldwork.

FFI will contribute £X, Bioresources £X, and The Association of Forest and Land Users Kyrgyzstan £X in support of the project.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost 18.5

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. Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Kyrgyzstan's 27 wild tulips species, a third of species globally, are declining due to recreational cutting and overgrazing of montane grasslands, which also threatens grazing communities' livelihoods. The project will improve grassland management, secure threatened wild tulips populations, enhance pastoralist livelihoods and engage 2,000 people in cultural activities. Work with 300 pasture users will ensure sustainable pasture management on 500ha, tulip conservation measures on 100ha and establishment of a Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement will impact 100,000s hectares of grasslands.

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
24-006	Vicky Wilkins	Enhancing forest biodiversity and community resilience to Tajikistan's changing climate
24-004	Laura Fox	Conserving critical forest biodiversity in Guinea through sustainable agricultural livelihoods
24-002	Rob Small	Cattle, water and wildlife: enhancing socio-ecological resilience in Laikipia
25-002	Rob Harris	A model for conservation, stabilisation and development in South Sudan

25-010	Josh Kempinski	A sustainable landscape for Critically Endangered primates and marginalised communities
25-005	Frank Momberg	Enabling ecosystems to deliver sustainable development goals at Lake Indawgyi

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: Fauna & Flora International (FFI)

Website address: www.fauna-flora.org

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

FFI is committed to supporting livelihoods strategies that reduce pressure on grasslands and we have good existing relationships with government, civil society, and community partners who share this commitment. Through the recent tulip project scoping trip, which consulted: individuals, NGOs and government stakeholders at multiple levels; a suite of actions were identified to achieve multiple benefits for communities and biodiversity.

FFI will be responsible for leading the project, and will ensure strong technical, operational, and financial management of the project; including overseeing activity implementation, partner engagement, impact monitoring, collating technical project information and reporting. FFI will apply best practice approaches for community engagement and utilise extensive technical experience to achieve high quality biodiversity outcomes. In-house expertise includes: livelihoods development, capacity building, participatory approaches and conservation within agricultural landscapes.

FFI has over 20 years of conservation experience in Kyrgyzstan and has delivered a long running programme of work on the walnut-fruit forests, in the south of the country, and has engaged thousands of community members in livelihoods programmes and reforestation activities. The team has also delivered protected area management work and planning.

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: Cambridge University Botanic Gardens (CUBG)

Website address: <http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk>

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

The main objectives of Bioresources is the promotion of applied biological science, excellence in scientific knowledge in the field of biological resources, the introduction of practical developments in the field of biodiversity conservation, and bringing together the scientific community to discuss and resolve major environmental issues. Their focus is on: Agricultural Land Resources, Environmental Policy and Management and Biodiversity.

Bioresources has experience in implementing international projects, for example: 'In-situ/on farm Conservation and use of Agrobiodiversity in Central Asia (2012)' a Biodiversity International UNEP-GEF project; 'Empowering rural communities to sustainably address their development needs; a project partnering with FFI and funded by the EU and the Darwin Initiative (2013-2015); and the tulip scoping trip with Cambridge University Botanic Gardens (2018).

Bioresources role in the project will be to support Cambridge University Botanic Gardens with the tulip fieldwork, as well as establish and implement the pasture monitoring method and tulip conservation zones with the local communities. They will support Gareev Botanical Gardens with threatened tulip collection development and reinforcement; and deliver the development and workshop for the National Tulip Strategy.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

Association of Forest Users and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan (AFLUK)

Website address:

<https://www.facebook.com/kyrgyzaflu/>

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

AFLUK promotes sustainable management of land and forest resources that is adaptive to climate change, preventing conflicts and improving living standards of villagers, contributing to poverty reduction and food security of Kyrgyzstan. AFLUK uses international experience and traditional knowledge to achieve sustainable agriculture and forestry, involving communities, experts, politicians and donors. 120 expert consultants are tailored to each project.

AFLUK has extensive project experience, for example:

- "Development of plans for sustainable management of pasture resources in the pilot communities of Maidan and Markaz of the Kadamjay district of Batken oblast" within the framework of the Norwegian Forestry Group project (2011);
- "Understanding of roles in the management of forests and pastures of Kyrgyzstan", under a contract with GIZ and World Bank (2014);
- FAO project "Support to the development and coordination of forest policy and an action plan with the SDGs and the climate agenda of the Kyrgyz Republic up to 2040" (2017-2018).

AFLUK will deliver the project activities relating to sustainable management of pasture through community engagement and consultation, participatory workshops; and surveys and training by pasture and livestock experts. Also supporting the development and workshop on the Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement. AFLUK has not received Darwin funding before.

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

4. Partner Name: National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (National Academy of Sciences)

Website address: <http://www.naskr.kg>

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

The National Academy of Sciences, originally part of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, was established as an independent entity by Government decree in December 1993.

The aims of the Academy are to carry out research in natural, engineering, and social sciences, to train scientists in all fields of knowledge, to advise the government in matters of scientific policy, and to disseminate knowledge. The Academy defines the research topics in the national research institutions, coordinates basic research funded by the state, participates in international organisations, and organises symposia and conferences to discuss scientific issues and coordinate research. As of 2008, there are 37 academics, 57 corresponding members, and 7 foreign members.

The National Academy will support the project by engaging and working through Bioresources, tulip specimens collected by fieldwork will contribute to the national herbarium and the academy will also provide national experts to support the project, and engage with the National Tulip Strategy workshop.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

National Pasture Users Association of Kyrgyzstan "Kyrgyz Jayity"

Website address:

http://www.jayit.kg/en/about_us

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

National Pasture Users Association of Kyrgyzstan "Kyrgyz Jayity" is a voluntary association of legal entities and a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the ability of pasture users, Pasture User Unions and Pasture Committees to effectively manage and use pasture resources. It shares with its members a vision that: Strong Pasture Users Unions and Pasture Committees, supported by all stakeholders, are able to effectively manage pastures and support improved livelihoods for pasture users throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. They promote effective management and use of pastures and pasture resources and infrastructures; and represent and protect the rights and legitimate interests of the Association's members.

The Pasture User Association role in the project will be to engage with the development and implementation of pasture and livestock management plans, supporting pasture committee and user involvement. They will support the development of the Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement and ensuring long term retention of skills and knowledge facilitated by the project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

6. Partner Name: Gareev Botanical Garden (GBG)

Website address: <http://www.botanica.kg/>

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

The Gareev Botanical Garden of National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic was established in 1938 and is a centre for the research and conservation of the biodiversity of local and international flora in Bishkek. It is a leading research institution in the field of introduction and acclimatisation, physiology, selection and genetics of plants. The botanical garden has a unique collection which numbers nearly 5000 taxa of higher vascular plants.

The Garden was part of a Darwin Initiative-funded project (2009 – 2012) on participative forest management in the Tien Shan region of Kyrgyzstan, and working with Botanic Gardens Conservation International to create a panel exhibition on the key species of Kyrgyzstan's fruit and nut forests. Over the past few years FFI has collaborated with the garden on the conservation of rare and threatened tree species.

The botanical garden is an ideal vehicle to publicise the tulip conservation work of the project, and the mobile display will be finally homed at the garden. The garden will also create collections of 4 threatened tulip species and will lead on the reinforcement of 1 threatened species; as well as participating in knowledge exchanges with the UK to strengthen staff skills and knowledge.


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


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.


 [FFI Kyrgyzstan CoverLetter](#)


 03/12/2018


 17:46:25

 pdf 581.05 KB

 [FFI Kyrgyzstan Support Letters](#)

 03/12/2018

 14:07:14

 pdf 2.33 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?
Jarkyn Samanchina	Project Leader	13	Checked
Vicky Wilkins	Central Asia Programme Manager	10	Checked
Maxim Koshkin	Central Asia Ecologist	5	Checked
Helen Anthem	Technical Specialist, Gender, Livelihoods and Governance	4	Checked


Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Askat Kysanov	Specialist	70	Checked
Begimay Amanbayeva	Administrative Assistant	25	Checked
Aibek Dolotbakov	Field Specialist	30	Checked
Irina Popova	Collection Specialist	30	Checked

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.

 [FFI Kyrgyzstan CVs](#)

 03/12/2018

 14:10:56

 pdf 1.89 MB

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?

Part of the Central Asian Mountain Biodiversity Hotspot, the montane grasslands of Kyrgyzstan are globally important with 27 species of wild tulips (35% of global diversity), including six endemics and 11 nationally Red Listed species. These species are the ancestors of garden tulips and provide genetic resources for modern horticulture.

Kyrgyzstan's 4 million hectares of montane grassland health is crucial for tulips and semi-nomadic pastoralism. For centuries, Kyrgyz people have grazed livestock, and pastoralism remains integral to mountain communities' livelihoods. However, approximately a quarter of all Kyrgyzstan's montane grassland ecosystems (where wild tulips are located) are overgrazed, resulting in decreased ground cover, widespread erosion, less palatable species for livestock and less resilience to climate change. Pasture degradation is negatively impacting already-deprived, grassland-dependent communities, threatening their livelihoods, wellbeing and cultural identity.

The pastoral regions of Chui and Batken are Kyrgyzstan's first and second most impoverished, respectively. The project will work in Shamschy village (pop. 795) in Chui Region and Baul village (pop. 2,000) and Sulukta town (pop. 20,725) in Batken Region. Pastures are managed centrally by the Kyrgyzstan government in conjunction with local Pasture Committees; however, engagement of wider and marginalised sectors of the community is limited.

Tulips are indicator species for sustainably-managed pastures, as overgrazing and excessive trampling by livestock are key threats that prevent regeneration, resulting in extinction risk. Other threats include recreational flower picking, climate change and habitat loss. These threats are exacerbated by limited data, the absence of formal protection and low public awareness.

These problems were identified with project partners and local communities during a scoping exercise that included surveys and threat assessments. The project will increase understanding of Kyrgyzstan's grasslands and tulips and work with local communities to protect tulips through grazing management, protection and culturally-relevant awareness-raising activities, benefiting communities, grazing pastures and tulips.

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)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

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.

Pasture health, economic and cultural sustainability, and biodiversity are all interlinked. This project safeguards the endemic and threatened tulips of Kyrgyzstan, which are indicators of the health of montane grasslands that are vital to Kyrgyzstan's semi-nomadic pastoralists, and a unique and irreplaceable part of Central Asia's biodiversity. Key contributions to relevant conventions include:

- 📄 By conducting baseline and monitoring research on the poorly-known tulip species, the project will contribute to the CBD and Aichi Target 19 (science for conservation).
- 📄 Data collection methods will include interviews with local communities and are in line with Aichi Target 18 (respect for traditional knowledge).
- 📄 The project's use of conservation zones and fencing in demonstration areas to allow tulips to regenerate in key zones and the development of a livestock and pasture management plans contributes to CBD Article 8 (in-situ conservation) and Aichi Targets 12 (prevention of extinction), 13 (maintaining genetic diversity of cultivated species) and 14 (preserving ecosystem services and livelihoods).
- 📄 Ex-situ tulip collections will also support Aichi Targets 12 and 13 in regard to preventing extinctions and maintaining genetic diversity through ex-situ protection.
- 📄 The livestock and pasture management plans, the Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement and associated skills training will also support CBD Article 10 (sustainable and equitable use) and Aichi Targets 1 (awareness of sustainable principles), 4 (sustainable production), 5 (preventing the reduction of natural habitat) and 7 (sustainable agriculture management), reinforced by the project's awareness-raising component.
- 📄 The resultant healthier grasslands and pastures will mean an environment and pastoralist livelihoods that are more resilient to climate change, and contribute to Aichi Target 10 (climate change mitigation).

Under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the CBD the project will contribute to the following objectives:

- Objective 1 will be contributed to through tulip fieldwork, the National Tulip Strategy and ex-situ conservation, which will achieve 'plant diversity being well understood, documented and recognised'.
 - Objective 2 which requires 'plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved' will be facilitated by the tulip strategy, fencing and tulip conservation measures across 100 ha.
 - Objective 4 will be delivered through the cultural community outreach work and wider pasture management and training, to achieve 'education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on Earth is promoted'.
- The project's community focus – exemplified by developing livestock and pasture management plans and strengthening community management of pastures – meets the core objective of the ITPGRFA, and the project is structured to support:

- 📄 Article 5, understanding and conservation of genetic resources, through baseline and monitoring research activities and ex-situ tulip collections

Article 6, sustainable use, through the livestock and pasture management plans that will be developed in consultation with the communities aim to support the sustainable use of the grasslands

Article 8, technical assistance, as the project's approach is community-based, with FFI providing technical assistance in the elaboration of management plans, amongst others.

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

Yes

Please give details:

Kumar A. Mambetaliev, the Deputy Director of the Department of Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources and the CBD focal point for Kyrgyzstan, is aware of, and supports this project.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

The project areas - Chui and Batken Regions - are Kyrgyzstan's first and second most impoverished areas respectively, earning below the SDG absolute poverty level. This project will contribute to:

SDG 1: No Poverty, by improving the livelihoods of impoverished pasture users in Kyrgyzstan and by building their resilience and reducing their vulnerability to shocks and disasters (1.5) through better pasture and grazing management.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger, by enhancing livestock's productive capacity by improving pasture quality (2a); increasing the project area's resilience to climate change for people, livelihoods, tulips, and ecosystems through improved pasture management (2.4); and preserving the genetic diversity of tulips and cultivated species (2.5).

SDG 5: Gender Equality, by emphasising gender equality and supporting women's rights to livestock, pasture and their management. Enhancing women's skills and increasing their control over economic resources relating to livestock and control over grazing land.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, by helping communities to access relevant information and develop the plans and capacity to manage pastures and wild tulip populations sustainably (12.2, 12.8).

SDG 15: Life on Land, by supporting the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of a terrestrial grassland ecosystem (15.1); conserving a mountain grassland ecosystem and its biodiversity, in order to enhance its capacity to provide benefits for sustainable development (15.4); and protect the terrestrial grassland ecosystem, halting biodiversity loss, and preventing the extinction of threatened tulip species (15.5).

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.

To achieve Output 1 on increased knowledge, an evidence base on grasslands and associated tulip species at project sites will be established through field surveys (abundance, threat assessments, ecological requirements), distribution mapping and taxonomic studies; led by Cambridge University Botanic Gardens (CUBG) and supported by Bioresources. Gareev Botanical Garden (GBG) will establish ex-situ populations of four threatened species, and one threatened species for breeding and to reinforce wild populations.

Partners will use field data to inform the development of a national tulip conservation strategy. Strategy development will be a participatory process, facilitated by Bioresources and FFI, drawing from expert knowledge and FFI's existing planning tools and templates. Three people from GBG will receive knowledge exchange opportunities, with CUBG giving training and informal mentoring, to enhance in-situ and ex-situ tulip conservation skills.

To achieve Outputs 2 and 3, focused on community-led pasture and livestock management and capacity building, FFI will partner with local NGO AFLUK, the Pasture User Associations, government pasture committees and Leshoz (Government Forest Service) to develop and implement three community-led livestock and pasture plans. This will engage 300 pasture users covering 500 hectares, and result in measurable improvements in pasture management. The plans will be developed through collaborative workshops with pasture committees, exploring method feasibility such as rotational grazing and livestock productivity improvements.

Prior to the workshops, household interviews will be undertaken to understand existing pasture management and the needs and engagement of marginalised community members; as well as male and female roles in livestock and pasture management. This information will be used to design collaborative workshops, and deliver field-based training on sustainable pasture management and livestock skills. Expertise and consultation with pasture users and committees will be used to develop a Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement to influence the management of 100,000s hectares of grasslands.

Bioresources will use tulips, invertebrates and sward cover as monitoring indicators for pasture quality. A simplified monitoring approach will be designed, and communities trained to monitor and manage pasture health.

To achieve Output 4, FFI will improve cultural value and protection, through training two community protection teams (20 people) to monitor priority tulip sites, as well as developing community materials and highlighting the illegality of cutting via events. Collaborating with the community, 100 hectares of tulip-rich pasture will be selected as conservation zones to be managed with light grazing; 5 hectares of the most vulnerable tulip sites will be fenced, preventing trampling and cutting.

Outreach activities will engage $\geq 2,000$ community members to celebrate the heritage of tulips and deliver conservation messaging around tulips, including a tulip festival, school events, art installations and traditional performances (which traditionally include tulips). Activities will predominantly be in the project sites, apart from a mobile interpretation display on tulip conservation, which will move around project sites and eventually be installed in GBG.

FFI will lead project management with oversight by a project steering group. Sub-grant agreements will outline partner roles, financial compliances and time-plans, to ensure delivery of project activities.

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.

In the short-term:

The project will benefit 150 pasture user (30% women) households, who will gain increased control over and input into pasture management, and increased livelihood resilience (ultimately income) due to improved flock health and quality of livestock products. Additionally, 300 pasture users will benefit from new knowledge and skills regarding pasture monitoring and improvement, which will allow users to effectively manage their pastures during the project. We anticipate that the initial indicators of positive changes in flock health (i.e. reduced mortality and improved livestock products) will be visible by project end.

Additionally project learning on grassland biodiversity conservation and pasture management will be used in the development and sign-on of the Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement by Pasture Committees to influence the management of 100,000s hectares of grassland and benefit 1,000s of associated pasture users.

In the short-term, the increase in data and evidence will start to inform tulip conservation and facilitate conservation need being integrated into other initiatives. Tulip populations in the project sites will benefit directly from monitoring and protection, via community protection teams, conservation zoning and fencing, ex-situ populations, cultural reinforcement and greater public awareness. Protection teams will include 20 community members (including 10 women) who will be trained on monitoring, giving them new skills and knowledge.

2,000 community members (including 1,000 women) will be engaged in celebrating tulips as an important cultural symbol for Kyrgyzstan and pastoral communities. These events will reconnect communities to the cultural value and importance of tulips, supporting protection and recovery as a symbol of healthy pastures.

In the long-term:

Increased awareness of and use of sustainable pasture management by government Pasture Committees will benefit three remote pastoral communities (23,520 people); making their livelihoods more sustainable in the long term. Rehabilitation of pasture increases the amount of forage, which has been shown to improve livestock production and household income. Therefore as montane grasslands recover, due to reduced grazing pressure through improvements in livestock management, pastures will become more biodiverse and resilient to long-term climate change; and so sustain pastoral livelihoods as well as biodiversity. Reduced pressures will improve this ecosystem, making it richer and more diverse, and also capable of supporting sustainable populations of ungulates and large carnivores. Protecting grasslands will also mean protecting traditional semi-nomadic pastoralist culture.

Fencing and direct community protection will reduce the cutting of tulips, contributing to the stabilisation and spread of prioritised threatened tulip species. The ex-situ collections of four tulip species will provide long term conservation insurance, and the reinforcement of one threatened species will increase resilience and reduce likelihood of extinction. The National Tulip Strategy and evidence base will inform wider management potentially benefiting Kyrgyzstan's 4 million hectares of montane grassland and allow the integration of tulip conservation into the work of the National Academy of Sciences, local NGOs and government land management agencies; facilitating long term recovery of threatened tulip species through future project and programme activities.

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.

Women and men in Kyrgyzstan access and benefit from natural resources differently, along culturally assigned roles, and men still dominate positions of power. The project will actively promote female voices and take steps to ensure that women are not negatively impacted by interventions. An understanding of male and female roles and perspectives in pasture management will be gained through household interviews and group discussions, including women only groups if necessary. At least 30% of those involved in pasture management plan development and subsequent training will be women. This inclusive planning process will be a good starting point for encouraging and supporting Pasture User Committees to diversify their membership.

Pasture Committees and Pasture User Associations are predominantly male but the project will ensure that there is at least a proportional representation of project activities relative to the gender balance within these organisations, and that women's active participation is facilitated and encouraged. Work with the National Academy of Sciences, Bioresources and AFLUK will champion and support female staff, and ensure that they have the opportunity to participate in knowledge exchanges and organisational development opportunities.

Tourist messaging on enforcement will be made relevant and accessible to women through targeted discussion sessions and surveys. The distribution of community outreach materials will target women, specifically through engagement of local women's groups; as the scoping survey found that young women are most susceptible to cutting tulips. At least 50% of the community protection groups will be women, providing them with new skills and knowledge.

All community activities will engage 50% women and planned through consultation with local women to understand the kind of events they like and ensure that the timing, nature and location of the events allow their full participation.

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?

The National Tulip Strategy will determine future conservation actions, leads and resources for activities, creating a long term driver and focus for tulip conservation in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. Ex-situ collections will be maintained as part of Gareev Botanical Gardens' collections, facilitating long term maintenance.

Increased understanding, skills and improved grazing pastures will be maintained through the Pasture User Committees and Associations, who will take ownership for the delivery of the community pasture and livestock plans; and the Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement. The committees will work as local hubs retaining pasture improvements techniques, enabling skills and knowledge to be continually exchanged between pasture users. A simple monitoring method will be developed with, and then applied by pasture users, allowing them to continually monitor and manage their pastures sustainably.

The community protection teams will be trained and set up to be independent, with structures and

management that are self-sustaining. They will also maintain and monitor tulip conservation zones and the fenced tulip areas. The cultural events, posters, artwork and printed materials will be produced to provide long term reminders of the cultural importance of tulips, to ensure that tulips remain as a traditional symbol and in the consciousness of these communities.

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

No Response

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:

In 2017, Cambridge University Botanical Garden applied for a Darwin Initiative Scoping Project and visited Kyrgyzstan in 2018. This is when the idea for the project was first developed. During this trip, it was acknowledged that an NGO with in-country livelihoods, as well as biodiversity, experience was needed as the project lead, and so they approached FFI.

In Kyrgyzstan there is no pre-existing conservation work on tulips and no biodiversity-focused projects on grassland quality. There are, however, grazing and livelihoods-focused projects, and therefore partnering with the Pasture User Association and AFLUK will allow knowledge and experience to be transferred with pre-existing projects.

The project will also build upon the skills and knowledge of the wider Kyrgyz partners, for example Dr Kaiyrkul Shalpykov of Bioresources has championed the idea of a tulip conservation project for the last 10 years and will be a key member of the project team. FFI has also been collaborating with the National Academy of Sciences, Gareev Botanical Gardens and Bioresources for many years, focusing on the conservation of the walnut-fruit forest ecosystems in the south of Kyrgyzstan.

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.

FFI will endeavour to ensure that all conservation activities respect the rights of poor, vulnerable or marginalised people who are dependent upon, or live adjacent to the grasslands within the project sites. FFI is a founding member of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (www.thecihr.org). This project has taken a sustainable livelihoods approach to understanding the complexity of people's livelihoods in relation to montane grasslands and their management. The project will work with local stakeholders to empower them on pasture and livestock management, with an emphasis on local leadership and on equitable participation and benefit-sharing. Respect for the right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent will be maintained by the project and it will ensure that activities are informed, understood, and agreed by

community stakeholders.

The collection of plant material will conform to all relevant national regulations, and will be only undertaken through prior written agreement with regulatory authorities. Master specimens will be deposited in the National Academy of Sciences, Kyrgyzstan, to provide an in-country record.

FPI has a health and safety policy that is used for staff to ensure their safety in relation to work travel; this policy will be implemented throughout the delivery of this project.

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?

The National Academy of Sciences will be influenced through access to an evidence base for tulip conservation, including baseline survey data, maps, reports and the National Tulip Strategy. This will increase the profile of tulip conservation amongst national conservationists and researchers, as well as internationally, facilitating future projects and actions.

The Pasture Users will be influenced through access to baseline surveys and a simple monitoring method that can be repeated. This will raise awareness among communities of pasture health and resilience, facilitating improved long-term management.

The Pasture Users and Pasture Committees will have the pasture and livestock plans, which will be community-owned documents. These plans will influence practices to improve pasture health and quality in the long term. Reference materials from pasture improvement training will be retained by the Pasture User Association and the Pasture Committees for the continual improvement of pasture management skills. The Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement will be used to engage Pasture Committees through consultation and a workshop, which will facilitate its long term use and application by the committees. Enforcement and protection reference materials will be provided to the Community Protection Teams to facilitate increased understanding and skills, and will provide reference materials for new staff members. Enforcement awareness materials will be provided to communities and tourists in the regions where the threatened tulips are found; these will provide communities with a greater understanding of the tulips, their location, conservation and legislation. These materials, together with the community awareness raising activities, will help to facilitate a cultural shift away from cutting tulips.

Cultural awareness through mobile interpretation signs, tourist outreach materials, festivals, cultural events and schools activities will all be used to celebrate and instil the traditional importance of tulips within these montane communities and reinvigorate their cultural significance.

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.

The project will support capacity building at both an organisational level and an individual level. Cambridge University Botanic Gardens through knowledge exchange will build the skills and capabilities of the Gareev Botanical Gardens in terms of managing and maintaining ex-situ populations and the reintroduction of threatened species. Knowledge exchange visits will also support the development of mobile interpretation materials, to effectively engage communities on tulips and their conservation.

As key partners, Bioresources and AFLUK will both be trained on ecological and livelihoods skills, as well as project management skills to support project delivery and for long-term use. AFLUK will be supported by FFI livelihoods specialists on methods to engage 300 pasture users in community-led livestock and pasture plans, including participatory planning methods. FFI and Cambridge University Botanic Gardens will train Bioresources in tulip survey methods, and support development of monitoring methods on grassland quality. The National Academy of Sciences will be trained in data storage, as well as herbarium maintenance and curation.

The Pasture User Association and Pasture Committees will be supported on how to effectively engage and support pasture users, when implementing the community-led grazing plans and the Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement. Additionally, 300 community members will be trained on how to improve pasture and livestock management through a range of techniques, in order to improve the livelihood benefits they receive from their livestock. They will also be trained to monitor and adaptively manage pasture health for long-term resilience.

The two Community Protection Groups will be formed of community members in Shamshy and Baul. These groups will be trained in patrolling and monitoring of tulip sites, and in championing tulip protection. These groups will also be involved in engaging the wider communities on tulip conservation.

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.

The biological data generated by the project will be gathered and stored in a simple electronic format. Tulip data will be logged with the National Academy of Sciences, and for pastures it will be kept with the local Pasture User Association. Back-up versions will also be retained by FFI. All reports and training materials will be translated into Russian and Kyrgyz, when appropriate, to make them accessible to all staff and wider stakeholders. Printed training materials and Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement will be distributed during events, with surplus copies to ensure that lost copies can be replaced, as well as online electronic versions. All steering group meeting minutes and progress reports will be made available to project stakeholders.

The annual report plus a summarised version will be circulated widely. Key documents will be made available online both through partner websites and also through the FFI website. FFI has a dedicated webpage to the ongoing projects in Kyrgyzstan. The activities and achievements of the project will also be

promoted through articles and social media. Popular articles and blogs will also be produced for publication, and made available in English, Russian and Kyrgyz, to aid with dissemination.

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:

Resilient and economically thriving Kyrgyz pastoral communities supported by healthy and diverse montane grassland ecosystems, with self-sustaining tulip populations.

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

Outcome:

Improved management of 500 hectares of pasture, increased cultural awareness, and direct protection of endemic tulips; resulting in healthier, more resilient grasslands that benefit the livelihoods of over 300 pastoralists

0.1 By the end of the project (from a baseline in year 1), there is a reduction (100%) of poached grassland area, with increased presence of natural palatable forage and indicator invertebrates in 500ha of montane pasture.

0.2 300 people (30% female) engaged in pasture management report improved confidence in their ability to manage their pastures by end of project.

0.3 By end of project, both male and female respondents from 150 households report an improvement in pasture quality and increase in perceived livestock health; with proportional representation of the poorest households.

0.4 By project end, there is an increase in flowering rate at 5ha of degraded tulip sites for 4 tulip species (target 20% increase in flowering rate, tbc at baseline in year 1)

0.5 By project end 80% (50:50 women and men) of surveyed community members (200 person subset) demonstrate an increased understanding of the value, cultural importance and need to protect endemic tulips.

0.1 Fixed point photos, field sheets on quadrat data, and monitoring reports by Bioresources

0.2 Community interviews with pasture users in year 1 and Participatory Impact Assessment by year 3

0.3 Community interviews with pasture users in year 1 and Participatory Impact Assessment by year 3

0.4 Field records from Cambridge University Botanic Gardens (CUBG) PhD and their annual monitoring reports on tulips

0.5 Pre-/post survey results and final report on FFI cultural interviews

Extreme climate events do not adversely affect pasture indicators or tulips (this will be managed through flexible planning and scheduling)

Indicators can demonstrate pasture improvements within the timescales of the project (research by other projects has shown this should be achievable)

No exceptional environmental or economic shocks occur that adversely affect the price of livestock (this has not been the case in recent years and so is not expected to effect the project)

Output 1:

1. Increased knowledge of wild tulip species is informing both in-situ and ex-situ conservation and management development at national level

1.1 Baseline surveys of tulip (abundance, distribution, threats) and associated grassland habitat completed in 3 sites in year 1; monitoring surveys in these same areas in years 2 and 3.

1.2 By end of year 1, 4 viable ex-situ tulip populations are established in the Gareev Botanical Gardens, using field collected bulbs.

1.3 By year 3, the reintroduction of 1 threatened species has formed a viable population that covers 50 sqm by the end year 3.

1.4 By year 2, 5 Kyrgyz ex-situ conservation experts (including 2 females) are able to articulate improved technical understanding and skills regarding tulip conservation.

1.5 By year 3, a National Tulip Strategy is established with 20 experts (8 women) and stakeholder representatives.

1.1. CUBG field sheets, GIS maps and survey reports

1.2 Field records of specimen collection, documentation and management plan on the establishment of the Botanical Garden collections

1.3 Gareev and Cambridge University Botanical Gardens ex-situ cultivation reports and reintroduction records

1.4 Exchange report and pre-and post- exchange visit surveys/ questionnaires with GBG staff

1.5 Workshop proceedings from Bioresources and agreed strategy document.

Unusual climate, political and social disruptions do not affect planned fieldwork (this will be accommodated for through adaptive management and scheduling)

Adequate size and health of tulip source population allows for collection (a collection method will be applied to stop damage to existing populations and the scoping trip results suggested that populations are large enough)

Successful replication of environmental condition to allow ex-situ cultivation (CUBG has a large amount of experience in ex-situ cultivation and knowledge exchange events will support this element of the project).

Output 2:

2. Members of grazing communities are more knowledgeable and actively engaged in sustainable pasture planning and management.

2.1 300 pasture users (30% female), from 3 different communities, have greater awareness of pasture degradation and improvement methods by the end of year 1.

2.2 By end of year 2, 3 grazing plans are fully designed and discussed within the 3 communities.

2.3 80% of pasture user committee members (32% women members), in 3 communities, signed up to apply grazing plans by year 3.

2.4 By end of year 3, 20 Pasture committees will be influenced to adopt sustainable approaches to pasture planning and management on 100,000s hectares, through a Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement.

2.1 Understanding pasture improvement workshop, before and after, feedback sheets conducted by AFLUK

2.2 Plans established and reports from Pasture User Committees on implementation

2.3 Pasture User Committee meetings records and votes on grazing plan

2.4 Pasture committee workshop attendance list, discussion notes and committees signed onto agreement.

Pasture committees and users, including women users, continue to be willing to engage in consultations (the scoping trip helped to build relationships as well as the wider project partners having good pre-existing relationships)

Pasture users are willing to stop or alter some current grazing behaviours (as the plan are being developed in collaboration with the communities we plan to mitigate any issues arising during the project)

Community members are able to implement plans with available resources, including available pasture (resource availability will be factored into the planning and feasibility phase).

Output 3:

3. Pasture users are applying skills and techniques that support recovery of grasslands benefiting livelihoods and biodiversity

3.1 300 pasture users (75 in year 1, 100 in year 2 and 125 in year 3 - 30% female) are trained in methods to sustainably manage livestock and pastures.

3.2 By year 3, 90% those supported in 3.1 are applying improved pasture and livestock management methods (90% from each year – of which 40% female).

3.3 By year 2, 50 pasture users and a further 50 by year 3 (40% female), are applying pasture monitoring method to inform pasture management.

3.1 Training reports, attendance log, pre-/post-training assessments

3.2 Skill assessments of pasture users interviews in year 1 and in year 3

3.3 Pasture user interviews and records of Pasture User Committee

Pasture user engagement in the training and implementation (the use of similar case studies and examples to demonstrate proven successes)

Pastures have recovered sufficiently for this to be reflected in cattle health (by staggering efforts the year 1 pastures users should be evidencing improvements)

People, including those who do not participate in project activities, do not overgraze pastures that are newly recovered (pasture use will be mapped and overlapping damage prevented)

Output 4: 4. The importance, protection and the cultural value of tulips is articulated, celebrated and shared; to support community led in-situ conservation of tulips.	4.1 By the end of year 2, 4 threatened tulips sites fenced, encompassing 5 ha and demonstrating recovery through a 100% reduction in trampling from year 1 baseline	4.1 Photographs, maintenance agreement and reports from grazing associations and protection groups report on annual monitoring	Individuals in the communities are willing to engage in protection activities (the scoping trip helping to build relationships and partners have good pre-existing relationships)
	4.2 By the end of year 1, 100 hectares of tulip rich pasture are marked as conservation zones and are being subject to controlled light grazing.	4.2 Photographs, maintenance agreement and reports from grazing associations and protection groups report on annual monitoring	Sites are suitable for fencing, tenure allow fencing and maintenance can be agreed upon (relationships will be built in advance to ensure that suitable sites can be found)
	4.3 Two Community Protection groups with a total of 20 members (including 10 women) established and actively monitoring and protecting tulips in 2 project sites by year 2.	4.3 Community Protection Group ToRs and reports on activities	Greater awareness of tulips and knowledge of their locations, does not increase the threat of illegal cutting (clear messaging together with assessment of impact will reduce this risk)
	4.4 Cultural value and importance of tulips, and information on local laws prohibiting tulip cutting and sales are incorporated into tours for 4 companies by end of project (at least 2 tourist operators by end of year 2 and 2 more by end of year 3).	4.4 Tourist operator survey report and operator materials outlining tulip information	Local communities feel a connection with and pride in traditional cultures that relate to tulips that motivates conservation (there is a strong sense of culture and pride in Kyrgyzstan and tulips are a common symbol)
	4.5 By year 3, 2000 people (500 by end of year 1, 750 by end of year 2, 750 by end of year 3 – at least 50% women) report an increase in awareness and understanding of tulips.	4.5 Event participant awareness assessment.	

Output 5: No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
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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

Develop survey methodology for tulips and pastures, with input from project partners and stakeholders

Activity details

Activity Number

1.2

Activity Details

Conduct baseline surveys for tulips and pastures in the project sites, and repeat monitoring in years 2 and 3

Activity details

Activity Number

1.3

Activity Details

Draft and disseminate report summarising field knowledge of tulips, species and population distributions, and assessing sites for reinforcement and protection opportunities

Activity details

Activity Number

1.4

Activity Details

Undertake field mission to collect threatened tulip species, identifying key species with the potential for long term recovery and reinforcement

Activity details**Activity Number**

1.5

Activity Details

Establish threatened tulip ex-situ collections at Gareev Botanical Gardens, supported by Cambridge University Botanic Gardens

Activity details**Activity Number**

1.6

Activity Details

Cultivate, grow and plant threatened tulip bulbs in-situ to reinforce priority populations; monitor plantings to assess success

Activity details**Activity Number**

1.7

Activity Details

Organise and execute exchange trips between Gareev and Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, focusing on staff skills improvements in ex-situ collection management and in-situ reinforcement

Activity details

Activity Number

1.8

Activity Details

Collate background information on threatened tulips and design and implementation a strategy workshop, that results in the development of a multi-stakeholder tulip Kyrgyz conservation strategy

Activity details

Activity Number

2.1

Activity Details

Hold consultation meetings and discussion groups with three pasture committees and at least 50 pasture users to understand current pasture management and health; results analysed

Activity details

Activity Number

2.2

Activity Details

Write report that reviews current pasture management practices and assesses these against reforms, making recommendations and assess feasibility for improvements

Activity details

Activity Number

2.3

Activity Details

Results (2.2) used for livestock and pasture planning exercise, with community members and stakeholders engaged in designing content of workshops

Activity details

Activity Number

2.4

Activity Details

Plan and hold three pasture planning workshops, reaching at least 100 pasture users; at workshops, gather data to inform development of a plan

Activity details

Activity Number

2.5

Activity Details

Using data acquired in 2.4, used to develop 'pasture and livestock plans' with pastures users and content supported by the local community

Activity details

Activity Number

2.6

Activity Details

Work directly with pasture committees and pasture users on implementation of community-led pasture and livestock plans within the timescale and resources identified

Activity details

Activity Number

2.7

Activity Details

Monitor and assess implementation of management plans by communities through interviews and sites visits

Activity details

Activity Number

2.8

Activity Details

'Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement' written with Pasture User Association and in consultation with Pasture Committees

Activity details

Activity Number

2.9

Activity Details

Pasture Committee workshop organised and run, and participants sign onto the 'Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement'

Activity details

Activity Number

3.1

Activity Details

Design a suite of trainings for pasture users, incorporating knowledge gained via original reports on grazing management, grazing plan and recommendations on pasture improvements techniques

Activity details

Activity Number

3.2

Activity Details

Lead training events, reaching 300 pasture users across 3 communities, to build their capacity and applied skills in improved pasture management

Activity details

Activity Number

3.3

Activity Details

Conduct consultation interviews with pasture users on use of pasture improvement methods; repeat after 1 year to understand application

Activity details

Activity Number

3.4

Activity Details

Conduct discussion groups to learn and document the real and perceived benefits and pitfalls to pasture improvement methods; utilise to adaptively manage as necessary

Activity details

Activity Number

3.5

Activity Details

Consult and establish community pasture monitoring method through sward and forage assessment and invertebrate assessments for biodiversity to understand the health and recovery of pastures, and to monitor project impact

Activity details

Activity Number

3.6

Activity Details

Conduct interviews and discussion groups with pasture users regarding changes in herd health and quality of products from livestock

Activity details

Activity Number

4.1

Activity Details

Establish, train and equip two community protection groups to monitor and protect tulips and maintain fencing at four sites (once erected)

Activity details

Activity Number

4.2

Activity Details

Identify threatened tulip species sites prioritised for fencing and then work with community protection groups to erect fencing

Activity details

Activity Number

4.3

Activity Details

Consult, identify and mark tulip conservation zones, and work with local pasture users to apply grazing management

Activity details

Activity Number

4.4

Activity Details

Survey tourist agencies, identify key messaging, and develop outreach materials targeting tourists to influence tourist behaviour, highlighting cultural value of tulips and laws governing tulip cutting

Activity details**Activity Number**

4.5

Activity Details

Distribute tourist outreach materials through tourist agencies and local businesses; survey tourists to assess impact

Activity details**Activity Number**

4.6

Activity Details

Design and implement a series of cultural events working with local community leaders, teachers and other local influencers (e.g. tulip festivals, bulb plantings, school activities)

Activity details**Activity Number**

4.7

Activity Details

Design and transport mobile interpretation boards on tulips and tulip conservation to project communities, to will be eventually housed in Gareev Botanical Gardens

Activity details

Activity Number

4.8

Activity Details

Conduct surveys to understand changes in attitudes, perceptions, and behaviours, regarding wild tulips their cultural value and protection

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.

 [FFI Kyrgyzstan Implementation plan](#)

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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”).

The monitoring and evaluation of the project will be the responsibility of the Project Leader, who will implement, review and use a monitoring plan in which output indicators will outline details on methods, timing and responsibilities. Taken from this, each partner will have monitoring requirements embedded within their sub-grant agreement, and they will supply these back to the Project Leader to collate. The project will have a steering group, with at least one representative from each project partner, and meetings will be held biannually. The results of the monitoring plan will be reported back at steering group meetings as a means of evaluating project progress. Additionally, the Project Leader will conduct regular field visits to assess the delivery and results of the project. This M&E system will allow for accurate annual reporting, as well as highlight any problems or issues around achieving the outputs and the outcome, facilitating adaptive management when necessary.

Outcome indicators will be monitored partly through ecological surveys, including tulip population recovery and pasture improvement indicators, with field reports outlining baselines and changes overtime. A Participatory Impact Assessment and interviews will be used to understand livelihoods benefits resulting from changes in pasture management and the impact of skills training. Interviews will be utilised to understand the changes in cultural attitudes regarding tulips.

Output 1 will be monitored through field survey records and fixed point photos, demonstrating the baseline as well as ongoing monitoring for tulips, pastures and reintroduction success. Ex-situ collection establishment will be monitored through the knowledge exchange and establishment reports (e.g. “before and after” skills questionnaires for exchange visit participants and photo of established collections) and the National Tulip Strategy (attendance records, minutes and the final document).

Output 2 will use workshop reports and attendance records, as well as evaluation sheets for attendees in order to assess community engagement with the grazing planning process. The implementation of the plan will be reported on by Pasture Committees, through biannual progress reports. The influence of the Sustainable Pasture Management Agreement on Pasture Committees will be measured through the attendance and notes of the workshop, and the number of committees signing onto the agreement.

For Outputs 3 the improvement in skills of pasture users will be assessed through questionnaires before and after training opportunities, as well as follow up interviews with a randomly selected cohort of trainees. Pasture assessments will allow application of new practices and monitoring of pastures to be assessed, together with changes in pasture quality relative to forage and sward quality. A Participatory Impact Assessment will be used to evaluate income benefits and flock health, from the start to the end of the project.

Output 4 will be monitored through training assessments of the new community protection teams and their records of patrols and monitoring of fencing and conservation zones. Cultural behaviour changes will be measured by attendance records at culture events, attendee interviews and photos. Tourist behaviour will be assessed through tailored questionnaires with tourist agencies.

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

Number of days planned for M&E	55
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Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	5
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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.

↓ [FFI Kyrgyzstan budget](#)

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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.

FFI used its experienced teams that have been present in-countries for over 10 years to work with partners develop a robust budget. The budget has been broken down and checked ensuring that estimates give accurate costings. Materials and services will be sourced in-country wherever possible to reduce costs. Partner costs will be closely monitored through financial reporting through cashbooks and purchasing requirements that will be integrated into sub-grant agreements to ensure value for money is being achieved.

In 2017, 95% of FFI expenditure was directed at delivering its programme of work with very careful control over support costs and this will be reflected within the project. Project expenditure will be monitored closely by the Project Leader to identify where efficiencies can be made, for example combining trips to the field and international trips to increase value for money within travel and subsistence. Reallocating budget between budget lines will be used to ensure that the budget is most efficiently utilised to deliver the project outcome and outputs.

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.

This project will purchase laptops that are needed for the FFI Kyrgyzstan team and these will remain with the team in-country and will be used for future project work. Additionally, mobile interpretation boards will be purchased to be transported around the project communities providing a display on tulip conservation.

These will be housed in the Gareev Botanical Gardens after the project has finished as a permanent display to educate the wider public on tulip conservation.

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
The Finnis Scott Foundation		GBP	Funding towards tulip conservation activities
Cambridge University Botanic Gardens		GBP	In-kind contribution towards staff time for the Curator to advise and support the project
NERC Case studentship		GBP	The tulip PhD student's time will support fieldwork on threatened tulips during the project
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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
<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>
<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.

FFI has a thorough approach to financial management, with an internal financial system that allows project leaders to track monthly spend against the original budget, allowing any changes that are necessary to be made or mitigated against well in advance. The system also requires sign-off for changes to budget, transfers and significant spend; ensuring financial best practice. This, combined with requesting receipts for all expenditures, is an effective strategy against fraud.

Risks include poor financial management by partners and so partners undergo due-diligence assessments and tailored sub-grant agreement, which outlines their budget and the financial management requirement. Partner finances will be monitored on a monthly basis through requested cashbooks, which are integrated into the financial system.

FFI is committed to fostering an organisational culture in which bribery is never acceptable, and our anti-bribery policy and procedures are compliant with the Bribery Act (2010). The FFI policy and procedures addresses the following areas related to bribery: Direct payments; Facilitation payments; Payments under duress; Gifts and hospitality; Partners; Suppliers, contractors and other 3rd parties; Procurement; Conflicts of interest; Political donations; Whistle-blowing.

We are aware of the risk of changing exchange rates and have addressed this in our budget.

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, written advice

 **FFI Kyrgyzstan FCO Advice**

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Section 16 - Certification

Q32. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Fauna & Flora International

I apply for a grant of





£309,374.00

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	Matt Walpole
Position in the organisation	Senior Director, Conservation Programmes
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 MW signature black  03/12/2018  14:59:45  jpg 20.39 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?	Checked
Have you checked the Darwin website to ensure there are no late updates?	Checked
Have you read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK?	Checked

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).