

Applicant: **Diment, Alex**
Organisation: **Wildlife Conservation Society**
Funding Sought: **£370,063.00**
Funding Awarded: **£370,063.00**

DIR26S2\1006

27-013 Conserving Myanmar's wetland biodiversity through sustainable rice standards

Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta supports an ethno-cultural landscape in which otherwise globally threatened wetland biodiversity has thrived alongside traditional rice agriculture for centuries. This landscape is threatened by the spread of intensive industrial agriculture and aquaculture, negatively impacting both local people's livelihoods, and important and iconic wildlife. This project will benefit globally important biodiversity, and support rural farming communities, by linking international rice markets to local sustainable production and applying the new global standards developed by the Sustainable Rice Platform

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Alex
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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Wildlife Conservation Society
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

27-013 Conserving Myanmar's wetland biodiversity through sustainable rice standards

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR26S1\100123

DIR26S1\1557

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	Myanmar (Burma)	Country 2	<i>No Response</i>
Country 3	<i>No Response</i>	Country 4	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2020

End date:

31 March 2023

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

3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Amount:	£121,551.00	£137,225.00	£111,287.00	£ 370,063.00

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

 Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding totalling around £[REDACTED] is expected, including partner contributions, and existing and expected grants from WCS.

Of this, some £[REDACTED] is already secured towards this matched funding in 2020, mainly through a grant from Agence française de développement (AFD), as well as several partner contributions

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project).

32%

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.

Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta supports an ethno-cultural landscape in which otherwise globally threatened wetland biodiversity has thrived alongside traditional rice agriculture for centuries. This landscape is

threatened by the spread of intensive industrial agriculture and aquaculture, negatively impacting both local people's livelihoods, and important and iconic wildlife. This project will benefit globally important biodiversity, and support rural farming communities, by linking international rice markets to local sustainable production and applying the new global standards developed by the Sustainable Rice Platform

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q8. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative or IWT Challenge Fund 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
26-021	Lilian Painter	Biodiversity conservation, vicuña health and local livelihoods in Apolobamba, Bolivia
26-013	Maria Fleytas	Conservation and poverty alleviation through sustainable ranching in Paraguay
3751, 24-003	Christopher Holmes	Conservation and poverty alleviation through scalable agro-biodiversity practice in Laos
3144; 23-024	Elizabeth Matthews; Thaug Htut	Securing marine fisheries, livelihoods and biodiversity in Myanmar through co-management
IWT 023	Alex Diment	Securing the Gateway: reducing Wildlife Trafficking from Myanmar to China
IWT 075	Edgard Herrera	Reducing macaw trafficking in indigenous territories of the Honduran Moskitia


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


Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.


 [WCS Annual Report 2019](#)


 26/11/2019


 16:57:39

 pdf 5.85 MB


 [WCS Annual Report 2017](#)


 26/11/2019


 16:57:38

 pdf 4.97 MB


 [Audited Financial Statements 2019 WCS](#)


 26/11/2019

 16:53:03

 pdf 828.76 KB

 [Audited Financial Statements 2018 WCS](#)

 26/11/2019

 16:53:02

 pdf 235.6 KB

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 the Lead Organisation and 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 (WCS)

Website address: www.wcs.org

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

WCS is a US-based non-profit conservation organization that works in over 60 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Founded in 1895 as the New York Zoological Society, WCS saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. WCS believes that addressing human needs and aspirations in the places where we work is essential if we are to conserve wild nature over the long term. WCS has been working in Myanmar continuously for 25 years, under long-term MoUs with the Forest Department, and Department of Fisheries. Our well-established local knowledge and long-term relationships in Myanmar, from government agencies and local partners, provide a strong foundation for this project. WCS has designed the proposed Darwin Initiative project with several local partners. During project development, WCS provided programmatic and technical inputs. During implementation WCS will provide project leadership and oversight, financial management, administration and reporting, technical inputs, and knowledge management. WCS will draw upon local expertise and long-term relationships with government, and also leverage a global network of experts to support project implementation, especially around biodiversity-friendly agriculture, linking poverty alleviation and rural livelihoods with conservation outcome

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: Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)

Website address: <http://www.sustainablerice.org/>

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

The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) is an independent multi-project stakeholder platform that originated in 2012 within the UN Environment and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to promote resource efficiency and sustainability in domestic and export supply chains in the global rice sector. SRP spans a broad range of stakeholders, working with governments, private sector supply chain actors, civil society organizations and research partners to drive wide-scale adoption of climate-smart, sustainable best practice among smallholders. The Platform comprises over 100 institutional members, including WCS. In 2015 SRP launched the world's first rice sustainability standards, together with a set of performance indicators. WCS has been a member of SRP since 2014, and has provided substantial input into the biodiversity components of the standards and performance indicators. In 2019 revised SRP standards were released, including the improved biodiversity indicators developed by WCS. A WCS staff member serves on the SRP executive board, representing only one of only three civil society organisations serving on the board. The SRP Secretariat will support this project through its global network, to facilitate knowledge sharing, extension to and training of smallholder farmers, and dissemination of the project's progress and accomplishments to other rice-producing countries and globally.

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

2. Partner Name: Olam International

Website address: <https://www.olamgroup.com/>

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

Established in 1989, Singapore-based Olam International will be the project's key private-sector partner buying rice. Olam is currently the largest single buyer of rice in Myanmar and wishes to improve the sustainability of the rice it is purchasing (see <https://www.olamgroup.com/products/food-staples/rice/rice-sustainability.html>) Olam will provide training and guidance to its rice purchase, transportation and storage network, to ensure that stakeholders understand the importance of traceability across the supply chain with regards to SRP. Olam is a governing member of SRP, and has helped to guide SRP to adopt more holistic standards including water use, land use, labour standards, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and reducing chemical inputs while maintaining yields. Olam has formed partnerships with national governmental and international organisations to implement SRP pilot projects that verify solutions on the ground, before scaling up solutions. Olam's outgrowers' project in Thailand, has produced the world's first SRP rice fully verified by a third-party. To make a tangible impact on livelihoods, Olam has begun to move from tested solutions to a larger scale, with targets to reach 35,000 farmers by 2023. Olam recognises the value of partnerships, and prioritises partners with diverse strengths, creating positive changes to address global problems.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP)

Website address:

<https://programs.wcs.org/smpcambodia/>

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

SMP, a Cambodian civil society organisation, will provide technical input on rice growing, marketing, and delivery of agri-environment programs, based on their extensive experience of promoting SRP Standards in Cambodia. SMP works with farmers to reduce poverty in ways that are consistent with biodiversity conservation. Since 2009, SMP has worked in partnership with WCS and the Cambodian government, developing sustainable rice concepts, which provide farmers with financial benefits, supporting livelihoods and the conservation of biodiversity. SMP has coordinated WCS's SRP pilot in Cambodia since 2015, this was one of the first SRP pilots worldwide. The pilot has attracted significant funding and grown rapidly. It seeks to demonstrate how biodiversity conservation can be achieved in profitable cultivated land through use of cover crops and IPM. High quality monitoring data is collected to evaluate the impact of the project using the SRP Performance Indicators. In this project, SMP will provide technical input into the introduction and establishment of the Sustainable Rice Platform, supporting farmer training and standards compliance, providing rice agronomy advice, and sharing experience with SRP field trials in Cambodia. SMP will also

coordinate with partners to evaluate and support project impacts on biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

Kyone Ka Pyin – Tap Seik Community Conservation Group (KTCG)

Website address:

No Response

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

The Kyone Ka Pyin – Tap Seik Community Conservation Group is an active Civil Society Organisation, which has worked with WCS since 2016. Kyone Ka Pyin and Tap Seik are the names of two communities in the Shwelaung sub-township – a hotspot of Sarus crane activity. The community groups have collaborated together for the last few years, and in 2018 were formally registered. They encourage equitable participation from across the community, including a prominent role for local women in the leadership of the organisation. KTCG will support the project in multiple ways on the ground, including acting as the key link with local communities. They will lead the dissemination and local application of SRP Standards, as well as full engagement and equitable participation of varied community members and gender groups. The group has around 80 active members, who have rallied around their strong interest in land and water issues, including fisheries. Key members will be directly engaged with monitoring the impacts of SRP approaches on local fisheries, and agricultural chemical runoff. Community representatives will also work directly with technicians from the Maubin University on data collection for this monitoring component.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

Maubin Agriculture Department

Website address:

<http://www.doa.gov.mm/doa/>

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

The Maubin Township Agriculture Department is the key local government agency working to implement the project. Part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Department has extensive government mechanisms to reach local farmers, with long-running programs for seed and input distribution, as well as substantial experience with farmer training and extension programs. They will be directly engaged with the development and dissemination of the SRP approach in the area, and will also work with neighbouring Agriculture Departments, especially in Wakema Township. By agreeing to leverage existing networks of thousands of farmers, they will support extension services to disseminate the SRP approach, identify synergies with their existing agricultural programs, and coordinate with other local authorities. The Agriculture Department is also deeply involved with biodiversity issues, evidenced by their engagement with and various roles in the regional Protected Area Committee, working especially with the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD), who are the main national body responsible for biodiversity issues. These links will be important for the sustainability of the project, including the potential for Community Protected Areas, and for the potential for Ramsar site designation.

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

6. Partner Name: Maubin University

Website address: <http://maubinuniversity.edu.mm/>

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

The Maubin University will support field research activities, through its Zoology Department. WCS and the Maubin University have worked together since 2016, including the provision of a grant from WCS for a Master's student to study crane biology, who identified key habitat characteristics for crane breeding and feeding. This research has been important for identifying priority sites for further activities, as well as providing baseline information for the design of this project. The University has several fish biologists on staff, as well as laboratory and technical facilities for species identification of

fish and aquatic invertebrates. The University will lead the design and delivery of surveys of indicator species for wetland aquatic health, to monitor the local environmental impacts of the SRP approach, through reduced chemical runoff. University members will also be involved in the monitoring of waterbird species, including the breeding of Sarus cranes.


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.

 [WCS Myanmar Combined LOS](#)

 05/12/2019

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Section 6 - Project Staff

Q10. Key project staff

Please identify the key project personnel 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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr. Alex Diment	Project Leader	17	Checked
U Naing Lin	Landscape Coordinator	40	Checked
Keo Socheat	Lead Agronomist	17	Checked
U Saw Htun	Country Program Director	4	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Thet Zaw Naing	Technical Coordinator	33	Checked
To be hired	Agricultural Coordinator	90	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked


Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 CVs combined FINAL

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 pdf 1.32 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?

The Ayeyarwady Delta in Myanmar is an extensive floodplain agricultural ecosystem that supports millions of rice farmers' livelihoods. It is regionally unique because traditional agricultural practices, along with a cultural acceptance of nature, have helped maintain healthy populations of globally threatened species among significant areas of semi-natural wetland and grassland, which are not well represented in Protected Area networks nationally or regionally. The project area supports the world's largest population of the Southeast Asian subspecies of Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*: globally vulnerable), as well as populations of the migratory Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*: critically endangered) and Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*: endangered). Surveys conducted by WCS and Maubin University have identified the Maubin and Wakema Townships (combined population > 600,000) as critical for the conservation of these species and overall biodiversity of the Delta. As Myanmar experiences significant political, social and demographic change, the diverse ethno-cultural landscape in which these species thrive is threatened. The delta remains one of the poorest parts of Myanmar; World Bank data show 32% of households live under the poverty line. Such poverty, exacerbated by the low profitability of rice farms combined with a lack of access to modern agricultural knowledge, places pressure on farmers to either intensify agricultural practices with pesticide and chemical use or sell their under-performing land to large-scale agro-industrial companies. These practices stimulate land consolidation, conversion, intensification, and unsustainability, ultimately disrupting the balance between people and nature and threatening biodiversity. Recent WCS research shows that many Delta rice farmers are keenly interested in improving farming practices, reducing their reliance on chemicals and tapping into the expanding global market for sustainable rice. Our project unites local government, CSOs and private sector to support local farmers apply the new global SRP standards, increase profitability of their farms and maintain the Delta's ethno-cultural landscape

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.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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.

The project will provide support to the delivery of the CBD (Strategic Goals A-E), and its Aichi Targets 2, 7, 11, 12, and 14. For instance, the project promotes the sustainable management of agricultural areas, ensuring conservation of biodiversity (Aichi Target 7), and safeguards an agricultural ecosystem that contributes to the livelihoods and well-being of communities (Aichi Target 14). The project also delivers on Myanmar's country-specific obligations under the CBD, by addressing strategic goals stipulated in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), most directly Target 7.1.1, 'to develop sustainable rice cultivation guidelines and implement across 10% of rice cultivation area,' and 7.1.2, 'to hold agricultural extension events to train farmers in sustainable rice cultivation techniques and certification.' The project directly supports the implementation of the Ramsar convention in Myanmar, especially as it relates to waterfowl habitat. Myanmar currently has only four designated Ramsar sites, but a tentative list of almost 100 additional sites was identified in 2018 by the government with technical support from the Ramsar Secretariat and WCS. One existing site is in the Ayeyarwady Delta area, which includes the Meinmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary and its surrounding landscape. Additional tentative sites are in the rice-growing areas of the delta, including nearby to the project area. As these preliminary sites are refined, data from this proposed project will feed directly into the plans for Ramsar site designation in the country.

The project directly supports Myanmar's government towards the first main pillar of the Convention, to 'work towards wise use of wetlands', and the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024), especially Strategic Goal 1 ('addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation'), and Target 13 ('enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as...agriculture'). Amongst the wetland species that the project will target is the Sarus crane, which is listed under CMS Appendix II. While Myanmar is not a primary party to the CMS, it attends meetings, and has signed several MoUs and agreements, including the Asian Flyways for migratory birds. The project will provide immediate protection to the agricultural habitat on which the Sarus crane relies, directly supporting implementation of the CMS.

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

Yes

If yes, please give details.

WCS has strong relationships with the following focal points, and we will invite them

and their representatives to relevant local and national workshops and meetings as part

of our emphasis on knowledge management and exchange.

CBD National Focal Point / RAMSAR Administrative Authority: Dr. Nyi NyiKyaw, Director General of Forest Department.

RAMSAR National Focal Point: Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General of Forest Department.

CBD Biodiversity CHM Focal Point / RAMSAR STRP Focal Point: Dr. NaingZaw Htun, Director of Nature and

Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD).

CBD Protected Areas Focal Point: Dr. Tin Zaw Kywe, Assistant Director of NWCD.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

The project supports the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) especially Goals 1, 2, 5, 8, 12 and 15: reduce poverty, 'promote sustainable agriculture', "achieve gender equality" 'ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns', and 'reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss'. By improving farm incomes in some of Myanmar's poorest regions, we will undermine poverty, and seek long-term, scaled up pathways for long-term market access improvements, thus contributing towards Goal 1, end poverty in all forms. Supporting agricultural productivity and enhancing the safety and yields of rice production sustainably directly supports Goal 2, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Goals 1, 2 and 8 support Goal 5, Gender Equality throughout the project's design and implementation, and by ensuring equitable consideration of women and men in local contexts.

The labour component of the SRP standards supports improved working conditions for farming families, contributing to Goal 8, to provide productive employment and decent work for all. Rice is the main agricultural commodity for Myanmar, and accounts for 60% of cropland. The SRP Platform Standards are the only internationally recognised measures for sustainable rice growing. SRP must, therefore, be a key strategy to meet Myanmar's national SDGs, including Goal 12, to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. By preventing eco-system destabilisation, community reliance on natural resources for long-term economic security is also preserved. The strong biodiversity and conservation links support Goal 15, through the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and the halting of biodiversity loss.

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 have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

Our approach builds upon two decades of research and conservation in Myanmar. Throughout the Ayeyarwady Delta we have focused on strengthening pre-existing cultural linkages between people and nature that maintain human and ecosystem well-being. This project is guided by the new Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) global standards, and also builds upon WCS and SMP's international experience with SRP rice sustainability and biodiversity conservation projects funded by Darwin, and others, in Cambodia. We will embed SRP standards (e.g. nutrient-use efficiency and biodiversity protection) into the local farming community of Maubin and Wakema Townships (M&WT) through a cascading process of dissemination, providing support for farmers to understand and follow standards, improve their profitability and enhance environmental, cultural and business sustainability. At project inception, representatives of the District

Agriculture Departments and interested community members from M&WT will be selected and trained by WCS and SMP as 'SRP Standards trainers', who then identify and train at least 60 key 'farmer-trainers' in at least 30 project villages. These 'farmer-trainers' will be supported to train at least 1,000 additional rice farmers in their communities (around 15-20 farmers each) to collect data (using 'farmer diaries' adapted from Cambodia) to assess their farms against SRP Standards. Preliminary consultations have indicated strong interest from district representatives, community members and farmers in such trainings. In year one, a representative sample of farmer data will be used as baseline data to develop interventions (e.g. reducing chemical usage) to improve sustainability and thus meet SRP standards. SMP agronomists will design tailored farming improvements that increase sustainability and profitability – e.g. water management regimes which increase yield while reducing methane emissions – in collaboration with WCS to ensure biodiversity benefits. In Year 2, SMP will train farmer-trainers and their networks to implement improvements, and farmer data will enable assessment of sustainability impacts as measured by SRP Standard scores.

Olam International, Myanmar's largest rice merchant, will make pre-purchase visits to farmers in participant communities, to purchase sustainably-produced rice, thus providing stable demand, and linking sustainable consumption of commodities directly to wildlife-friendly agricultural practices. WCS will monitor agricultural impacts through measuring farm yield (converted into kg/hectare) and profitability; social impacts, including farmer attitudes, labour standards, and women's empowerment; and impacts on biodiversity using annual surveys of indicator species including Sarus cranes. Maubin University will work with the KTCG community group to monitor the aquatic ecosystem, using indicator species including fish for human consumption, and aquatic invertebrates, which are expected to benefit from reduced chemical use and runoff. We will enhance the broader conservation impact by working with local communities on new mechanisms to manage locally important areas, including the potential for applying the newly created designation of Community Conservation Area, which will become possible in Myanmar law early 2020. Our support of community livelihoods linked with conservation will help maintain traditional cultural practices that have allowed wildlife and farmers to coexist for generations. We will link with national Ramsar site designation processes, and exchange learning through establishing an SRP Round-Table, building from the successful Cambodia

Q14. 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?

Our project will deliver substantial awareness about the importance of biodiversity to local communities. During our work with farmers and local communities on sustainable agriculture, we will have the opportunity to convey natural resource messaging, and the impacts of industrial farming practices on nature and human health. Through the broader SRP platform, and our existing conservation programs, we will reach large numbers of local people about the benefits of a healthy and diverse environment. We will also highlight the threatened ecosystems and the iconic threatened species of the Delta area, building from the cultural resonance of the Sarus crane. For example, we have already developed a booklet aimed at young people, which tells stories about harmonious relationships between farmers and local wildlife, including Sarus cranes, and we are disseminating it at schools, the region's only University, and through other events, such as pagoda festivals. Furthermore, our engagement with the Maubin University means that new generations of students will be exposed to information on sustainable agriculture, and the benefits of reduced use of chemicals on biodiversity and human and planetary wellbeing. We will also work

through existing government structures, particularly the Agriculture Department and Forest Department, thereby influencing policy and building capacity. We have engaged with the General Administration Department (GAD), which is the main governance mechanism at the local level. Through the GAD, we have already consulted broadly on the project, including a group of 88 village leaders. We also aim to influence regional and national policy for rice growing, mainstreaming existing policy commitments (such as in the NBSAP), and demonstrating how this can be achieved on-the-ground. SRP rice marketing may also emphasize the biodiversity benefits of the approach to enhance its desirability, including demonstrating positive impacts on Sarus cranes, which are well-known and deeply admired in Myanmar culture.

Q15. 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.

A critical part of the project is to build capacity in local institutions and local communities themselves, to embed sustainable agriculture into their future. Through a cascading approach of training-of-trainers, with local farmers supported to test, refine, and share their knowledge, we will directly reach at least 1,000 farmers (at least 33% women) during the project period. We will build the capacity of them and their families to grow rice in a sustainable way, as well as link these improvements with access to markets, and collect information on improved environments, health and wellbeing. A study tour was completed in 2018, during the pre-design of this project, to visit the work of SMP, and the SRP pilot in Cambodia. This involved the township agriculture department, local communities and local authorities, and was instrumental in building local support for the project and demonstrating real-world applications of the approach. A core group of enthusiastic and active local farmers has already partly been identified, including through the local KTCG group, as well as through existing networks of the Agriculture department. The specialist input from professional agronomists will be delivered through local farmers and local expertise, and will therefore support local mentoring networks, support gender and age-group diversity, and embed the capacity at local levels. One of WCS's central strategies and strengths is our ability to build the technical capacity of our national staff, partner organisations and local institutions or government agencies. This project will, importantly, link with existing institutions, especially the township Agriculture departments, to ensure that this capacity is embedded for future benefit. The combination of training and intensive mentoring, as well as an additional exposure visit to the existing SRP pilot in Cambodia, will ensure that this capacity is retained in the long-term.

Q16. Gender equality

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 sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

Gender equality is a WCS core value, foundational to its culture and realised through proactive approaches to the inclusion of women in working groups, communities, trainings, fieldwork and assessments in Myanmar. Our project partnership is balanced, with women filling several prominent roles, including the well-respected Director of the Maubin Township Agriculture department, and Maubin University's lead biodiversity researcher. This project will contribute to gender equality by:
Offering equal representation to women and men in all outreach while implementing capacity building activities with key government agencies.

Providing equal opportunities to women, as well as other potentially marginalised groups, such as religious or ethnic minorities, to engage with project activities.

Ensuring trainers are mixed gender and skilled in creating comfortable learning environments where women are encouraged to actively participate.

Typically, women work closely with men on rice farms in a deeply gendered division of labour that follows traditionally defined roles. Women are more involved in rice sowing, men more likely to handle livestock and ploughing. Women are far more likely to be involved with all stages of pesticide use, with obvious, concomitant health risks. Gendered division of labour provides a point of entry to discussions around gender equity in sustainable farming, and collection of data to support benchmarking of gender roles. Improved sustainability in rice growing and, particularly, reduced chemical use are expected to provide positive impacts to women, men and children, with women significantly benefiting from improved wellbeing, as a direct result of reduced chemical use and consumption. We will actively seek equity in our work, and ensure that 33% of farmers directly trained by the project and 40% of farmer-trainers are women. Participation data will be disaggregated by gender to monitor balance. Additionally, SRP standards and performance metrics themselves collect quality information on gender roles and equality within agricultural communities.

Q17. 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.

The project will help preserve a unique ethno-cultural ecosystem to the benefit of

poor farmers and globally threatened biodiversity. Local Township government and CSOs will act as initial agents of change, with the Township Agriculture Departments gaining new insights into improving practices and responding to the rapidly-growing demand from international markets for sustainable agriculture products. Through modernizing their approaches to agricultural development, linking with local CSOs, and mainstreaming biodiversity considerations, the project will have a lasting impact on these essential local institutions. The project will directly reach over 1,000 farmer households, and we expect positive impacts on them and their families, supporting improved food security and income for at least 5,000 beneficiaries (50% women), as well as likely health benefits from reduced unsafe exposure to agricultural chemicals. Benefits will also likely accrue to the wider community within targeted villages, greatly increasing the number of people affected positively, especially including marginalised groups and women within the community. Local authorities have existing outreach mechanisms and governance networks which can engage quickly large numbers of community members, and we expect the project's long-term impacts to affect a considerable portion of the population. Census data shows that 57% of the 313,700 people living in Maubin Township and the 288,700 in Wakema are primarily employed in rice agriculture. The project's messages are intended to inform a further 5,000 farmers across the region during implementation. Further project scaling could have immense benefits not just in Maubin and Wakema but throughout Myanmar, where nationwide rice exports are currently failing to meet both government-set targets as well as the rapidly increasing demand for higher quality, sustainable rice, indicating a strong opportunity for integration of Myanmar's rice farming into new markets. WCS has been active in Myanmar since 1993, and we will use our networks at local and national levels to improve understanding of the links between biodiversity, agriculture and poverty, and enhance delivery of Myanmar's international commitments to

biodiversity and national conservation objectives. The project will also link sustainable agriculture and local livelihoods with national policy on Biodiversity and Protected Areas, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the National Wetland Policy, and the broader Integrated Ayeyarwady Delta Strategy. The project's legacy will remain for local communities and farmers, who will benefit from improved rice yields, reduced chemical inputs, and thus improved incomes and wellbeing. Agricultural and biodiversity linkages, and their mutual benefits, support progressive ecosystem improvements, including natural flood regulation and natural pest control. As livelihoods improve, there are direct benefits for human health and wellbeing in these poor communities. Wetland-dependent biodiversity, notably several globally threatened species – including the largest population of Sarus cranes in southeast Asia, which are the world's tallest flying bird, and iconic in Myanmar culture – will benefit from ecosystem improvements, such as reduced chemical use, and continued and improved biodiversity-friendly practices by local farmers.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project will support rice farmers in Myanmar to maintain and improve farming practices to protect a landscape that safeguards globally threatened wetland biodiversity and increases the sustainability and profitability of their crops. We will achieve this through building understanding of the SRP standards, applying them in the habitats of threatened species and ecosystems, supporting farmer livelihoods, and linking with broader policy reforms in Myanmar, including community conservation approaches. We will work together with our local partners to apply new methods for improving practices, linking with the rapidly-growing demand from international markets for sustainable commodities. Through modernizing approaches to sustainable agriculture, connecting with local community groups, and linking biodiversity with improved local livelihoods the project will have a lasting impact on local institutions and the environment. The project aims to change rice growing, rice trading, and rice consumption patterns through introducing SRP standards, demonstrating these standards and introducing buyers. Our private sector partner, Olam International, will showcase how rice demand can improve agricultural practices and promote broader environmental goals including biodiversity conservation. This will also demonstrate the financial and cultural value of good-quality farming to local smallholders, supporting their land rights and reducing their vulnerability to land consolidation.

Q19. 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 project intends to establish a self-sustaining market-driven mechanism for sustainable rice production, linked to existing government and civil society institutions. As such, the exit strategy is clear, with the end point achieved when farmers and the rice market are linked, and SRP is fully embedded within existing institutions and local communities. The project will support the establishment of the SRP platform dissemination, monitoring, and market linkage system. We will facilitate the linkages and provide technical expertise for the establishment, but we aim to reach a state where the ongoing maintenance of the system is supported and incentivised directly by the market forces for demonstrated sustainable agricultural commodities.


Project partners have long-term presence in the area. They will continue to support project activities, and


intend to combine some activities into their regular work. In particular, the Agriculture Department is excited to explore new market opportunities, enhance rice agronomy, and permanently improve agricultural practice. There are many good examples of strong legacies from donor-supported projects in Myanmar, with a positive, ethical, and committed approach by local people and organisations regularly demonstrated. This project aims to provide such a lasting legacy, improving lives and the environment for generations to come.

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


 [Adult with Chick](#)


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 [Farmers and Cranes Coexist in Ayeyarwady Delta](#)


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 [Kyone Ka Pyin VT 5km Buffer](#)


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 [Map of Ayeyarwady Project Area](#)


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 [Kyone Ka Pyin VT](#)


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 [Crane Poster Final](#)


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 [Crane Nest in Proximity to Rice Farms](#)


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 [Cranes Threatened by Pesticide Use on Rice Farms](#)


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 [Crane Habitat Alongside Rice Farms](#)

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Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q20a. Harmonisation

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

Please give details.

While the SRP approach will be new to Myanmar, WCS and other stakeholders have substantial experience both globally and regionally, with SRP trials in Cambodia. We expect at least two exchange visits, where

expertise from communities, authorities, and other stakeholders can be shared and lessons learned. In recognition of this experience, WCS has recently been elected to join the global Board of the SRP. WCS completed a project on Myanmar's freshwater conservation in mid-2019, which delivered extensive social and biodiversity survey components to identify key hotspots, as well as identification and feasibility of potential interventions. The proposed project takes forward the implementation of the key strategies identified in the exploratory work and feasibility study, which identified SRP as the strongest option, and also collected detailed baseline information. In addition, a small research grant, provided to Maubin University, supported a Master's student to collect data on Sarus cranes and population hotspots, and identify habitat correlates and needs, nesting sites, and key migration patterns. This data has been instrumental in locating priority biodiversity-rich areas to commence the approach.

Q20b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences. Explain how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

The NGO, Helvetas, has recently started work on SRP pilots in northern Myanmar, far from our proposed sites. We are coordinating closely with them; for example, we have already done joint translation work for the SRP standards documents into Burmese. We also plan to work with them to dev

coordination. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is developing a regional Sustainable Rice Landscape project, to be funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). We are coordinating closely with them as they develop their project, and aim to leverage their work to support scaling-up.

Q21. Ethics

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

WCS has a robust Code of Conduct that details institutional and employee obligations to create an environment of safety and concern in the fulfilment of our mission. WCS is committed to compliance with human rights standards and protections, and as such has adopted national and global standards for safeguarding rights including the World Bank Social Framework. WCS played a leadership role in establishing the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (2009), affirming its commitment to a set of principles concerning respect for and advancement of global human rights standards in the course of its conservation work. These principles apply to our engagement with community and government entities in Myanmar, where WCS is the longest established conservation NGO and has been at the forefront of efforts to help resource-dependent communities protect their livelihoods, dignity and cultural heritage. We are supported by WCS's Institutional Review Board (IRB) that outlines the ethical principles and guidelines for the protection of human subjects of research. WCS's IRB reviews the level of risk to human subjects in research, assesses methodology and protections, and mitigates risk by ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been obtained at all levels of our engagement with local communities. WCS-Myanmar's partnerships with local people strive to understand natural resource governance in the context of valuing and applying traditional knowledge to address biodiversity and poverty alleviation challenges, and our work will be conducted in accordance with four fundamental ethical principles : respect for persons; beneficence; justice; and respect for communities. FPIC principles will be applied and respected at all stages of this project. These steps contribute 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 alternatives to dominant approaches to economic development.

Q22. Corruption

Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this.

The risk of corruption in this project is limited since WCS management systems ensure adherence to labour, finance, banking and registration regulations specific to the countries where we work, alongside US government regulations and donor compliance requirements. This includes bribery and corruption laws, such as the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. WCS also implements a conflict of interest and conflict of commitment policy. All project funds will ultimately be managed and overseen by WCS, and WCS has a robust system of internal controls to detect and prevent corruption and fraud, provides training to staff to detect and prevent fraud and corruption, including cyber-fraud, as well as regular internal reviews and external audits, with systematic follow up on any findings. In Myanmar, there are specific concerns about sanctions and blacklists. All individuals and entities receiving any form of payment or support from WCS are routinely screened using the LexisNexis Bridger Insight XG software tool. This financial industry standard tool searches for matches against consolidated lists of excluded parties (through the World Compliance Dataset), which includes sanctions and enforcement lists of EU, OFAC, UN, and numerous other national and international lists, as well as extensive lists of Politically Exposed Persons.

Q23. Safeguarding

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, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of your commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We have shared our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Section 10 - Funding and Budget

Q24. Funding and budget





Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget.

- [Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)

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

N.B: 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.

 [R26 Darwin Budget Myanmar v4 FINAL](#)
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Q25. 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 prioritises efficiency and value for money in our field programmes to maximize our impact. Budget allocations and assumptions are informed by two decades of work on the ground in Myanmar. WCS already provides much of the basic infrastructure required for the project (i.e. office space, office equipment, vehicles) thereby maximizing the impact of Darwin's funding. Additionally, the local staff already have strong, well-established relationships with the local communities, Township Agriculture departments, and local officials. This will guarantee buy-in from local partners and a smooth implementation of sustainable agriculture activities and a quick delivery of results and impacts. Staff are already well trained and experienced in many of their duties, and will be able to commence project activities rapidly at the start of the project period. We will also use Darwin funding to leverage additional funding, with at least 30% of the project's total direct cost to be covered by other donors and contributions from partners. The Darwin project will provide critical funding (primarily for key personnel, travel and operating costs), which will support the integration of technical expertise between WCS and SMP, that in turn will directly benefit the rural poor in the Ayeyarwady Delta region. Thanks to the Darwin project, the partners will initiate sustainable agricultural production and will be mobilised to monitor, document and disseminate impacts, lessons learned and best practices to foster adaptive management. Existing government policy commitments to scaling-up sustainable agriculture will ensure that project impacts can be promulgated broadly, benefiting biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction further through Myanmar. We are engaged with other Development Partners, such as AFD and the FAO, to identify opportunities for future scaling-up of the work developed in this project, and to leverage further, more substantial funding.

Q26. 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 plan to purchase computers, motorbikes, and some basic office equipment to support the partners' work on this project. The estimated total cost is [REDACTED] GBP. These items will remain with the partners after the project ends.

Q27. Match funding (co-financing)

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q27a. 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
AFD	[REDACTED]	EUR	Ayeyarwady Delta component of a broader conservation program
Helmsley Charitable Trust	[REDACTED]	USD	Support to community conservation components
Sansom Mlup Prey	[REDACTED]	USD	Committed as leverage by SMP during the project
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Q27b. Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
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01 November 2019	Chevron	██████	USD	Support to community conservation components
02 January 2020	Lower Mekong Initiative	██████	USD	Support to water quality and fisheries
02 November 2020	Private Sector Rice buyers	██████	GBP	Support for scaling-up SRP
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

Q28. Outputs of the project and Open Access

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

Project data will be shared through several locally relevant platforms, for which WCS is already leading development. Firstly, the Myanmar Biodiversity website (<https://myanmarbiodiversity.org>), which is a multi-NGO platform led by WCS. Within this, there are several data portals including the Myanmar Biodiversity Atlas. We are also working on a terrestrial platform, which we expect to launch in early 2020. This website provides a long-term solution to sharing key biodiversity and environmental data, such as the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, as well as press relevant to biodiversity policy in Myanmar. Other data will also be shared with partners and aggregators, such as the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU: <http://www.themimu.info>), which brings together information management focal points from across a wide variety of agencies to strengthen the quality of information for evidence-based and effective development and humanitarian policy. More specialized data, such as full biodiversity survey data, will be directly shared, as appropriate, with key stakeholders, such as the Ayeyarwady Integrated Development Strategy and the Forest Department's Ramsar site prioritisation. No specific costs are sought from Darwin for data sharing purposes as this is funded under existing projects, and data can be submitted and updated at minimal cost. WCS's work to develop data-sharing mechanisms provides a means to ensure that the data generated from this project will be securely housed and openly available for decision making, which is particularly important when safeguarding social and environmental systems that are potentially threatened by industrial development in the region.

Q29. 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 to ensure transparent financial management, and absolutely minimise any risks from operating in the field. WCS has adopted a number of institutional policies and standard procedures to ensure compliance with applicable international laws and regulations with the highest standards of ethics. Our operations in Myanmar, regionally in the Greater Mekong, and at our headquarters in New York, have been designed and refined over the years to ensure full accountability to our donors, as well as streamlining of implementation in the field. A team of expert financial managers is already involved in the project design for smooth delivery, ensuring that budgets, procedures, and partner arrangements are sufficient. The team will continue to be directly involved with the project, and has been budgeted accordingly. WCS has 25 years' experience operating in Myanmar with international best-practice financial procedures, and has passed numerous audits to multilateral agency standards (e.g. UN, EU), as well as annual independent audits. Furthermore, in order to independently verify the responsible, efficient, and transparent use of project funds by WCS and its partners, a financial auditor will be hired to review all expenses at the end of the project

Section 12 - Logical Framework

Q30. 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:

Rice farmers in Myanmar maintain and improve farming practices to protect a traditional ethno-cultural landscape that safeguards globally threatened wetland biodiversity and increases the sustainability and profitability of their crops.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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<p>Outcome:</p> <p>A traditional ethno-cultural landscape in Myanmar’s Ayeyarwady Delta, critical for globally threatened biodiversity, is maintained by farming communities adopting new global sustainability standards for rice production, which increases farm profitability</p>	<p>0.1 At least 1,000 farmers (at least 35% women) are following the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) standards by Year 3, from a baseline of 0 in 2019.</p> <p>0.2 At least 75% of farmers that adopt SRP in Year 1 (at least 30% women) measure an increase in farm profitability (per kg value of sale minus cost of inputs) by Year 3, from a baseline established in Year 1.</p> <p>0.3 Increased number of nesting cranes and increase in nest success lead to stable or increasing Sarus crane populations by project end, from the baseline (156 pairs: 102 in Wakema and 54 in Maubin) established in 2018.</p> <p>0.4 Number of hectares under agro-industrial rice cultivation within project area maintained at 0 by project end.</p>	<p>0.1 – 0.2 Reports generated by farmer Diaries and SRP Performance Indicator measures.</p> <p>0.3 Annual biodiversity and population surveys of key wetland areas.</p> <p>0.4 WCS GIS team data (annual analysis of remote sensing data)</p>	<p>Political stability in Myanmar is maintained. Farmers maintain interest in complying with SRP standards. SRP biodiversity measures are sufficient to protect cranes, as intended. Externalities outside of project control do not cause farmers to consolidate farms or sell land.</p>
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Output 1:

By project end, Sustainable Rice

Platform (SRP) approaches are

embedded in farming community,

Government, CSOs and key rice industry bodies in the Delt

1.1 SRP standards and training materials are developed and translated, and training delivered to at least 20 government agency representatives and 25 CSO representatives by project end (baseline 0 in 2018).

1.2 At least 60 key farmer-trainers (at least 40% women) are trained in SRP standards and use of farmer diaries by project end (baseline 0 in 2018).

1.3 At least two pre-purchase visits are made by large international rice purchasing companies to participating farms by project end (baseline 0).

1.1 SRP Standards training materials, training records/reports and attendance lists.

1.2 SRP Standards training records including attendance lists.

1.3 Visit reports.

Government remains willing to cooperate.

Community trainers are interested to learn and on-train.

Rice purchasing companies maintain an interest in SRP.

Output 2:

2. Habitats beneficial to biodiversity are maintained and enhanced, protecting aquatic ecosystems and populations of threatened species.

2.1 Number of nesting Sarus cranes in the project's pilot area increases by at least 5% per annum from a baseline of 14 breeding pairs, in 2018.

2.2 Sarus crane nest success increases by at least 5% per annum from a baseline established in 2019-20.

2.3 Records of other indicator species in rice landscapes (e.g. Asian openbill stork and fishing cat) are stable or increasing each year (e.g. from a baseline of 126 openbills and 2 fishing cats confirmed by records in 2018).

2.4 Aquatic ecosystem indicator species stable or increasing by Year 3 (from a baseline suite of indicators to be developed in Year 1).

2.1 Annual biodiversity surveys.

2.2 Community nest guardian reports.

2.3 WCS and partner field and camera trap surveys.

2.4 Maubin University and WCS surveys of aquatic biodiversity in target areas.

SRP biodiversity measures are sufficient to protect cranes and other species. Farming improvements lead to increases in nest success of cranes. Agricultural improvements increase food availability for threatened species.

Output 3:

3. Farmer livelihoods are equitably enhanced through adopting farming improvements.

3.1 Farm profitability (value of sale minus cost of inputs) increases by at least 15% by Year 3 from a baseline established in Year 1.

3.2 At least 1,500 ha of rice in project area show an increase in SRP sustainability scores (15% by Year 3 above a baseline established in Year 1).

3.3 Women's empowerment measures in target communities show an increase by Year 3 (baseline to be established in Year 1 and interim progress reported in Year 2).

3.4 Farmer attitudes to environmentally-positive farming, SRP and wildlife are stable or show positive changes by Year 3 (baseline to be established during Year 1).

3.5 Farmers report reduced use of chemicals by Year 3 (baseline to be established during Year 1).

3.1 Analysis of net income from farmer surveys and farmer diaries.

3.2 Analysis of farmer diaries and SRP benchmarking scores.

3.3 Analysis of SRP Performance Indicator 13: "Women's Empowerment Scorecard".

3.4 WCS IRB approval of farmer surveys; Analysis of farmer attitude surveys.

3.5 Analysis of farmer attitude surveys.

Farmers follow SRP approaches. Farmers adopt measures that improve their sustainability and profitability. Farmers maintain close cultural ties to the landscape

Output 4: 4. Outcomes feed into growing regional and global agricultural biodiversity programs, and coordinate with existing national wetland conservation and agriculture initiatives and policy reforms.	4.1 An additional 5,000 farmers (at least 33% women) are exposed to SRP approaches by Year 3 (baseline 0).	4.1 Township Agriculture Department extension program records.	Township Agriculture Departments are interested to extend the SRP approaches further.
	4.2 Rice agriculture and wetlands/grasslands considered in conservation policy development, including pilot Community Conservation Areas, Community-based ecotourism sites, and National Wetland Policy [Ramsar] by Year 3.	4.2 Protected Area policy and National Wetland policy documents.	Policy development is open to input. Stakeholders are interested to participate in SRP Round Table.
	4.3 Project progress and results disseminated to key regional government, CSO and industry stakeholders in SRP Round Table, which meets at least twice per year, by Year 3.	4.3 Minutes of meetings and participant lists.	

Output 5: <i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
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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, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Develop training materials for local farmers, including SRP standards, and farmer diaries.
- 1.2 Identify key influencers, and deliver targeted training and outreach to government officials and CSO representatives
- 1.3 Identify at least 60 key farmers (at least 40% female), and provide training and mentoring to them in SRP, outreach techniques, and data collection.
- 1.4 Support key farmers to outreach around 20 further farmers each, scaling to reach at least 1,000

farmers.

1.5 Promote and facilitate visits by rice purchasing companies to SRP trial sites.

2.1 Identify potential habitat areas for Sarus cranes and other globally threatened wetland species, as well as threat monitoring, using remote sensed data.

2.2 Conduct participatory field surveys of Sarus cranes and other key wetland species.

2.3 Use results to inform SRP biodiversity interventions, and the identification of key areas for community-based conservation measures to reduce threats.

2.4 Together with University partners, monitor broader impacts of SRP on wetland ecology, including biodiversity and livelihood indicators (e.g. fish and invertebrates).

3.1 Support farmers to measure and improve SRP indicator scores, through analysis of farmer diaries, and targeted advisory services.

3.2 Support and facilitate farmers to access the emerging market for sustainable rice.

3.3 Collect data from representative farmers on rice sales revenue, cost of inputs, reports of chemical use, and also therefore profitability.

3.4 Conduct surveys of women's empowerment, and farmer knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) in relation to improved rice farming, the SRP approach, biodiversity and Sarus cranes.

4.1 Promote and facilitate extension to additional farmers, through outreach, radio, field visits, presenting at regional events, etc.

4.2 Conduct visits to other regions and countries to share lessons directly with other farmers.

4.3 Engage with policy development on National Wetland Policy, RAMSAR site development, Community Conservation Area establishment, and share experience of sustainable rice production.

4.4 Work with SRP Secretariat to develop the Myanmar SRP Round Table, and present key project outcomes at those meetings.





Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

Q31. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add/remove 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.

 [R26 Darwin Implementation Timetable Myan
mar-Rice](#)
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Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q32. 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 Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).

The project will be governed and monitored by a core team led by senior staff from WCS and SRP, with regular engagement with the township Agriculture departments. The team will meet bi-annually to review project objectives, assumptions and risks, and completed and planned activities, and discuss the roles and responsibilities of each partner. This approach will be a vital tool to strengthen collaboration between project partners and ensure that partners are adequately briefed and understand their level of commitment in the project. Using the project logical framework, detailed annual workplans will be developed at these meetings for each output. During those meetings progress, risks and issues will be monitored based on the completion of each activity and delivery of each output. Between meetings, progress will be monitored through activity reports, emails and phone calls, and periodic site visits. This project will have substantial Monitoring and Evaluation as an integral component, closely tracking the social and ecological impacts of our work. At least 12 staff involved in monitoring, and two staff directly responsible for M&E, one responsible for the SRP standards and performance indicators, as well as a technician who manages biodiversity surveys and data collection, including liaison with the universities. A substantial proportion, estimated at some 11% of the project budget, is allocated to M&E. The comprehensive SRP Performance Indicators will be measured as an integral part of the SRP process. These indicators track a wide range of metrics, relevant to environmental and social issues, such as water and soil management, labour standards, gender equity, and agricultural chemical use. Detailed scorecards have been developed to give additional resolution to the measurement of these metrics, and we will use several of these, including the 'Women's Empowerment Scorecard', as well as the 'Basic Biodiversity Checklist'. Additionally, we will use a suite of biodiversity indicators to gather detailed additional information on the ecological impacts of the project, as well as provide feedback to the SRP secretariat on the standard SRP Basic Biodiversity Checklist. WCS's success as one of the most effective international conservation NGOs relies both on its ability to implement conservation and credibly measure and report conservation impacts over time. Our broader monitoring programme is designed to assess whether SRP achieves both its conservation and poverty reduction objectives. In addition, we will do targeted surveys of a sample of farmers, to capture relevant changes in attitudes and practices. We will then document and disseminate

learning and knowledge generated by the implementation of the project. In particular, we will focus on lessons learned and best practices that will provide crucial knowledge in the design and implementation of future projects aiming to proliferate the potential of sustainable agriculture to support poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs) £ ██████████

Number of days planned for M&E 850

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%) 11

Section 15 - FCO Notifications

Q33. FCO Notifications

Please state whether 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.

No

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

Q34. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Wildlife Conservation Society

I apply for a grant of

£370,063.00

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 enclosed CVs for key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Joe Walson
Position in the organisation	SVP, Field Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Darwin Round 26 2019 Stage 2 Certification  05/12/2019  19:15:13  pdf 10.73 KB
Date	05 December 2019

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the key project personnel identified at Question 10, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 9, or an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have 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 organisation, 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).