

Applicant: **Andriambelo, Harison**  
Organisation: **The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)**  
Funding Sought: **£339,943.00**

## **DIR27S2\1032**

### **Building wetland resilience in Madagascar; Community-based conservation of Lake Tseny**

This project generates foundations for long-term resilient conservation management of Lake Tseny, the most intact wetland within the Port Berge KBA, Madagascar, and home to at least eight Threatened species and 5,000 people, the majority of whom are dependent upon natural systems for drinking water, sanitation, timber, fuel, livelihoods and wellbeing.

The tools and approaches adopted in this project will be showcased nationally, with support given for stakeholders wishing to apply climate resilient strategic conservation planning for wetlands in Madagascar.

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Olivia  
**Surname** Wordsworth  
**Organisation** The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
(WWT)  
**Website (Work)** [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)  
**Tel (Mobile)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Harison  
**Surname** Andriambelo  
**Organisation** The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
(WWT)  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Tomos  
**Surname** Avent  
**Organisation** The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
 (WWT)  
**Website (Work)** www.wwt.org.uk  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Mobile)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

## GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Charity/ trusts
<b>Name</b>	The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
<b>Phone (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3. Project title:

Building wetland resilience in Madagascar; Community-based conservation of Lake Tseny

### What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR27S1\100123

DIR27S1\1340

### Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host 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.

<b>Country 1</b>	Madagascar	<b>Country 2</b>	No Response
<b>Country 3</b>	No Response	<b>Country 4</b>	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

## Q5. Project dates

**Start date:**

01 July 2021

**End date:**

30 June 2024

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

3 years

## Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
<b>Amount:</b>	£91,719.00	£117,605.00	£109,650.00	£20,969.00	<b>£</b> 339,943.00

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

The total budget is £[REDACTED] leaving a match funding requirement of [REDACTED]. We have secured match funding totalling £[REDACTED] towards salaries, office costs and work alongside the National Ramsar Committee, through the BIOPAMA Programme. MAVOA have secured £[REDACTED] from the Turtle Conservation Fund and Rainforest Trust towards fieldwork operating costs, travel and overheads. WWT will provide £[REDACTED] in in-kind support (staff time, overheads).

We have a comprehensive list of prospective funders, and will apply first to previous funders, including the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and a number of UK trusts and foundations (e.g. Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust).

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). [REDACTED]

## Section 3 - Project Summary

### Q7. Summary of project

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

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

This project generates foundations for long-term resilient conservation management of Lake Tseny, the most intact wetland within the Port Berge KBA, Madagascar, and home to at least eight Threatened species and 5,000 people, the majority of whom are dependent upon natural systems for drinking water, sanitation, timber, fuel, livelihoods and wellbeing.

The tools and approaches adopted in this project will be showcased nationally, with support given for stakeholders wishing to apply climate resilient strategic conservation planning for wetlands in Madagascar.

## **Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions**

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### **Q8. Objectives for the Darwin Initiative**

**Please indicate which of the fund objectives (listed on p.8 of the guidance) you will be addressing.**

- To address the multiple pressures driving freshwater habitats decline
- To understand and tackle impacts of agriculture practices on biodiversity, livelihoods and climate
- To promote the responsible stewardship of natural assets
- To promote the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity
- Contributing towards reversing the increase in threats of extinction to the world's flora and fauna

### **Q9. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements**

**Q9a. Your project must support the commitments 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.**

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

### **Q9b. Biodiversity Conventions**

**Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here.**

The project will contribute to the following CBD Aichi Targets:

1. Environmental education and awareness is integrated throughout project activities, especially fundamental to the success of Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) of Lake Tseny. A curriculum-linked nature schools programme, including plant nurseries, will increase awareness of the values of biodiversity and promote steps people can take to conserve it.
2. CBNRM integrates biodiversity values into local development and poverty reduction through improved fisheries and regulation of land-use.
4. Gelose agreements will be in place that support sustainable consumption.
5. Legally registered sustainable management agreements for aquatic areas and lakeside marsh and forests, alongside sustainably financed patrolling and enforcement, will decrease fragmentation and degradation of natural habitats.

6. Legally empowered community associations, supported by voluntary net exchanges and improved knowledge for fisheries management will help avoid overfishing and help decrease the impact that fisheries have on Threatened species.

11. Lake Tseny is an area of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and this project ensures that it will be conserved through effective and equitable management, with increased national recognition through Ramsar designation.

12. Targeted habitat restoration for Threatened endemic species and large-scale awareness campaigns will help to improve local conservation status of currently declining species.

14. Fairer access to more sustainably managed fish, marsh plants and lakeside forest, alongside climate change mitigation strategies specially developed to consider gender, will contribute to long-term security for poor and vulnerable local people.

Beyond the lifecycle of the project, the greater knowledge of wider threats, and strategies developed to mitigate them, will also contribute to numerous other Aichi Targets.

The project will specifically contribute to the Inland Waters Biodiversity thematic programme of work (Decision VII/4) by:

- Restoring degraded wetland ecosystems through habitat restoration, and supporting the recovery of threatened waterbirds (1.3, 1.4).
- Generating increased understanding and appreciation of wetland biodiversity in local communities and government departments through education, awareness-raising and capacity building (2.4, 3.1, 3.2).
- Promoting full and effective participation of local communities through natural resource management associations (2.5).

The project will contribute to the Ramsar Convention by supporting the conservation and wise use of globally important wetland sites. It will support three Strategic Goals of the 4th Strategic Plan (2016-24), by:

Goal 1. Addressing the key drivers of wetland degradation at Lake Tseny.

Goal 2. Conserving Lake Tseny, providing national designation through Ramsar, and promoting harmonised use of wetland management tools for Ramsar and non-Ramsar sites.

Goal 3. Restoring degraded wetlands, promoting their wider significance and building wetland management capacity.

### **Q9c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / CMS / Ramsar / UNFCCC focal point in the host country?**

Yes

#### **If yes, please give details.**

WWT worked alongside the Ramsar Focal Point to develop Wise-use Wetland Guidance and the National Wetland Strategy, which together have helped guide the national wetland training work proposed in Output 5.

The Ramsar Focal Point has supported the development of conservation at Lake Tseny, and is enthusiastic to submit an application for Lake Tseny to be designated as a Ramsar Site once the project has gathered the appropriate information and received community support for the process.

All project partners also have links to the CBD Focal Point and the project's results will be included in the Annual CBD report.

## Q9d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

The project will contribute to the following SDGs, by:

1 (1.4, 1.5). Improving the livelihoods, health and food security of vulnerable wetland-dependent households by conserving ecosystem services and building resilience to climate-related events.

2 (2.1, 2.4). Restoring fish stocks through sustainable wetland use and management, habitat restoration, and fish net exchange programmes.

5 (5.5). Ensuring women's equal participation in Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and climate change vulnerability assessments.

6 (6.1, 6.6) Restoring and improving management of remaining natural habitat, in particular the restoration of marsh habitat, which is an effective treatment wetland system, helping to purify water entering, and within, the lake.

13 (13.1, 13.2, 13.3). This project will conduct the first wetland climate change vulnerability assessment and mitigation plan in Madagascar. It will be used to showcase the approach in the country, with wetland managers and Ramsar National Committee members (from multiple government departments), trained in tools to allow wide-scale adoption of the approach and facilitate integration of potential relevant measures into national planning.

15 (15.1, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9). Supporting the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of inland freshwater wetland ecosystems, by enhancing sustainable and community management and conducting restoration to abate the degradation of natural habitats and prevent the extinction of threatened species. The project conserves and restores inland freshwater ecosystems and their biodiversity.

## Section 5 - Lead Organisation Summary

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### Q10. 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
CV19RR22	Tomos Avent	Sustaining and enhancing Anlung Pring Ecotourism through Covid-19 and beyond
26-009	Tomos Avent	Enhancing wetland resilience for improved biodiversity and livelihoods in Cambodia
22-007	Robert Shore	Establishing Sustainable Management of the Lake Sofia Catchment Madagascar


21-007	Tomos Avent	Livelihoods in the Balance - Protecting Cambodia's Remaining Seasonally-inundated Grasslands
15-014	Sebastian Buckton	Managing Wetlands for Sustainable Livelihoods at Koshi Tappu, Nepal
11-002	Mark O'Connell	Monitoring Biodiversity for Site Management Planning in Eastern African Wetlands


**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.**

 [WWT Annual Report and Accounts - 2019-20](#)


 06/02/2021


 17:13:38

 pdf 1.62 MB

 [WWT Annual Report and Accounts - 2018-19](#)

 06/02/2021

 17:13:29

 pdf 2.97 MB

## Section 6 - Project Partners

### Q11. 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:** Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

**Website address:** [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)



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

WWT is one of the world's leading wetland conservation organisations. Our mission is to conserve, restore and create wetlands for the wildlife and people that rely on them; we have over 70 years' experience of doing so around the globe, through combining policy, practice and scientific research.

WWT has been endorsed as one of only six International Organisation Partners by the 171 countries that are signatories to the Ramsar Convention, demonstrating the expertise needed for integrated wetland conservation and development projects.

WWT has worked in Madagascar since 2009, leading species recovery and community-based conservation projects in the Sofia region, and supporting the development of a National Wetland Strategy. We have a local team based in Antananarivo, with technical support and oversight provided by the Conservation team in the UK.

As project lead, WWT has led the project development process and will be responsible for overall project management, including convening the Project Steering Committee, work planning, communications, donor compliance and reporting, and financial oversight. WWT will also lead wider threat mitigation planning (Vulnerability Assessment, Open Standards planning, etc.) and manage all elements of habitat restoration. Through links to the National Ramsar Committee, WWT will oversee national level capacity building programmes.

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

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

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**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Madagasikara Voakajy (MAVOA)

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**Website address:** [www.madagasikara-voakajy.org](http://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org)

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

Founded in 2005, MAVOA is a Malagasy organisation dedicated to the conservation of endemic vertebrates and their habitats in Madagascar. Its mission is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of Malagasy ecosystems, habitats and species by mitigating key threats through targeted action and applied research.

MAVOA has worked at Lake Tseny since 2010, has a staff member based at the site, and excellent relationships with the local communities and other stakeholders. MAVOA's work has focused primarily on the conservation of two Critically Endangered species - *Paretroplys menarambo* and *Erymnochelys madagascariensis* - and has included biological/ecological research, captive breeding, community sensitisation, and creating and supporting local fishing cooperatives.

MAVOA has collaborated with project partner Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (see below) on several projects, and has worked with WWT and its partners over the last two years to develop this project, bringing its understanding of the specific threats to biodiversity and the needs of the local community at Lake Tseny.

MAVOA will be responsible for the management transfer agreements and associated local association capacity building programmes. MAVOA will also manage the environmental education and awareness initiatives and the fishery enhancement programme.

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

Yes

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**2. Partner Name:**

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT)

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**Website address:**

[www.durrell.org](http://www.durrell.org)

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

DWCT was founded in 1963 by the renowned conservationist Gerald Durrell, and its headquarters are located on the island of Jersey. For over fifty years, the organisation's mission has been to save species from extinction. Its accompanying vision is for a wilder, healthier, more colourful world.

DWCT began working in Madagascar in 1983 and has had an in-country presence since the establishment of its Chelonian Captive Breeding Centre in Ampijoroa in 1999. DWCT and WWT have worked together in Madagascar since 2009, initially on a species recovery programme and more recently on a community-based conservation project at the Lake Sofia Ramsar Site. DWCT has also worked with other project partners MAVOA and UA in the past.

DWCT has significant experience of working on the Madagascar big-headed (also called the side-necked) turtle, one of the Critically Endangered species at Lake Tseny, leading captive breeding and release programmes and working with local communities throughout north-west Madagascar to promote sustainable fishing techniques and the protection of aquatic wildlife.

Drawing on this expertise, DWCT will provide technical guidance under this project on species assessments, habitat requirements for ecological restoration, and biodiversity monitoring, with a particular focus on the Madagascar big-headed turtle.

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

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**3. Partner Name:** University of Antananarivo (UA)

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**Website address:** [www.univ-antananarivo.mg](http://www.univ-antananarivo.mg)

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

The University of Antananarivo (UA) is the primary university of Madagascar, based in the capital city, Antananarivo.

UA has extensive experience of working at Lake Tseny. It was part of the team, also including MAVOA, which rediscovered the Critically Endangered Pinstripe damba fish at the lake after it was thought to be extinct, and has supported research on several endemic species.

The Department of Zoology and Animal Biodiversity at the University is the main research institution with facilities for animal biology. Under this project, the Department will support research on endemic species, including providing technical tools and materials for fish and turtle population surveys, and laboratory facilities for invertebrate assessment and other taxonomic group inventories. The Department will send four students to the project site to support research and monitoring of endangered fish species.

The Department will also support WWT and MAVOA to obtain all research permits required for the project.

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

Yes

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**4. Partner Name:**

Regional Office of Environment & Sustainable Development (DREDD)

**Website address:**

[www.environnement.mg](http://www.environnement.mg)

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

The Regional Office of Environment and Sustainable Development for the Sofia region (DREDD), part of the Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development, is responsible for overseeing all activities relating to environmental protection and sustainable development in the region.

DREDD has collaborated with WWT since 2014 to support conservation and management activities in the Sofia region and we have an excellent working relationship. They are aware of our plans for this project and supportive of the planned work.

As the primary office responsible for managing natural resources and ecosystems, DREDD will oversee the implementation of field based activities at Lake Tseny related to natural resource management, and will contribute to the elaboration of a Management Plan for the site. It will also provide any necessary permits for the work and ensure that the project complies with national ethical standards.

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

Yes

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**5. Partner Name:** Regional Office of Agriculture, Livestock and Farming (DRAEP)

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**Website address:** www.maep.gov.mg

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** The Regional Office of Agriculture, Livestock and Farming for the Sofia region (DRAEP), part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Farming in Madagascar, is responsible for designing, implementing and coordinating all activities in the field of agriculture within the region. Its main objectives are to sustainably increase productivity, increase the incomes of agricultural producers and fishermen, contribute to food and nutrition security and improve resilience to climate change.

WWT has worked in the Sofia region for the past seven years, during which time we have liaised regularly with DRAEP. We have informed them of our plans for this project and DRAEP are highly supportive of the work, as it stands to increase productivity and incomes among the fishing community at Lake Tseny.

As the primary regional office overseeing all activities related to agriculture, livestock and fisheries, DRAEP will oversee the implementation of activities at Lake Tseny related to fisheries and agriculture, and will support the development of a strong fishery plan and implementation procedure. DRAEP will also contribute to the elaboration of the Management Plan for the site.

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

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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

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


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**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.**

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 [All Letters of Support](#)

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 [WWT Covering Letter](#)

 08/02/2021

 21:52:23

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## Section 7 - Project Staff

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### Q12. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance.

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?
Harison Andriambelo	Project Leader	50	Checked
Jean Basile Andriambeloston	Field Technician (WWT)	100	Checked
TBC	Research Officer (WWT)	100	Checked
Currently interviewing	Senior Project Manager (WWT)	40	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Julia Newth	Social Science technical support (WWT)	10	Checked
Tomos Avent	Project Sponsorship and advice (WWT)	3	Checked
Jelot Francinel Hernandez	Project Manager (MAVOA)	100	Checked


Razafindrazaha	Local Agent (MAVOA)	100	Checked
Raphali Rodlis Andriatsimanarilafy	Project Supervisor (MAVOA)	50	Checked
Daudet Andriafidison	Project Advisor (MAVOA)	50	Checked
Julie Hanta Razafimanahaka	Project Advisor (MAVOA)	25	Checked
Juliette Veloso	Technical Advisor (DWCT)	5	Checked


**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.**

 [Project Staff CVs](#)

 09/02/2021

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**Have you attached all project staff CVs?**

Yes

## Section 8 - Problem statement

### Q13. 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?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the next page).**

In the last 50 years, around 60% of Madagascar's wetlands have been heavily degraded or completely destroyed (Kull, 2012). Those remaining are subject to array of pervasive threats from sedimentation, pollution, burning, invasive species and over-harvesting. Despite similar rates of species endemism as the country's forests, and providing vital ecosystem services to millions of impoverished people, the wetlands of Madagascar receive little attention, with the National Ramsar Committee and relevant government departments under-resourced, and lacking a representative examples of best-practice wetland conservation management.

The Lake Tseny catchment is integral to the livelihoods of 5000 people and supports at least eight species classified as threatened by the IUCN; *Erymnochelys madagascariensis* (CR), *Paretroplus menarambo* (CR), *Arius festinus* (CR), *Haliaeetus vociferoides* (CR) *Paretroplus lamnabe* (EN), *Sauvagella robusta* (EN), *Paretroplus kieneri* (VU), *Hydrostachys maxima* (VU), *Pteropus rufus* (VU).

MAVOA started work at Lake Tseny over ten years ago, working alongside the University of Antananarivo, Bangor University, Chester Zoo and Denver Zoo, gathering data on the populations and ecology of, and

threats to, Threatened fish species. Identification and awareness initiatives were developed and a group of local fishers around the lake were supported to develop cooperatives that have helped to increase profitability when targeting non-Threatened species. Through this process, it became clear that compliance with the national law around equipment use and off-season restrictions is poorly understood and has been a long-standing challenge (Randrianandrianina, 2014). Even members of the cooperatives who have been trained on the rules, and understand the benefits of sustainable management, are hesitant to comply whilst others in the wider community do not, feeling that their acts in isolation would only disadvantage them. More recent unregulated commercial use of the site by itinerant fishers with larger-scale fishing gear has led to increasingly unsustainable exploitation. Without community management of the site, local people feel powerless to effect change.

MAVOA and local fishers have also identified the challenges associated with incidental burning of the important phragmites marsh spawning grounds, as a result of run-away grassland fires for cattle grazing, and degradation of inundated forests through harvesting for fuel. Community groups perceive run-away fires to be entirely avoidable, if pastoralists are legally obliged to control them and understand the consequences of the loss of marsh habitat. Designated protection and restoration areas through a management transfer agreement, alongside education and awareness campaigns, would address this. Social surveys by MAVOA have shown that harvesting of fuel wood from the inundated forests is opportunistic and does not comprise core livelihoods for local people. Small-scale compensation and alternative fuel sources will be explored through sustainable financed community associations (VOIs).

There is a lack of technical knowledge and financial resource for restoration, and a diminishing fishery is leading to an increase in hunting in the area social and commercial subsistence.

Wider threats, such as siltation, pesticide and domestic waste pollution, harvesting of lemurs, waterbirds and bats, and the potential impacts of climate change are poorly understood. There are no existing conservation efforts to understand or address these issues.

## Section 9 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

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### Q14. 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.).

This project builds upon MAVOA's consultations with local communities and fishing cooperatives, and their knowledge of the populations and ecology of Threatened fish at Lake Tseny. It also benefits from WWT's similar successful community-based wetland conservation project at Lake Sofia (also in the Sofia region) and work developing National Guidance for the Sustainable Management of Wetlands (Blackham & Avent, 2018) and the National Wetland Strategy (to be published in Feb/March 2021) alongside the National Ramsar Committee.

#### 1. Effective CBNRM

Responding to requests from the community for empowerment to address unregulated and unsustainable exploitation of the lake resources, we will facilitate extensive community consultations to develop



management transfer 'Gelose' agreements for the lake and surrounding forests. The Gelose is an established process through which local communities can form legally recognised associations to develop management plans for natural resources, and apply to the government for the right to regulate and enforce use. WWT and DWCT have successfully guided local communities through this process at Lake Sofia Ramsar Site in Madagascar, and WWT will adopt a similar approach at Lake Tseny, building upon existing community institutions and working with all sectors of society, including itinerant fishers.

Fundamental for the long-term success of these community associations is the ability to make good technical decisions around natural resource management, a perception of fairness and inclusion from all sectors of the community, and a strong administrative and financial backbone to maintain operations and meet legal compliance. This project invests in the capacity of these community associations, providing training on operational and financial management, patrolling, monitoring and enforcement, and business planning (including community savings groups). We will also provide technical guidance for management planning (including no-take zones), donate equipment to allow compliance with natural resource regulations, and support habitat restoration to increase natural resource productivity. DRAEP will make quarterly control and awareness support visits to the site.

## 2. Enhanced fishery

Building on, and expanding, fisher cooperatives established by MAVOA, existing socio-economic data will be updated, including the addition of more detailed value chain analyses and a business plan to assess and exploit greater market opportunities and create efficiencies for fishers. An education and awareness programme will commence in Y1, including visits from members of successful neighbouring projects. A voluntary net exchange programme will create opportunities for fishers to comply with national law and ensure livelihoods are sustainable in-line with the new CBNRM regulations.

The viability of cage farming of native species will be explored as a re-stocking option for the lake, fed by MAVOA's breeding facility in Andapa.

## 3. Habitat restoration and protection

Historical maps, local and expert consultations will guide restoration efforts at locations identified in community management plans. Community nurseries, supported by DREDD, will be employed to grow seedlings for restoration. Sustainably financed CBNRM associations will provide long-term patrolling and enforcement of restoration areas, with pastoralists trained on fire control, and other threats, and causal factors for those threats subject to greater interrogation and mitigation planning.

## 4. Increased education and awareness

This will be integrated into all elements of the project, with project logos and slogans promoting a 'healthy nature, healthy people' message. Curriculum-linked environmental education programmes will be run in all local schools, with trips to explore nature, school habitat restoration nurseries, and a project logo competition all contributing to a school nature ambassador programme.

CBNRM zones, rules and regulations will be promoted at community information points and through community meetings.

## 5. Long-term threat mitigation strategies influence national wetland management

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (VA) and Open Standards (OS) conservation planning will be showcased at the Lake Tseny catchment, ensuring mitigation plans are in place for all current and potential future threats. These plans will be informed through a research programme, at first targeting extent of, and contributing factors for forest harvesting, burning and encroachment for cattle grazing and rice production, and agricultural pollution.

Through WWT's work alongside the national Ramsar Committee developing a National Wetland Strategy, a

major national capacity gap identified is the lack of long-term resilient management planning for Ramsar Sites. To help address this, the VA and OS tools and methods, and wider approaches within this project, will inform a training programme for National Ramsar Committee members, Ramsar Site Managers, and managers of important wetlands in other Protected Areas. Technical support will be given for adoption of tools at other Ramsar Sites where requested.

As at Lake Sofia, WWT will work alongside the government to secure Ramsar Site designation, drawing attention to the lake as a wetland of international importance.

## **Q15. 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?**

This project will develop communications planning for two main audiences.

1. Local communities around Lake Tseny. We will work alongside community management associations to develop awareness plans linked to the rules and regulations agreed during the Gelose process. The project will also integrate wider plans to raise awareness of the linkages between healthy wetlands for healthy people, and build greater local knowledge of the international importance of Lake Tseny for Critically Endangered endemic species. Planning will involve community events around special project activities (project launch, tree planting days) and international environmental days (e.g. World Wetland Day and International Biodiversity Day). Community information points will provide regularly updated information on the project, and on key messaging. Project logos and slogans will be integrated into all project activities. Expected result: Local people will understand the value of healthy wetlands for secure ecosystem services and biodiversity, and will know how to take measures to use natural resources more sustainably. A schools education programme with integrated ambassador scheme will inspire the next generation of wetland-users to play an active role in environmental stewardship.

2. National wetland stakeholders. Building on the National Wetland Strategy, WWT will use our national platform and status as an International Organisation Partner of the Ramsar Convention to host meetings, training and workshops. Training will provide momentum for the National Ramsar Committee and become tangible delivery coming out of the National Wetland Strategy. The project will support the government of Madagascar to build the profile of World Wetlands Day. Expected result: Relevant departments and ministries in national government, and managers of important wetlands in Madagascar, are aware of the importance of wise-use of wetland systems and can integrate relevant tools and policies into decisions when conducting their work.

## **Q16. 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.**

Capacity building is integral to the success and sustainability of this project. The project will support the development of CBNRM associations and will work closely alongside them, initially providing training and hands-on support for technical, operational, administrative and financial management. Regular capacity

assessments will allow the project partnership to top-up skills where necessary, and day-to-day assistance will be decreased as and when possible, but, as stated in the Exit Strategy section below, it is not expected that CBNRM groups can operate entirely autonomously by the end of this three year project.

Local community monitoring teams will be trained in basic ecology and will learn to collect and manage ecological data. Students from the University of Antananarivo will be provided with stipends and training to support the M&E of this project.

Members of fisher cooperatives will be supported with business planning and associated training, alongside training on best-practice long-term natural resource management. This will include visits to Lake Tseny by technical specialists and by farmers of other successful fishing groups in the region, to create a knowledge exchange and an informal network for mutual assistance into the future.

Managers of other important wetlands in Madagascar will benefit from training courses and workshops, developed alongside specialist training providers the Tropical Biology Association, on the tools and approaches available for the resilient management of wetland systems. These include; Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools, Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments produced by the IUCN and trialled by WWT in other global project sites, and Open Standards Conservation Planning, an approach developed by the Conservation Measures Partnership to help design and manage complex conservation projects. WWT's national wetland guidance will be shared with all participants and government stakeholders, and technical support will be offered to wetland managers wanting to adopt aforementioned tools.

## Q17. 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.**

In the Lake Tseny catchment, traditional customs and stereotypes still prevail, leading to disparities between men and women in terms of control over natural resources. Despite women's involvement in fishing and agriculture at the household level, their participation in decision-making at the community level is limited. The fokontany chiefs and village chiefs in the catchment are all men, and most fishing cooperatives in the lakeside villages have few or no women members.

Using approaches tailored to the local context and culture, the project will seek to promote gender equality by:

- Consulting with women and men throughout the project to understand different roles, responsibilities and needs, including ensuring equal participation (and separate sessions where appropriate) in Vulnerability Assessment, and OS planning consultations.
- Including strategies and targets on women's empowerment, representation and participation in decision-making, e.g. % of women members of CBNRM groups, min. # of women involved in fisheries training/management group elections.
- Seeking to address some of the social and cultural barriers to women's participation, e.g. by holding meetings and training at times and venues suitable for women, and ensuring that training and educational materials/methods are accessible for those with limited formal education.
- Collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative gender-sensitive data (incl. sex-disaggregated data), taking into account intersectional factors - e.g. through the Vulnerability Assessment, social surveys and project monitoring system - and using it to inform implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The impact of the project on promoting gender equality will be to:

- enhance understanding of the different needs and experiences of women and men at Lake Tseny, facilitating the design of more gender-sensitive interventions in future.
- increase meaningful participation of women in decision-making on natural resources, ensuring that women's voices are heard, their needs addressed and benefits more equitably shared.

## Q18. 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.**

### 1. Community

Five thousand local people will have more secure access to improved and resilient natural resources and wider ecosystem services. Profitability of fishing for 800 fishers will have increased by 20%, through a 15% increase in catch per unit effort and further benefits accrued through opportunities identified during a value chain analyses. In the longer-term, threat mitigation strategies will identify opportunities for more profitable, sustainable and resilient natural resource use and alternative livelihoods for all sectors of society.

Community-based restoration of lakeside forest habitat will include species harvestable for edible crops, timber and charcoal, the management of which will be overseen by the forest CBNRM association. At least forty local people will be employed through sustainably financed CBNRM associations. Community members will understand, shape and enforce principles of sustainability and the link between healthy wetlands for healthy people, with over 300 school children understanding the links between a better managed ecosystem, improvement in their livelihoods, and healthy populations of important animals and plants.

The short-term result of sustainably financed and technically competent CBNRM institutions by the end of this project lays a foundation for the long-term viability of sustainable natural resource management in and directly around Lake Tseny.

### 2. Ecosystem

Through a detailed understanding of habitat requirements, and targeted restoration, this project will directly increase habitat for at least eight Threatened native species; 10% increase in aquatic and fringe habitat and 5% increase in forest extent. The project will halt the current habitat loss and direct degradation through burning and unsustainable harvest, estimated to be 3% loss per annum. Populations of threatened fish will recover by at least 10%. In the long-term, threat mitigation strategies will work towards agreed measurable indicators of key Biodiversity Targets (species and habitats), the health of which will represent the health of the lake and forest systems as a whole. The feasibility of restocking native fish, and translocating big-headed turtles to the lake will be understood.

### 3. National Stakeholders

By the end of this project, at least forty stakeholders directly involved in the conservation of nationally important wetlands (from government and civil society) will be comfortable using conservation planning tools that support the climate change resilience of wetlands and the livelihoods that they support. Wider

capacity building, informed by WWT's work with the national government to produce a National Wetland Strategy and National Guidance for Sustainable Management of Wetlands, will build momentum for the National Ramsar Committee and help solidify a network of wetland stakeholders for future collaboration and support. The training will deliver an important element of the National Wetland Strategy, providing the evidence for the value of such a strategy, which in turn will help energise further action and funding. Four students from UA will run research projects directly linked to the conservation work of this Darwin project, giving them access to quality data, international scientists, and active conservation organisations in the region, helping build a pool of skilled conservationists in Madagascar.

## **Q19. 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.**

To achieve resilient ecosystem services and sustainable livelihood opportunities in the Lake Tseny catchment, communities require the legal right to determine and regulate fair and equitable use of their natural resources. Once recognised by government, management must be effective, stable, sustainable and sufficiently resourced. This project secures this, and enhances the fishery, the most important natural resource exploited in the area. Supporting transitions to a more sustainable and higher yielding fishery, this project also works alongside community groups to restore key habitat, building capacity for wider ecological restoration in the future. Environmental education and awareness has a specific focus in the project, but is also embedded into all project activities, helping to lay a foundation of environmental stewardship into the future.

Through applied research, the project will interrogate wider threats to wetland and lakeside forest habitats, including expected impacts of climate change. This research will inform long-term threat mitigation strategies, designed alongside communities to improve livelihoods and well-being.

The tools and approaches adopted through this project have also been identified in the draft National Wetland Strategy. To achieve the stated wider impact, the project will be showcased nationally, with associated capacity building and ongoing support to garner wider adoption.

## **Q20. Exit Strategy**





**State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual".**

**Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?**

MAVOA have a long-established commitment to work alongside communities to assure the protection and conservation of Lake Tseny. WWT have spent several years conducting research on the highest priority wetlands for conservation in Madagascar (see Bamford et al., 2017) to identify a suitable site to replicate successful community-based conservation and restoration of Lake Sofia, Madagascar. WWT and MAVOA have entered into a long-term partnership to protect and restore Lake Tseny for local people and biodiversity. This project is the first step in our collaboration and provides the foundations through; better informed long-term wider threat mitigation strategies, habitat restoration and adaptive management, and establishing community-based natural resource management. We will use the achievements of this project to leverage additional funding for future work.

The project exit strategy centres on strengthening local capacity and networks, including business planning for fisheries groups and CBNRM associations to ensure benefits are being accrued from membership of such groups. The community associations supported by this project are built around a sustainable financing model to ensure financial dependence isn't created on project partners. Sustainably financed CBNRM groups will allow long-term patrolling to help assure restored and existing habitat.

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

- 
-  [References](#)
  -  08/02/2021
  -  19:15:56
  -  pdf 497.38 KB

## Section 10 - Budget and Funding

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### Q21. 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.**

- 
-  [Budget over 100K May 2020 rev Feb21](#)
  -  09/02/2021
  -  18:00:04
  -  xlsx 68.01 KB

### Q22. Funding

**Q22a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?**

- New Initiative

**Please provide details:**

The proposed project will build on and extend the work undertaken by WWT in the Sofia region and at the national level in Madagascar over the past decade.

While Lake Tseny is a new site for WWT, we will draw upon experience and learning from our successful work at Lake Sofia Ramsar Site to support the transfer of natural resource management to local communities under the GELOSE legislation.

The project also builds on our work at national level to support the development and implementation of a National Wetland Strategy (to be finalised by March 2021), by adopting tools and approaches proposed in the Strategy, such as Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools.

The project complements an ongoing WWT project (Aug 2020-July 2023) funded through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme, which aims to build capacity within Ramsar Site managers and the National Ramsar Committee (CONARAMS). The tools and approaches showcased at the Lake Tseny catchment under the proposed project will be shared with national Ramsar Committee members, Ramsar Site Managers and managers of other Protected Areas, and training and study tours will support their adoption at other sites across the country.

**Q22b. 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.**

WWT and MAVOA are the only organisations working at Lake Tseny. Conservation International have previously supported the National Ramsar Committee, but currently do not have any ongoing projects through the committee.

We will share information with other initiatives in the Sofia Region, such as the World Bank funded 'Sustainable Landscape Management Project for Madagascar' (PADAP) project to improve access to irrigation and strengthen the integrated management of natural resources by local actors in selected landscapes.

**Q23. Co-financing**

**Are you proposing co-financing?**

Yes

**Q23a. 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
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Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme	██████	GBP	Funds towards salaries, office costs and work alongside the National Ramsar Committee. Secured by WWT.
Turtle Conservation Fund	██████	GBP	Funds towards fieldwork operating costs of assessing the status of Erymnochelys madagascariensis. Secured by MAVOA.
Rainforest Trust	██████	GBP	Funds towards overheads and travel. Secured by MAVOA.
WWT in-kind support	██████	GBP	Financial contribution to salaries and office costs.

### Q23b. 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. 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
01 July 2021	UK private trusts and foundations (e.g. Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, Travers Cox Fdn, Ranworth Trust 1985, Henhurst Charitable Trust, etc.)	██████	GBP	Prospect list developed, including previous WWT funders.
15 July 2021	US trusts and foundations (e.g. Cornell Douglas Fdn)	██████	GBP	Prospect list developed.



15 July 2021	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	██████	GBP	Management of wetlands is a key priority of the Foundation. Funding would start in 2022.
01 October 2021	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	██████	GBP	Call for proposals expected in late 2021/early 2022. WWT has a good relationship with CEPF and has secured funding previously. Amount reflects contribution to this project.

**Do you require more fields?**

Yes

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 April 2022	Global Environment Fund (GEF)	██████	GBP	GEF 8 will launch in 2022 in Madagascar and is likely to include a wetlands focus.
01 December 2022	WWT Member Appeal	██████	GBP	A WWT Member Appeal will be launched in the latter half of the project if we have been unable to secure match funding from other sources. Amount based on past appeals for Madagascar.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

## Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

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### Q24. 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.**

A number of outputs will come out of this project and will be made accessible as follows:

- Lake Tseny climate change vulnerability assessment and mitigation plan will be published on the WWT website and remain openly and freely available.
- Training on climate change vulnerability assessments, OS Conservation Planning and a number of Ramsar tools will be shared with stakeholders through training courses, with videos of the training session available online.
- Lake Tseny Open Standards Conservation Plan will be visualised using the OS Miradi software, presented to district government and incorporated into future funding proposals.
- CBNRM Plans (Gelose) will be produced in Malagasy and available on request from WWT.
- Fishery Value Chain Analysis and associated Business Plan and CBNRM Business Plan will be available locally in Malagasy, with a synopsis presentation also available to create easy access to information.
- Promotional material for rules and regulations will be provided to communities and publicly displayed at community information points.
- Reports on Threatened species will be made publicly available online on MAVOA's webpage.
- Education materials in Malagasy and English to support the environmental awareness activities will be shared through the Wetland Link International network (<https://wli.wwt.org.uk>) for wider regional use.
- M&E data will be freely available upon request.

### Q25. Financial Risk Management

**This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.**

WWT has an established project approval process, through which inter-departmental committees analyse all risk factors and complete a project risk register.

This project will be subject to WWT's established financial management policies and procedures. Internal audits and spot checks will be undertaken by the UK Finance team where appropriate.

Key financial risks include:

- Corruption (see Q29).
- Exchange rate fluctuations. Exchange rates will be carefully monitored and budgets adjusted accordingly. Some expenditure will be in different currencies (USD), helping to minimise risk.
- Failure to secure match funding. A detailed project fundraising plan has been developed, which will be reviewed and updated regularly. We have a comprehensive list of prospective funders, including several that have previously funded our work.
- Impact of Covid-19 (e.g. on expenditure, WWT finances). Current restrictions in the project area are minimal. We will monitor the situation and develop alternatives to planned activities if restrictions increase, to minimise implementation delays. WWT has a robust reserves policy and will seek support from emergency Covid funds (e.g. job retention schemes) to mitigate financial impact.

Current and emerging risks will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Project Steering Committee, with adjustments made to mitigate their impact.

## 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. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.**

The capital items to be purchased with Darwin funding include a motorbike, laptops, camera/GPS/optics equipment and a dugout canoe.

The motorbike and laptops purchased for WWT will be kept by the field team, as we will continue to work in the project area after the end of the project.

The computer and other equipment (dugout canoe, etc.) purchased for MAVOA will remain in situ for future use, and some items may be transferred to the CBNRM groups.

## Q27. Value for Money

**Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.**

The project design has been informed by learning from our work in the Sofia region and analysis of the different possible options to achieve the planned outcomes, to ensure that it delivers the best results with the available resources.

The tools and approaches proposed (e.g. Ramsar tools, IUCN vulnerability assessment, GELOSE agreements) have been successfully tested and adopted in other settings. Community feedback mechanisms and robust M&E systems will facilitate continual review and adaptation of approaches.

The budget has been developed by WWT and its partners, who have worked in the Sofia region for many years and have a good understanding of the costs involved, as well as the staff time required for different activities. The project will benefit from combining project activities in the region (eg. site visits) to maximise efficiency. UoA students will support data collection, reducing costs and building local capacity. WWT is providing significant in-kind support to the project and leveraging support from other funders to achieve greater impact.

WWT has well-established financial management systems to ensure that funds are used efficiently, and will take steps to manage financial risks (Q25). When purchasing goods and services, all partners will adhere to rigorous procurement procedures to ensure best price and quality.

The project has the potential to deliver significant additional impact beyond its lifespan, by supporting the designation of Lake Tseny as a Ramsar Site, thereby helping to leverage additional investment in the site in future, and by strengthening national capacity for future wetland management and assessment.

## Section 12 - Ethics and Safeguarding

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### Q28. Ethics

**Outline your approach to meeting Darwin’s key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?**

WWT has over 70 years’ experience of conservation science, research and action, and strives to adhere to the highest legal, ethical and human rights standards. We have a range of policies designed to protect the rights, privacy and safety of project workers and participants (e.g. safeguarding, data protection, health and safety), which are adhered to across all projects.

This project benefits from the longstanding relationship that MAVOA has with the communities at Lake Tseny. It has been designed in consultation with local people, and is premised on the transfer of management of natural resources to community associations, as requested by communities themselves.

To ensure that sound ethical principles are met, we will:

- Work with DREDD/DRAEP to ensure that all activities are properly endorsed and comply with legal and ethical standards in Madagascar.
- Ensure that traditional knowledge is respected, particularly as it pertains to fisheries management and the development of CBNRM plans.
- Adopt prior informed consent principles with local communities, providing regular opportunities for consultation and participation in decision-making, using methods tailored to the needs of particular groups (e.g. CBNRM associations) and their members (women/men).
- Use participatory research methods wherever possible, and only collect socio-economic data (e.g. through social surveys) with informed consent of those involved, assuring their right to anonymity.
- Research will be overseen by an Expert Working Group, which will assess proposed methodologies to ensure they meet ethical standards. All those involved in research design and data collection will receive training on ethical principles.

## **Q29. Corruption**

**This question specifically considers 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. This may include financial corruption, but may also deal with gifts or inducements, or other types of dishonesty or deceit.**

WWT takes a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and has clear Anti-Bribery, Anti-Money Laundering and Gifts & Hospitality Policies.

When implementing projects, we work with carefully selected partners. Appropriate checks are conducted and any necessary documentation in accordance with our financial procedures or legal requirements is obtained before entering into partnership agreements.

The primary corruption-related risks under this project have been identified during the project development phase and will be monitored regularly by the Project Steering Committee as part of the wider risk register review.

To minimise the risk of bribery and corruption under this project, we will:

- Clearly stipulate zero tolerance in all contracts and partnership agreements and continue to monitor and enforce this tightly.
- Provide training/sensitisation on the Anti-Bribery Policy and related policies for WWT and partner staff

involved in the project (e.g. what constitutes corruption/bribery, what gifts and hospitality are acceptable, incident reporting procedures).

- Ensure that organisational policies covering potentially high-risk areas (eg. recruitment, procurement, per diems) are understood and adhered to.
- Apply rigorous, regular financial checks.
- Provide clear guidance on reporting procedures for incidents of bribery or attempted bribery. This guidance is supported by our Whistle-blowing and Disciplinary Policies.

## Q30. 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:**

<b>We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload below)</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked
<b>We have a Code of Conduct 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</b>	Checked

**Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.**

WWT has a dedicated Safeguarding Lead - the Head of Safety Management - who is responsible for overseeing the organisational Safeguarding Policy and providing guidance to all staff. The Chief Operating Officer is the Management Board Member designated for Safeguarding.

The Safeguarding Policy is reviewed bi-annually or in the following circumstances: changes in legislation/government guidance; due to other significant changes or events; or following any serious incidents relating to safeguarding.

Training and guidance is provided to all WWT staff on the Safeguarding Policy and procedures (and related





policies such as the Anti-slavery, Whistle-blowing and Disciplinary policies). There is a clear procedure for reporting safeguarding concerns and we ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all concerns are maintained and securely stored.

In regard to downstream partners on this project, we conduct appropriate due diligence as part of the partner selection process and will:

- Include a clause on safeguarding in partnership agreements;
- Share WWT's Safeguarding Policy with partners, providing a comprehensive induction at the start of the project and in-depth training as necessary; and
- Include safeguarding issues in the project risk register, which will be reviewed at Project Steering Committee meetings.

### **Please upload the lead organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF**

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-  [WWT Safeguarding Policy and Whistle-blowing Policy](#)
-  06/02/2021
-  16:38:39
-  pdf 990.27 KB

## **Section 13 - Logical Framework**

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### **Q31. Logical Framework**





Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. 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.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

### **Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.**

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-  [Logical Framework](#)
-  08/02/2021
-  22:09:37
-  pdf 169.2 KB

### **Impact:**

Lake Tseny catchment provides resilient ecosystem services and sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities, secure healthy habitat for increasing populations of native biodiversity, and inspires resilience planning for wetlands throughout Madagascar.

### **Outcome:**

Sustainable, representative, and legally recognised community-based management of Lake Tseny catchment results in improved ecosystem services for 5000 local people and enhanced habitat for

threatened biodiversity, with techniques showcased nationally.

## Project Outputs

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### Output 1:

Five sustainably financed community institutions (VOIs) are representing the breadth of local society and providing efficient, and legally recognised, management of natural resources in and around Lake Tseny.

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### Output 2:

Fishing regulations are in place and being followed by local and migrant fishers, which, alongside fish habitat restoration areas, is increasing the productivity of the fishery. Fishing communities have new knowledge on value chains and the potential to increase profitability.

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### Output 3:

Quality and extent of aquatic and lakeside habitat increased.

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### Output 4:

Increased understanding of the importance of natural systems and biodiversity for livelihoods and wellbeing amongst different socio-economic groups using and living around the lake.

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### Output 5:

Current and future wider threats are understood for the local Tseny catchment, with a conservation strategy developed to mitigate threats into the future, and national conservation managers and government staff valuing and able to use tools to plan long-term resilient community-based wetland conservation projects.

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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 Conduct community consultations for formalised community-based natural resource management transfer agreements
- 1.2 Management Plans developed and agreed by local government
- 1.3 Constitute membership of VOIs and support elections for leadership groups
- 1.4 Conduct capacity assessments (resource management, administrative, legal, financial) of groups and develop VOI training plan
- 1.5 Facilitate a study tour to Lake Sofia to learn from similar successful ongoing schemes
- 1.6 Develop VOI Business Plan to ensure sustainable financing of the associations, including equipment rental and community-based savings groups
- 1.7 Deliver VOI training programme and provide ongoing support
- 1.8 Hold community fora 2 times per year in each community to ensure wider accountability
- 1.9 Hold annual catchment management group meeting
- 1.10 Capacity assessment and legacy planning

- 2.1 Collect and analyse socio-economic data, including legal and illegal use of the fishery
- 2.2 Conduct fisheries assessment to map key nursery habitats, potential high-value no-take zones and priority restoration actions to inform Activity 1.2 and Output 3
- 2.3 Training from fisheries specialist and visit by representatives of other successful community fishery projects to share key advice on best-practice and common mistakes to avoid
- 2.4 Value chain analysis and fishery business plan agreed alongside local fishers
- 2.5 Conduct feasibility study for restocking native species through cage farming
- 2.6 Update and implement education and awareness programme, including dissemination of information on strict common standards for fishing control
- 2.7 Operate voluntary net exchange programme
- 2.8 Community fishery trust fund established and recommendations from the Business Plan implemented with associated training provided
- 2.9 Design and implement fish catch monitoring programme
- 2.10 Community fishery monitoring and patrols to strengthen compliance with regulatory mesh and fishing season and no-take zones
- 2.11 Annual review of fisher perceptions, scheme, management approval ratings, recommendations for the coming year (independent consultant)

- 3.1 Consolidate all historical imagery and mapping of the lake and wider catchment to assess change over time
- 3.2 Conduct detailed annual habitat/vegetation assessments to generate baseline and monitor change over time
- 3.3 Conduct assessment of the habitat requirements of, and baselines for, Threatened species at the site
- 3.4 Develop, and agree with stakeholders, a habitat restoration plan, aligned to VOI Management plans (see Activity 1.2), and applied research programme to monitor efficacy
- 3.5 Identify and formalise a local community monitoring team and train on monitoring protocols
- 3.6 Undertake aquatic plant restoration alongside VOIs and local fisher groups
- 3.7 Establish community nursery for lakeside habitat restoration (including in local schools - see Activity 4.4)
- 3.8 Undertake lakeside habitat restoration alongside VOIs, including trials for harvestable crops in reforested patches

- 4.1 Conduct a schools competition to develop a single unified project logo and slogan promoting 'healthy nature for healthy people'
- 4.2 Develop a curriculum-linked environmental education programme for local schools, including field elements at the lake
- 4.3 Conduct teacher training events, with selected teachers nominated as teacher coaches to increase wider adoption of the materials
- 4.4 Develop and maintain school environmental ambassador schemes, including school plant nurseries and engaging local school children in restoration schemes
- 4.5 Establish Community Information Points for project and VOI updates, environmental awareness campaigns, publication of project social safeguarding policy and Grievance Mechanisms
- 4.6 Develop and deliver targeted awareness campaigns to focus on importance of wetland ecosystem services, mitigation of key threats, and identification and value of Threatened species
- 4.7 Mainstream project messaging into all activities

- 5.1 Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool workshop to gather baseline data on current stakeholder knowledge of ecological character, threats, and existing management capacity within the catchment
- 5.2 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment to consolidate baseline information on current status of key species, habitats and livelihoods and associated potential impacts of climate change based on regional modelling
- 5.3 Multi-Stakeholder Open Standards Conservation Planning process for the catchment to develop a



- Conceptual Model, providing a greater understanding of current threats and contributing factors
- 5.4 Research programme developed and agreed with local government to interrogate the extent, severity and drivers of identified threats in the catchment
- 5.5 Climate change resilient threat mitigation strategies developed for the Lake Tseny catchment and approved by regional government
- 5.6 Funding proposal developed for conservation action in the wider catchment
- 5.7 Lake Tseny designated as a Ramsar Site through the Government of Madagascar
- 5.8 National Ramsar Committee and all Ramsar Site Managers in Madagascar trained in Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
- 5.9 Wetland training programme for all managers of important wetlands (in and outside of Ramsar Sites and Protected Areas) to fill knowledge gaps identified in the National Wetland Strategy

## Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

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### Q32. 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.**

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 [Implementation Timetable](#)

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## Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q33. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

**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](#)).**

M&E will be formalised using the Darwin M&E template, with all project partners and wider stakeholders agreeing the plan. The Project Steering Group, comprising senior staff from each partner (including regional government), will review progress on a quarterly basis. M&E is essential for the evolution and success of this project, and will be integrated into all elements. Community project meetings will be held every six months to receive input and feedback from local stakeholders, whilst also gauging levels of support and understanding. Project management will be adapted to ensure issues raised are addressed and new opportunities explored.

This project includes funding for a dedicated Research Officer to oversee data collection in the field, including the training of community monitoring teams collecting data on natural resource use, biodiversity, habitat condition and vegetation coverage. Social science technical support will be given to the Research Officer by WWT specialist staff based in the UK. Community monitoring teams also collect data on wider human use of the area, including illegal activities.

Specialist consultants will complete vegetation surveys at the start and end of the project, which will be combined with drone imagery to monitor remaining, and measure the change extent of, aquatic vegetation and fringe Phragmites habitat and lakeside forest. Water quality assessments will assess phosphates, nitrates, pH, and Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) to assess the level of threat coming from agricultural pollution.

Social surveys will be completed at the start and end of the project. These will evaluate and assess changes in people’s perceptions of their rights to access resources and fairness and effectiveness of community associations. The surveys will also provide data on take-up of sustainable resource use methods, current status of resources, understanding of rules and regulations, views on future resource security and the understanding of socio-economic benefits of sustainable land use.

Fisher diaries, analyses of catch when boats land, and surveys of fish sold at local markets will assess changes in yields, changes in average size of fish, the number of Threatened species being caught in relation to a fixed unit effort, and the number and species of Threatened fish still being harvested. Fisher diaries will be used to record changes in income and the relative effectiveness of the different elements of the Business Plan.

Capacity Assessments will be developed for CBNRM Groups and regularly completed by MAVOA staff to integrate an adaptive management approach into the nature and intensity of capacity building and support. Capacity Assessments will also be developed for managers of important wetlands throughout Madagascar, to evaluate the impact of the training programme and identify priorities for future capacity development through future initiatives.

<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	£ [REDACTED]
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	215
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	[REDACTED]

## Section 16 - FCDO Notifications

### Q34. FCDO Notifications

**Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development 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)

**Please attach details of any advice you have received.**

*No Response*

## Section 17 - Certification

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### Q35. Certification

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

**I apply for a grant of**

£339,943.00

**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** Dr James Robinson


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**Position in the organisation** Director of Conservation

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Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [JR Signature and Stamp](#)

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Date

09 February 2021

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## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

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### 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 12, 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 11, 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 included a copy of the lead organisation's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO 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

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## **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.**

Checked

## **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).