

Applicant: **Ransom, Chris**  
Organisation: **Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust**  
Funding Sought: **£491,008.00**

## **DIR27S2\1042**

### **Restoring the Alaotra Ramsar Watershed - The Breadbasket of Madagascar**

Deforestation and the degradation of wetlands across Madagascar are cause for serious concern. As Madagascar's largest wetland complex, inland fishery and rice growing region, the restoration of the Alaotra Ramsar watershed is essential. This project aims to: (i) strengthen the capacity of local co-management authority Alaotra Rano Soa to more effectively manage the watershed, (ii) establish sustainable community-led reforestation and marsh restoration programmes, and (iii) train producers to derive greater benefits from their products without adversely impacting the natural environment.

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Name** Jeff  
**Surname** Dawson  
**Organisation** Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Chris  
**Surname** Ransom  
**Organisation** Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust  
**Website** [www.durrell.org/wildlife](http://www.durrell.org/wildlife)  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Fidy  
**Surname** Ralainasolo  
**Organisation** Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

## GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Charity/ trusts
<b>Name</b>	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
<b>Phone (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3. Project title:

Restoring the Alaotra Ramsar Watershed - The Breadbasket of Madagascar

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

DIR27S1\1166

### 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>	<i>No Response</i>
<b>Country 3</b>	<i>No Response</i>	<b>Country 4</b>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

## Q5. Project dates

**Start date:**

01 July 2021

**End date:**

31 March 2024

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

2 years, 9 months

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## Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
<b>Amount:</b>	£132,801.00	£174,790.00	£183,417.00	£0.00	<b>£</b> 491,008.00

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### Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

#### What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Durrell Wildlife Conservation trust will be contributing £[REDACTED] towards staff salaries and community patrol costs over the course of the project.

£[REDACTED] from Jersey Overseas Aid will contribute to staff salaries and international travel in FY1 and FY2.

£[REDACTED] from GEF Star funding will pay for park delineation costs and towards invasive plant clearance activities in FY1.

**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]

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## Section 3 - Project Summary

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### 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.**

Deforestation and the degradation of wetlands across Madagascar are cause for serious concern. As Madagascar's largest wetland complex, inland fishery and rice growing region, the restoration of the Alaotra

Ramsar watershed is essential. This project aims to: (i) strengthen the capacity of local co-management authority Alaotra Rano Soa to more effectively manage the watershed, (ii) establish sustainable community-led reforestation and marsh restoration programmes, and (iii) train producers to derive greater benefits from their products without adversely impacting the natural environment.

## 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 understand and support action to address linkages between biodiversity and human health
- To develop an understanding of blue carbon ecosystems
- 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)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- 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.**

This project demonstrably supports CBD objectives by promoting and facilitating sustainable use of natural resources (Target 3/ITPGRFA), fair and equitable sharing of benefits from natural resources (Target 16/ABS), and transfer of appropriate knowledge and technologies to embed agricultural and Protected Area management practices that minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity (Target 11). This will be achieved through the establishment, resourcing, training and supervision of Farmer Field Schools, run on the principles of Climate Smart Agriculture. In combination with the establishment of VSLAs and associated training in personal and small business financial management and business acumen (output four), the project will support farmers to find additional market opportunities their products, enabling them to derive greater benefits from natural resources. These components also align with Article 9, ITPGRFA. Traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture will be protected and integrated into novel methods of crop cultivation; the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from use of

genetic resources (food, agriculture, natural craft) will be reinforced; ability and confidence to participate in decision-making on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and livelihoods will be strengthened through governance activities (output 3).

Reforestation and marsh restoration activities will replace lost habitats and reduce further loss (Target 5), help ensure ecosystems provide essential services (Target 14), enhance ecosystem resilience particularly through planting on steep slopes to prevent erosion (Target 15) and protect threatened species (Target 12), namely the Critically Endangered and endemic Alaotran gentle lemur, Endangered Meller's duck and Madagascar pond heron. N.B. Only data on the status of the Alaotran gentle lemur will be collected under this project. By the end of the project, we aim to have reforested 95Ha using native conservation and utility species grown from seed in local nurseries, and planted 75Ha of reed phragmites. These actions will help achieve Madagascar's national goal of 1% annual reforestation for all Protected Areas and contribute to stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations (UNFCCC Article 2). Clearing existing lake channels of invasive species will increase accessibility both for fishing and patrol boats. Improving recording and reporting of infractions, and allowing fishing boats to utilise existing channels effectively reducing the need to burn additional marsh to create new access-ways (Target 5). This project will also improve understanding of the carbon storage capacity of Lac Alaotra marsh ecosystem and surrounding forest, informing the next stages of Durrell's Rewilding Carbon initiative and generating knowledge which is valuable to global understanding of wetland carbon storage.

Lac Alaotra and surrounding watershed is a Ramsar site. This project promotes and enables the restoration and wise use of wetlands and its effectiveness will be assessed using an RMETT assessment. The sustainable management of natural resources in tandem with economic development for rural communities will be facilitated through training local association members in principles of good governance (output 3) and equipping them to manage fishing, agricultural practices and associated income sustainably with the support of functioning, well-resourced local management structures.

### **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.**

CBD, ABS and Ramsar (including CMS) focal points fall under Madagascar's Ministry of Environment. Durrell serves on the National Ramsar Committee. Project outputs will necessarily involve liaison, particularly output 1 (development of reforestation and restoration plan) and conduct of an RMETT assessment at project-end. Durrell is also scientific coordinator for related AEWa convention. UNFCCC focal point is a separate part of Ministry of Environment, with which we will be liaising. ITPGRFA sits within DRAEP. At the national level, Durrell is a member of the GSDM agroecology association, and they have a direct partnership with the national Ministry of Agriculture.

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

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

The project demonstrably contributes to multiple SDGs. No poverty (outputs 1,4,5), zero hunger (output 4), responsible consumption and production (outputs 3,4), climate action (outputs 1,4,6), life below water (outputs 2, 3), life on land (outputs 1,2,3,4), peace, justice and strong institutions (output 3), and partnerships for the goals (throughout). Outputs 3-5, specifically follow an integrated conservation livelihoods model developed by Durrell under a concurrent Jersey Overseas Aid grant designed to alleviate poverty in some of Madagascar's poorest communities, increase food security and facilitate strong, just and

transparent local management without further degrading natural resources. This project will extend this model to 12 more communities in Alaotra. It will provide training and resources to farmers to increase yields and generate more income from already cultivated land and support basket-weavers to increase quality of production and sales, whilst maintaining sustainable reed-use. We will enable producers to manage their finances carefully through the creation, equipping and training of village savings and loan associations. Effectiveness will be assessed using household surveys which are already active in the region and will be extended to the new communities. Life on land and climate action will be addressed through the project's reforestation, marsh restoration and carbon storage research objectives. Added to marsh habitat restoration, the facilitation of strong institutions and local management capacity will enable fisheries regulations to be more effectively implemented, allowing fish stocks to recover and fishermen to generate more income from a healthy, well stocked and well managed lake in the long term.

## 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
27-004	Chris Ransom	Building future resilience for wildlife and communities in Ambondrobe
DPLUS105	Mike Hudson	Building capacity to make Montserrat a mountain chicken refuge
IWT-074	Jeff Dawson	Cracking wildlife smuggling in Madagascar
IWT-03	Andrew Terry	Breaking the chain
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

**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.**

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 [DWCT 2018 Report and Financial Statement](#)  
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 [DWCT-2019-Report-and-Financial-Statement](#)  
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## Section 6 - Project Partners

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### 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:** Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

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**Website address:** <https://www.durrell.org/wildlife/>

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

DWCT was established in 1963 and is headquartered at Jersey Zoo. Our reputation is built on saving species from extinction, restoring habitats and working with local stakeholders to find sustainable management solutions. We have had a permanent presence in Madagascar since 1986 and began working in Alaotra in 1990. DWCT operates under an Accord de Siege with the Government of Madagascar and has 68 full time country staff, delivering conservation programmes in four regions: Alaotra-Mangoro, Sofia, Boeny and Menabe. In-country work is led by Programme Director, Richard Lewis, from Antananarivo. Strategic, logistic and technical support is provided by Durrell's Field Programmes and Conservation Science departments in the UK.

Durrell is designated co-management authority for Lake Alaotra Protected Area. Site level activities are overseen by Fidy Ralainasolo and a team based locally in Ambatondrazaka. In collaboration with partners, Durrell will coordinate delivery of project activities and associated monitoring efforts (see methods). Proposed activities are predominantly an extension of Durrell's current work in Alaotra, through which we have proven our capacity to deliver these initiatives effectively, working with partners and communities. We seek to extend this model to more communities, focusing additionally on local institutional capacity building, for greater impact and longevity.

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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:**

Alaotra Rano Soa

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**Website address:**

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

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

ARS is the co-management authority for Alaotra Ramsar watershed, co-ordinating the responsible involvement of the 312 grassroots member associations. ARS will share responsibilities with Durrell for implementing and monitoring habitat restoration activities in the marsh and wider watershed. They will coordinate community-led activities under this project and will participate in capacity building initiatives to improve own management effectiveness and that of the Local Community Associations (COBAs).

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

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**2. Partner Name:** Regional Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD)

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** The regional government ministry responsible for direction and monitoring of environmental activities and sustainable development policy across the region and ensuring governance of laws and regulations in relation to the Alaotra PA including patrol law enforcement.

DREDD aims to sustainably manage natural resources in partnership with stakeholders, including NGOs, local associations and other government services so people and wildlife benefit simultaneously long-term. DREDD also controls the exploitation, utilisation and commercialisation of natural resources and oversees the management of all protected areas and restoration activities.

Regional representatives of DREDD will be involved in the development and approval of official management and reforestation strategies and support monitoring of their implementation.

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

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**3. Partner Name:** Regional Directorate for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (DRAEP)

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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

The regional government ministry responsible for management, use and preservation of Lake Alaotra's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, and aims to improve agriculture and farming techniques for increased production and higher well-being at village and household level.

During the last few years DRAEP has been trying to implement a sustainable landscape approach in order to adopt appropriate agriculture techniques that address climate change issues (e.g., increase in temperature and decrease in rainfall). DRAEP is taking the lead in finding the best strategic and political approach towards sustainable agricultural activity including water management and protection of soil fertility.

DRAEP manages fishery activities by controlling and enforcing fishing regulations (legal mesh size, closed fishing period, card for fishers, non-fishing zones, reference for canoe etc). Only the associations that receive official permits from DRAEP can practice commercial fishing in an approved lake or river.

Regional representatives of DRAEP will be involved in the development and approval of official management and reforestation strategies and support monitoring of their implementation.

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

Yes

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**4. Partner Name:**

Graine de Vie (GdV)

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**Website address:**

<https://grainedevie.org/en/>

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

A Belgian reforestation NGO working in Madagascar since 2009 whose main objective is to ensure the compensation of the ecological footprint of the inhabitants of industrialised countries by planting trees in developing countries.

In order to ensure the monitoring and development of reforestation, the NGO's strategy is to set up nurseries in the planting sites and to train local people to manage them. To achieve these objectives, the members of the NGO are committed to working on a voluntary basis to ensure that all funds are used directly and entirely for the management of nurseries and tree planting. In addition, all paid nursery and tree planting workers are employed from local communities to ensure benefits reach the local population.

For the past three years, Graine de Vie has been a Durrell partner in two conservation sites, Alaotra and Menabe-Antimena.

For this project, Graine de Vie will be responsible for providing seeds for reforestation activities, setting up village nurseries and providing training to local nursery workers and Durrell staff. Graine de Vie will assist also local communities during tree plantation and will support Durrell's team to develop strategies to ensure tree planting follow-up and control.

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

Yes

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**5. 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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**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*

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.

 [1166 Combined Letters of Support](#)

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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?
Fidy Ralainasolo	Project Leader	50	Checked
Richard Lewis	Project oversight, Madagascar Programme Director	5	Checked
Hanitra Rakotojaona	Management of Durrell's community conservation and rural development work	15	Checked
Brinah Razafiharimihando	Socio-economic expert leading on VSLA and value chain work	25	Checked

### Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Isabella Tianamalala	Social coordinator in charge of VSLA and basket-weaving activities	100	Checked
Harimihaja Rabearivony	Coordination and implementation of agriculture activities	100	Checked
Kantoniaina Romy	Coordination and implementation of agriculture activities	100	Checked
Luhanaud Andriamiarivola	Supervision of marsh restoration and reforestation activities	30	Checked
Rado Rasamison	M&E coordination Madagascar	10	Checked
Aina Ramamonjisoa	Financial and administrative management of project	10	Checked
Percy Rakoto	Drone technician and coordinator	30	Checked
Rachael Gerrie	UK M&E support	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.**

 [DWCT Darwin\\_R27 Combined CVs](#)

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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).**

Lac Alaotra is Madagascar's most important rice-producing region and inland fishery, producing 300,000 tonnes of rice/year - 10% of Madagascar's annual yield (Plan Régional de Développement 2005). It is also an important habitat for wildlife including the Critically Endangered, single-site endemic Alaotran gentle lemur. The hills surrounding the lake were once forested but have mostly been cleared for domestic wood (fuel/timber) and farmland, causing severe erosion and contributing to lake siltation and loss of open water surface (Bakoariniaina et al. 2006). Siltation not only reduces lake size and quality, but also the area of arable land available amidst a growing human population. Migrating populations who come to Alaotra seeking fertile croplands are putting further pressure on the watershed by burning reed beds (the gentle lemur's only habitat) for conversion to rice-paddies. Poor management, and traditional monoculture (rice) cultivation have gradually reduced annual productivity, creating a vicious cycle in which more land is burnt each year for agriculture to maintain livelihoods with devastating impacts on biodiversity. Inconsistent fishery management and overfishing also constitute a considerable threat, exacerbated by declining agricultural productivity which turns farmers to fishing in search of alternative livelihoods. Unregulated equipment and failure to respect closed seasons, added to siltation and declining water quality, have led to fishery collapse (75% decline in annual catch weight from 1960s to today) and a sharp decrease in income from fishing (Wallace, 2015; Lammers et al., 2020). Population increase and poor natural resource management have severely compromised Lac Alaotra's ability to sustain wildlife and communities that depend on it – a trend with parallels across Madagascar.

This project will build capacity for watershed management and good governance within Alaotra Rano Soa (ARS, local co-management authority) and established Local Community Associations (COBAs) to improve stewardship of natural resources and empower local authorities to enforce regulations. We will support ARS to develop community-led reforestation and marsh restoration strategies for the wider Alaotra watershed. This will set a roadmap for increasing marsh and forest habitat around Lake Alaotra which will ultimately lead to a reduction in negative erosion impacts whilst contributing to Madagascar's reforestation targets. These restoration activities will also provide alternative employment opportunities for local people. We will support farmers to adopt environmentally friendly, climate smart agricultural production methods to enhance and diversify crop production, helping farmers adapt to climate variability in the region (such as the frequent lack of rainfall) and increase soil fertility. Producers will be supported to identify routes to market, generating greater economic benefits for local people and pride in the Sihanaka community and their natural products, without further damaging Lake Alaotra's natural resources. Provision of village savings and loan schemes will enable people to financially plan and be more economically resilient to future hardships. Combined, these activities will improve the wellbeing of people in the project's target communities. To help aid long-term financing of the Alaotra watershed we will explore the carbon sequestration potential of the lake, marsh and surrounding forests and the feasibility of establishing a carbon credit scheme.

## **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.).**

Output 1: A watershed-wide habitat restoration plan will be developed, integrating existing policies (e.g., SRAT, Ramsar documents, government restoration strategies) and include priority species (economic/conservation), priority zones for reforestation/marsh restoration, and invasive plant control measures (Durrell in consultation with ARS, DREDD and DRAEP). Immediate reforestation priorities will be high erosion areas including alongside watercourses and lavakas. Nurseries for native conservation and utility species (e.g., fruit) will be established in twelve communities (5 in FY1, 5 in FY2, 2 in FY3), each capable of producing 10,000 saplings and reforesting 10Ha/year (Durrell, GdV). Community members will be recruited and trained to staff nurseries, lead annual reforestation and monitoring efforts (Durrell, GdV). This model works effectively at other field sites where Durrell works e.g., Menabe-Antimena.

Output 2: Fishermen will be recruited to clear 5km of priority channels/year of invasive water hyacinth/water chestnut using hand tools to maintain passage and prevent further marsh clearance for fishing access (Durrell, ARS). Cleared vegetation will be mulched to provide organic compost for crops under output 4. To supplement natural regeneration, community teams will plant 25Ha of reed phragmites in priority areas annually (Durrell, ARS). These activities will provide alternative employment for fishers in the closed season and connect existing habitat blocks for the Alaotran gentle lemur. Ongoing control of invasive species is necessary and likely for the foreseeable future (see response to stage 1 feedback). Costs of ongoing removal efforts will be accounted for in annual management plans. Options to reduce incursion of invasive species in the lake will be explored as part of the restoration plan development (output 1).

Output 3: Assess training and infrastructural/equipment needs of ARS and COBAs (Durrell). Capacity building initiatives delivered accordingly by experienced Durrell staff and/or specialist consultants from REPC network (Network of Professional Conservation Educators). Four offices will be built and equipped (Durrell). Durrell facilitated meetings between ARS/COBA executives and DREDD/DRAEP to develop official management protocols e.g., standardisation of fishing regulations. Management effectiveness of Alaotra PA will be assessed annually using Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (RMETT; Durrell). By project end we aim for c.40% of all marsh (equivalent to c.75% of all accessible marshland) to be managed directly by ARS and COBAs (2020 baseline c.25-30%). The main way that ARS and COBAs manage the marsh is through community-led patrols. Patrol teams will be supported throughout the project.

Output 4 (i): Farmer Field Schools (FFS) will be undertaken to promote Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques to c.1680 farmers in 12 villages (Durrell). These villages have been prioritised as they have not had development support to date through a concurrent Jersey Overseas Aid funded project. FFS is a group-based learning model used to promote uptake of sustainable farming practices in rural areas. Durrell has trained over 1,500 people from across three regions (including Alaotra) using this method to date. Groups receive training, seeds, organic fertiliser (note: no chemical pesticides or fertiliser are used in Durrell projects), equipment and ongoing support, advice and follow-up through regular visits each crop season (Durrell). A Lead Farmer will be appointed for each village to act as primary liaison between Durrell and FFS, and support Durrell in monitoring CSA uptake.

Output 4 (ii): VSLA groups (c.48) will target farmers, fishermen and basket-weavers in 12 villages to aid long-term financial security. Groups will be equipped, trained and monitored during a full cycle (9 to 12 months; Durrell). This training will allow them to develop entrepreneurship skills, which they can apply to sustainable income generating activities. Foremost basket-weaving experts in Alaotra will be hired to train others through the establishment of a basket-weaving school promoting sustainable reed use. Alaotra's principal producers (farmers, fishers and basket-weavers) will be supported to identify markets, build relationships with market organisers, develop negotiating skills and ensure can respond to market needs in terms of quantity and quality (Durrell)



Output 5: Using high-resolution maps, matched with data from analysis of physical samples to confirm carbon quantities in each habitat, the total and potential carbon sequestration capacity of Lac Alaotra marsh ecosystem and surrounding forest will be estimated via a collaborative student University research project (Durrell). This will build on research conducted in the development of Durrell's Rewilding Carbon initiative enabling assessment for the feasibility of a carbon offset scheme in the region.

Household surveys (c. 30 respondent households per village) in FY1 and FY3 will collect baseline data from which to assess impact, overseen by Durrell's dedicated M&E staff in Madagascar and UK. The project will be managed according to the Conservation Standards.

## **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?**

Whilst we do not have a specific output relating to raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity, this concept runs through each of our activities and is fundamental to the project's rationale. Our intention is to encourage improved management of biodiversity and natural resources at the local level, and to facilitate a supportive relationship between national and local management, and law enforcement institutions. During reforestation, habitat restoration and climate smart agriculture activities, the value of a biodiverse, and consequently resilient, ecosystem will be communicated to participating community members. Biodiversity values (worth) are considered by this project to be, (i) the potential for functioning and biodiverse ecosystems to better support local people financially and nutritively for the long term, (ii) the potential for biodiversity to contribute to and bolster pride in the Sihanaka culture both within and outside of Alaotra e.g., raising awareness of the quality and sustainability of Alaotra's woven products. Raising awareness of the worth of biodiversity in these terms will also form part of our governance training with ARS and COBAs. Though not funded under this proposal, explicit awareness raising events are also part of our wider programme of work in Alaotra. These include annual World Wetland Day celebrations in the form of a festival (this has recently taken place with the Minister of Environment in attendance) and an annual festival on World Lemur Day to celebrate the endemic Alaotran gentle lemur. We are also in the process of making a film, to be shared with national and international audiences, about our current conservation livelihoods work in Alaotra, components of which would be replicated by this project in additional communities.

## **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.**

This project builds capacity under four of its five outputs. The delivery of good governance training to both Alaotra Rano Soa management and COBA members, will enhance local capacity to effectively manage the Protected Area and wider watershed in line with existing protocols and those newly established under this project. The curriculum will be co-developed following a training needs assessment to ensure that training is locally, socially and culturally situated, and addresses the specific needs of Lac Alaotra, Alaotra Rano Soa and the local associations. This approach will ensure that learning and impact are relevant and sustainable post-project.

Through the establishment of Farmer Field Schools, at least 1680 farmers will gain knowledge of Climate Smart Agriculture and conservation agriculture techniques and have the skills to apply them in their own cropland. FFS approach will use demonstration plots as observation, knowledge exchange and practice fields. Tailored CSA guidance sheets will be developed and shared with farmers as training tools. Twelve nominated Lead Farmers will receive training through a 'ToT' approach (Training of Trainers) to allow them to support and advise the FFS groups in the absence of Durrell technicians. For the Lead Farmers, training will include CSA techniques but also group mobilisation and an 'operating accounts' module.

Coupled with training in personal financial management through the creation of 48 VSLA groups (720 members), the capacity of local producers to generate and manage income from sustainable crop production, fishing and basket-weaving will be significantly enhanced. Groups will receive training under nine modules of VSLA operations, which cover account management, group organisation and financial education aspects.

## **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 Alaotra, fishing as an industry is mainly the preserve of men whilst handicrafts and collecting Cyprus are the preserve of women. Participation in agriculture and the sale of crops is roughly equal between men and women. Alaotra Rano Soa's leadership is mixed with both men and women participating in decision making. Membership of the local associations (COBA) favours men (60%) and only 4 of 33 COBAs having female Association Presidents. Alaotra is the only Durrell site, and only one known to us in Madagascar, that has female patrollers reflecting the strong sense of duty and agency among women in contributing to environmental protection.

Project recruitment will be open to male and female candidates equally. Of 24 nursery technicians to be recruited, we aim for 50:50 split. We anticipate this project will contribute to reducing inequality by providing training to up-skill female basket-weavers and help them reach new markets where Sihanaka women are underrepresented in producer groups. VSLA groups will target women because of their role in managing the household finances. With financial education training, these women can both better manage household income and help manage livelihood income generating activities. Based on the demographics of existing groups in the region, we seek to increase levels of female participation in newly created FFS (10% to 30%) and in VSLAs (30% to 60%). We will also encourage women to become Lead Farmers and encourage and support women to nominate themselves as candidates for COBA executive committees where they are currently underrepresented. In our most recent governance training workshop, 32% of participants were women, and we will aim to retain at least this level of participation throughout the project. Data on gender will be collected and disaggregated for all training activities via attendance records and during household surveys undertaken in FY1 and FY3.

## **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.**

Poor and inconsistent management of the Alaotra watershed has increased biodiversity loss, depleted natural resources and reduced human socio-economic wellbeing. By strengthening the capacity of ARS and COBAs to manage the watershed more effectively and enforce regulations which protect biodiversity, this project will ensure Lac Alaotra is better able to support wetland-dependent people and wildlife.

Short term: Approximately 2,500 people in 12 villages will directly benefit from support towards improved agricultural practices (1,680 farmers, at least 30% female participation), creation of basketry products (160 basket-weavers) and small business acumen and financial management (c.1,000 farmers, basket-weavers and fishers) improving livelihoods and wellbeing. A decrease in overfishing through improved application of fishing regulations and provision of appropriate fishing tackle will protect livelihoods of c.10,000 fishermen. Further income opportunities will be available as a result of community-led annual habitat restoration activities, e.g., hyacinth clearance, reed planting, reforestation. The combined project activities will begin to improve the well-being of c.15,000 people across 12 villages. Improved habitat management and restoration will safeguard populations of native species including the Critically Endangered and site-endemic Alaotran gentle lemur.

Long term: Reforestation of the Alaotra watershed will, in time, lead to reduced erosion on the surrounding hills and a reduction in siltation in the lake improving water quality for both people and biodiversity, including fish. A reduction in erosion will also increase the amount of usable arable land available for cultivation around the lake taking pressure off the marsh. Reforestation will also help Madagascar meet its international climate change commitments. Effective protection and restoration of marsh will increase the quantity of quality wildlife habitat, increasing populations of key endemic species, notably the Alaotran gentle lemur and waterbirds. The reform of the farming system around the protected area will help in improving the health of the wetland, reducing pollution while enhancing the agricultural productivity of the zone. Adding to this, vulnerable communities will be more financially autonomous, reducing direct dependence on natural resources and helping them to weather economic shocks which may otherwise cause them to further exploit natural resources. The engagement of Alaotra's communities in natural stewardship and the development of local revenue streams will reinforce the local Sihanaka culture and help maintain social cohesion. Increased social cohesion will likely reduce local conflict and security threats, leading to improved wellbeing for c.100,000 people across 32 communities around Lac Alaotra. Project initiatives have been designed to be scalable, laying the foundations for long-term, sustainable change and serving as a model for wetland restoration throughout 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.**

The theory of change for this project centres around three major areas of intervention; habitat restoration (outputs 1 & 2); capacity building for natural resource management (output 3) and supporting local producers to sustainably maximise income generation (output 4). Community-led habitat restoration will provide alternative employment for farmers/fishers in the off-season, improve water quality and water access, and increase habitat for threatened species. Improved water quality will boost fish populations, which, together with improved fisheries management (output 3) and improved access through clearing channels of invasive species (output 2), will enable greater income generation from fishing and reed-crafts without additional adverse impacts on the natural environment. Training in environmentally friendly farming and basket-weaving methods, and associated training in accessing larger markets for these

products (output 4), will enable producers to generate more income from natural resources. To mitigate overuse, training will emphasise the link between responsible stewardship and sustainable income generation.

Providing training and resources to enable ARS and COBAs to more effectively manage the watershed (output 3) underpins all other outputs. Longterm, ensuring governance capacity exists at the local level will ensure Alaotra's capacity to provide ecosystem services for dependent communities and wildlife is strengthened and preserved.

## 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?**

This project represents part of a larger programme of complementary conservation and rural development activities in Alaotra, to which Durrell is committed. Durrell's work in Alaotra began in 1990, leading to the designation of Lac Alaotra as a Protected Area in 2015 with Durrell as designated co-manager alongside ARS. Whilst Durrell anticipates working in Alaotra for a prolonged period, all our interventions are designed to find sustainable, locally applicable natural resource management solutions, the responsibility for which will ultimately fall to local management structures.

Capacity building components are conducted in a way that skills are embedded within local groups. FFS and VSLA training models have been created so that the trainees become the trainers; ensuring benefits are retained in the long-term. Development and implementation of bespoke training for ARS and COBA members, to be designed in consultation with local association members and based on a training needs assessment, will ensure knowledge gaps are filled and capacity is built in line with the requirements of established PA management frameworks that will remain in operation post-project.

The study into the carbon sequestration capacity of Lac Alaotra and its watershed will provide necessary detail for potential longer-term funding through Durrell's Rewild Carbon initiative.

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

*No Response*

## 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.

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 DWCT DIR27S11166 Budget Final

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## Q22. Funding

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

Development of existing work

**Please provide details:**

Durrell's work in Alaotra began in 1990 focussing on the Critically Endangered Alaotran gentle lemur, developing over the following three decades to encompass landscape level, integrated conservation and rural development in addition to applied conservation activities for the gentle lemur. Durrell's work now focuses on implementing existing watershed management frameworks, foundational capacity building and governance training within ARS and COBAs; habitat protection through patrolling, clearing invasive species, reed planting and lakeside reforestation, developing drone handling and survey skills to improve ecological monitoring; and rural development initiatives to increase food security, reproductive healthcare and financial independence. A key management strategy is watershed zonation and transfer of management responsibility to the 33 COBAs. 12 zone transfers will be made under this project, bringing the total to 29. A recent market-value-chain analysis for goods/services in Alaotra concluded that potential income generating opportunities from farming, fishing and basketry are not fully realised. Following this study's recommendations, this project will support producer groups to access a greater market share for their products (output 4). Output 5 builds the portfolio of Durrell's Rewilding Carbon initiative, launched in 2020 to secure external investment in priority sites in return for carbon credits (in harmony with Madagascar's REDD+ programme).

**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.**

Durrell has a long-term (over 10 years) partnership Madagascar Wildlife Conservation, who are responsible for ecotourism, environmental education and behaviour change initiatives around Alaotra, using the gentle lemur as the flagship. Durrell and MWC hold regular meetings, both strategic and operational. MWC are currently promoting their own environmental game which highlights environmental risks with non-sustainable resource use. MWC are currently working to identify how fishermen could be brought into

more conservation activities.

To the east of the Alaotra watershed lies the forest corridor, running the length of Madagascar, managed in this Region by Madagascar National Parks and Conservation International. They have a mandate to implement major reforestation both inside and around their parks. Durrell, with the Regional Ministry of Environment will work closely with them to see how we can each learn from the other, on whether these parks in the long-term could be seed sources, and to envisage the future (very long-term) joining of the Alaotra reforests to the future corridor buffer zones. Durrell also works with CI and MNP at the national level as part of the protected area network collaboration.

## 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
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT)	██████	GBP	No Response
Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA)	██████	GBP	No Response
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	██████	GBP	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response

#### 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
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

**Do you require more fields?**

No

## Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

### 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.**

To increase the impact of the project, regular communications on Durrell's social media channels will be made to improve awareness around project outputs in the national and international media. Training materials developed under this project (e.g., good governance curriculum, Farmers Field School implementation guide) will be freely available to other institutions and communities in the fokontany offices. The restoration plan will be available to all stakeholders and freely available from ARS and fokontany offices. We will share our experiences of reforestation externally to improve best practice reforestation across Madagascar. We anticipate that the student-led carbon sequestration research can be published as a peer-reviewed article in an open access journal, and we will support the student with this process if findings are of sufficient quality. Hyacinth removal is a management action that will be reported to Conservation Evidence (conservation.evidence.com), providing an example that supports habitat restoration and having a direct contribution to global conservation practice.

### 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.**

Project funds will be received at our Headquarters in Jersey and be monitored by our Head Office finance team. Project disbursements will be made directly from there to Durrell's account in Madagascar, where expenditure will be managed by our Malagasy Finance Team. All expenditure will be managed following our administrative handbook, which requires multiple quotes for large expenditures, management of receipts, monitoring of cash balances, and bank account reconciliations. All project expenditure is audited as part of Durrell's annual audit process, and the project expenditure will be audited specifically at the end of the project. There is strong internal scrutiny to mitigate the risk of fraud. Any necessary per diem payments for staff or dignitary travel etc. will be made on attendance and require signed participation records.

## 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.**

We will be constructing and equipping (including furniture, computer, printer) four offices for use by ARS and COBAs to aid their effective management of the Alaotra PA and Ramsar site. These items will be transferred to ARS to manage as part of their annual budgeting and management processes (supported by Durrell as co-manages of the PA). Two laptops and one video projector are being purchased for use by Durrell in delivering this project and will be retained post-project to support delivery of our wider Alaotra programme.

## 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.**

Our value for money (VFM) approach in this project is based on Durrell's 30 plus years of delivering successful conservation work in Madagascar which provides a robust understanding of costs associated with implementing activities that have proven effective, which will serve as a benchmark for ensuring delivery of VFM. Our assessment of VFM is underpinned by the four principles of economy (cost of inputs), efficiency (conversion of inputs to outputs), effectiveness (conversion of outputs to outcomes), and equity (degree to which the results of the intervention are equitably distributed). Durrell's internal procurement policy, which has oversight and sign off by the senior project management, helps secure VFM.

Our strategy prioritises cost-effective interventions such as focussing on strategies that maximise nature-based solutions and are compatible with community ownership and sound, equitable management. Interventions to promote sustainable agriculture also focus on identifying and developing value chains so that initial investments can be leveraged to achieve growth and expansion within the community.

Capacity building elements also represent significant VFM in terms of project spend, impact, and legacy. Experience has shown that the most cost-effective way to improve Protected Area and natural resource governance in Madagascar is to build local management capacity. Focusing on long term skills development, which positions communities and local management groups to govern natural resources effectively, well beyond project end and independently of external aid, amply justifies initial capacity building and resourcing costs.

## 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?**

Both the United Kingdom and Madagascar are parties to the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing and this project will operate under its terms. This project represents a genuinely consultative partnership between Durrell and Alaotra Rano Soa, the platform which represents Alaotra's local



management associations. The project is designed to strengthen the leadership and participation of local people and local management mechanisms. At each stage of the project, we will work with community associations to develop training curricula, natural resource management guidelines and producer practices that are locally and culturally appropriate. This will include the explicit recognition and utilisation of traditional knowledge, particularly with respect to fishing and agricultural practices. Household surveys are an integral component of monitoring and evaluating project success. Participants are required to give prior, informed consent and we know this to be possible and ethical in this context as we have been undertaking household surveys of this kind in Alaotra since 2018. To protect the health and safety of all staff, and the communities we work with, a risk assessment for our field work is in place and is regularly updated. Regarding COVID-19 precautions, whilst cases are low in Madagascar at the time of writing and there are no lockdowns in place, we will continue to monitor the situation very carefully, provide our staff and community assistants with necessary PPE and only hold group gatherings when necessary.

## 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.**

Durrell's anti-bribery policy, anti-corruption policy and code of conduct are signed by all staff. To prevent misuse/theft of VSLA community funds (output 4), groups are self-managed by a committee of five elected members (president, treasurer, cash-holder, secretary, two auditors). All transactions are carried out in front of members to ensure transparency and maintain trust. They are governed by regulations created by members with Durrell's support. All cash collected is kept in a locked box that can only be opened during meetings in the presence of all key-holders and 75% of the group. Borrowing is encouraged to minimize fund balance. Groups are encouraged to use mobile-banking where available (cash-holder deposits funds at nearest mobile phone operator) to reduce cash held. One prevalent risk in Alaotra is that, because of levels of poverty and insecurity, association leaders/members can be induced with cash incentives to misuse/misappropriate project funding/resources. To minimise risk, most project support to COBAs and ARS take the form of training and equipment rather than cash payments for service. We also keep communications strong between partners and have regular all-partner meetings to ensure maximum transparency. Training for COBAs (output 3) will incorporate training on fraud, corruption and bribery using game scenarios.

## 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.**

Durrell has a newly established code of conduct, safeguarding policy and whistleblowing policy, which accompany and update the existing Employee Handbook, that all staff must sign on enrolment indicating receipt and acknowledgement. They will be shared with project partners ahead of the first project steering group. Here, each partners' role in upholding safeguarding policies and communicating concerns will be discussed/agreed. Safeguarding issues/concerns that arise are to be reported to designated Durrell staff, who will immediately create a written record. Durrell also operates a grievance mechanism under which a summary of project activities is displayed at fokontany and field offices, alongside contact details for reporting grievances. Measures to address/mitigate issues raised will be put in place, in consultation with Durrell HR staff in Madagascar and UK, partners and community representatives where appropriate. Durrell management and HR will also follow up with relevant jurisdiction safeguarding bodies and local police authorities where necessary once a report is made. Anonymous reports may be made to the publicly available postal address, displayed at Durrell's field office in Ambatondrazaka and fokontany offices. At each quarterly project steering group meeting, involving all partners, potential safeguarding issues that have arisen in the previous quarter will be discussed.

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

-  [DWCT 2021 Safeguarding Policy](#)
-  09/02/2021
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-  pdf 297.67 KB

## Section 13 - Logical Framework

### 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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 [1166 R27 Logframe Final](#)

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### Impact:

Community-led management and restoration of the Alaotra Ramsar watershed are providing sustainable long-term benefits and services to people and wildlife, and helping mitigate impacts of climate change.

### Outcome:

Enhanced local stewardship is reducing negative impacts on Lake Alaotra's natural environment and improving well-being of c.15,000 people across 12 villages.

### Project Outputs

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#### Output 1:

12 community nurseries, together producing c.100,000 saplings annually to enable 120Ha reforestation annually within priority zones by project end.

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#### Output 2:

5km of channels in priority areas are cleared annually of invasive water hyacinth and 75Ha of reed-phragmites are planted by project end, to restore habitat, improve water quality, and increase access to the lake for fishing and ecotourism.

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#### Output 3:

Local associations (COBAs) within Alaotra Rano Soa (ARS) are effectively managing 40% of the marsh area with c.300 people representing all 33 associations receiving training by end of project.

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#### Output 4:

Approximately 2500 people across 12 villages are supported to derive greater benefits from their agricultural and natural products whilst utilising natural resources more sustainably.

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#### Output 5:

Understanding of carbon sequestration capacity of Lake Alaotra's watershed, including lake and marsh, is improved to inform development of external investment opportunities for sustainable habitat restoration.

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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.**

Outcome level monitoring activities:

- O.1 Undertake household surveys in FY1 and FY3
- O.2 Undertake annual population surveys of key species Alaotra gentle lemur
- O.3 Undertake annual assessment of marsh quality and area reforested

Output 1:

- 1.1 Produce map of Alaotra watershed and with key stakeholders identify priority areas for marsh restoration and terrestrial reforestation
- 1.2 Establish nurseries in 5 villages in FY1; 5 further villages in FY2 and 2 further villages in FY3
- 1.3 Train local communities in nursery maintenance and care
- 1.4 Undertake weekly nursery maintenance
- 1.5 Undertake annual tree planting (February)
- 1.6 Monitor planted areas

Output 2:

- 2.1 Plant 25Ha phragmites reed each year (November)
- 2.2 Undertake water hyacinth clearance annually (November)

Output 3:

- 3.1 Undertake a capacity and training needs assessment across all COBAs (FY1)
- 3.2 Deliver training to COBA members based on results of assessment (FY2)
- 3.3 Undertake an evaluation on effectiveness of training to COBAs (FY3)
- 3.4 Undertake assessment of infrastructural and equipment needs for ARS and COBAs in FY1
- 3.5 Construct and equip 4 local association offices for ARS and COBAs
- 3.6 Develop a standardised system for monitoring fishing in conjunction with fishing federations
- 3.7 Carry out regular monthly meetings with ARS
- 3.8 Undertake annual monitoring of fishing in the lake
- 3.9 Undertake annual assessments of management effectiveness of Alaotra PA
- 3.10 Compile annual records of illegal activity from local associations and Government

Output 4:

- 4.1 Identify, create and structure FFS groups in each association. September– November (annually)
- 4.2 Train and support FFS groups in techniques. November – end project
- 4.3 Implementation of agricultural techniques. December – end project
- 4.4 Annual agricultural surveys
- 4.5 Establish VSLA groups in target villages and train members in VSLA process
- 4.6 Monthly meetings with VSLA groups to track progress through the full cycle
- 4.7 Establish and run training for basket weaving
- 4.8 Take members of the FFS and women's basket weaving associations groups to rural fairs around Alaotra
- 4.9 Develop market value chains for locally produced products

Output 5:

- 5.1 Produce a high-resolution map of Alaotra watershed
- 5.2 Confirm academic partner to support blue carbon study
- 5.3 Identify Malagasy Masters student to undertake study
- 5.4 Support Masters student field work
- 5.5 Produce report based on fieldwork to assess carbon sequestration potential
- 5.6 If feasible, produce a proposal for supporting habitat restoration via carbon credits

## 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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 [DWCT DIR27S11166 Implementation Timetable](#)  
[Final](#)  
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 xlsx 17.77 KB

## 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](#)).

This project forms part of a Conservation Standards plan for Durrell's work in Alaotra, which includes monitoring and evaluation methods for all planned activities. M&E is therefore been built into the project design. Assessing effectiveness of project initiatives in, (i) helping to reduce poverty, (ii) enhancing food and financial security, and (iii) increasing capacity and confidence to effectively and sustainably manage natural resources, relies on baseline data collected via household socio-economic surveys in Y1 and Y3. Durrell has experience conducting these at five separate sites in Madagascar, including Alaotra. 30 households per village will be randomly selected and invited to take part in the survey (budgeted). One key indicator of well-being is the Global Person Generated Index, a participatory evaluation approach which asks people to define their own well-being before measuring it. In Y3, this indicator is expanded to capture individual

perceptions of the cause-effect relationship between the project and well-being. This tells us which elements of the project are perceived to have had positive/negative impact on socio-economic well-being, and allows us to adapt the model, which is designed to be replicable and scalable. Negative impacts will be captured during yearly community workshops to discuss project outcomes.

Agricultural, fishing and basket-weaving surveys will take place twice per year to provide comparative data in the 'on' and 'off' season for each producer group, annually over the project period. Fishing surveys are conducted by DRAEP representatives with Durrell's support. Agriculture and basket-weaving surveys will be conducted by Durrell. Measures include catch weights, crop yields, numbers of producers operating, income generated from activity/crop/item type etc.

We will use a reforestation monitoring framework adapted from one used by Missouri Botanical Gardens in Madagascar. Monitoring is carried out in "restoration units" which are defined as areas where vegetation, topography, appearance and type of treatment are similar. These units will be defined (with input from ARS) during output 1. Selected individual trees within each unit will be measured and have condition recorded at six-month intervals. Data will be shared with all stakeholders following each period of data collection. To monitor the incursion of invasive species after clearing, twice weekly patrols will be made, and feedback provided to project leader at monthly patrol meetings. Fisherman also use these channels regularly and will report back informally to project staff during local association meetings.

Community led patrols will continue to record infractions e.g., burning/use of non-regulation fishing equipment, providing evidence to support RMETT assessments and evaluate project success. These data will be supplemented by drone/satellite maps detailing annual changes in forest/marsh cover.

We will hold quarterly project steering group meetings undertake a full annual review to discuss lessons learned and make evidence-based decisions about the year ahead, adapting activities and M&E accordingly. M&E will be led by Durrell's Madagascar-based M&E Manager, working closely with UK-based M&E Officer and members of our Conservation Science Department. Regular data collection will be led by the Alaotra project team and household surveys will be completed by specially recruited enumerators, trained by Durrell's Socio-Agronomist.

<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>	183
<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**

Trustees

**of**

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

**I apply for a grant of**



£491,008.00

**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

<b>Name</b>	Chris Ransom
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Director of Field Programmes
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	 <a href="#">CR SIGNATURE</a>  09/02/2021  18:47:46  jpg 13.55 KB
<b>Date</b>	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
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.**

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).