

Applicant: **Herrera, Edgard**
Organisation: **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**
Funding Sought: **£396,930.00**

DIR28S2\1070

Community conservation of critically endangered Hawksbill turtles in Nicaragua

The project will partner with five key fishing communities to improve their sustainable livelihoods and ensure the protection of hawksbill marine turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) nesting and foraging areas. This will further the efforts of a historically successful initiative that has guaranteed the protection of 8,214 nests and the release of 616,847 hatchlings over the last 10 years, making it fundamental to the long-term survival of this critically endangered species.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Edgard
Surname	Herrera
Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Edgard
Surname	Herrera
Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Community conservation of critically endangered Hawksbill turtles in Nicaragua

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR28S1\1643

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Marine shelves (seagrass, reefs, subtidal)

Biome 2

Shoreline or Supralittoral coastal systems

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

Conservation Action 2

Species management (harvest, recovery, re-introduction, ex-situ)

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Threat 1

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 2

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

Threat 3

No Response

Q5. Summary

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 the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project will partner with five key fishing communities to improve their sustainable livelihoods and ensure the protection of hawksbill marine turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) nesting and foraging areas. This will further the efforts of a historically successful initiative that has guaranteed the protection of 8,214 nests and the release of 616,847 hatchlings over the last 10 years, making it fundamental to the long-term survival of this critically endangered species.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. 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.

Country Nicaragua
1

Country *No Response*
2

Country *No Response*
3

Country *No Response*
4

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 June 2022

End date:

30 November 2024

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

2 years 6 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£149,039.00	£150,445.00	£97,446.00	£ 396,930.00

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: % ██████████

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

A total matched funding amount of ██████████ in secured funds from the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) fund of WCS and by the Local Partnership Conservation Fund (LPCF) from WCS, are proposed for this project

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) ██████████

Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

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

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 methodology page).

Pearl Cays is an archipelago located on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast. Declared a wildlife refuge in 2010, it is a pivotal hawksbill turtle rookery and is believed to be the largest remaining nesting population in the west-central Caribbean (Lagueux et al, 2003; Campbell et al, 2012). Hawksbill are classified as critically endangered by IUCN due to over-exploitation of adult females and eggs on nesting beaches, degradation of nesting and marine habitats, and poaching of juveniles and adults in foraging areas for both their meat and their carapace (or upper shell) for jewellery. Since 2000, WCS has been working with authorities and local communities to achieve a 93% protection rate of nests at this key site each year. However, the massive protests and subsequent violence resulting from the political crisis in 2018 put a sudden halt to a growing tourism industry, greatly affecting coastal communities that were already relying economically on tourism centred around marine turtles. Kabu Tours, a community enterprise created in 2010 by former fisherfolk with WCS support, had been thriving, generating a steady flow of income for 10 families (50 persons) and producing spillover

benefits to other families in the Kakhabila community, who sold other goods and services for the tours. Then, just as we began to recover and consider the possibility of scaling these efforts in 2019, early 2020 saw Nicaragua hit by the global COVID-19 pandemic, followed up by two extreme climatic events: hurricanes ETA and IOTA. These crises impacted the local economy further by halting even local visits to the area and diverting already stretched government resources previously dedicated to environmental surveillance to other urgent needs. The stalled tourism industry had a cascade effect in the area, making local food markets shrink due to less demand, affecting cash flow income to coastal community families, who turned to the ocean in search of an alternative: fish and turtles for protein and cash.

Our project will reverse this increased exploitation of endangered turtle populations by increasing nest protection efforts and implementing alternative food and livelihoods programs for five coastal communities. We will leverage the current relative calm in the political situation, the flux of tourists coming back to the Pearl Cays, and an increase in the demand of locally produced goods to both invest in Kabu Tours community enterprise and to improve production of staple food and reliable sources of animal protein through domestic animal husbandry.

The success of the animal husbandry program and the broader community benefits of bringing eco-tourists in through a revived Kabu Tours enterprise would continue to benefit all five communities even after the project ends. WCS will continue supporting the Pearl Cays Conservation project by investing in the education of new generations and supporting income-generating activities compatible with turtle conservation, such as tourism and food production. Right now, WCS is undertaking the establishment of a donation program for visitors to easily donate through a secure online portal, creating another source of funding to support community patrolling and environmental education in the long-term.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. 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)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

This project contributes to the preservation of a Critically Endangered Species and the improved use of biodiversity by communities by providing alternative sources of income and improving food security. Project activities are focused on reducing human impact on hawksbill and other species of marine turtles within the Pearl Cays Wildlife Refuge (PCWR), by improving surveillance and protection of nesting grounds and providing alternative sources of income, such as agricultural goods and meat from domestic animals to substitute dependency on hawksbill parts to obtain cash and proteins.

These activities fulfil key components of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and contribute to the following SDGs: 2: Zero Hunger, 4: Quality education, 5: Gender equality, 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and 14: Life below water.

Project activities are also included in Nicaragua's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020, as mentioned section IV, under Strategic lines (1) strengthen environmental education, (3) implement conservation actions that target endangered species, (4) promote tourism as a sustainable alternative for communities, and (8) conserve and manage endemic and endangered species. Under Strategic line 4, specifically, the following actions are addressed: "promote economic initiatives among fisher communities" and "foster private-community alliances to develop local sustainable tourism based on

protected areas”.

Additionally, Nicaragua is committed to achieving Aichi Target 11 by protecting 10% of its coastal and marine areas through daily patrols on all nesting beaches at the PCWR to directly help to fulfil this commitment.

Hawksbills are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and therefore cannot be exported from Nicaragua without special CITES permits. The consumption of turtles and their parts is banned in Nicaragua by national law, although an exception is made for Indigenous communities of the Caribbean Coast which are entitled to hunt green turtle (but not hawksbills) on the basis of quotas assigned per indigenous territory. Additional national legislation includes the General Law for the Environment No. 217 for the creation of marine protected areas, and Law No.489 on fishing and aquaculture, which also establish protections for marine turtles. This project contributes directly to enforcing the national ban on marine turtles, as well as Laws No. 489 and 217, by directly protecting the nesting grounds of hawksbills within the PCWR, by promoting the no consumption of hawksbill turtles and its parts through outreach campaigns, and the provision of alternative livelihoods to the coastal communities of Pearl Lagoon. The Pearl Cays in Nicaragua are foraging and nesting areas of endangered marine turtles and the RAMSAR Convention , at the 13 COP , Resolution XIII.24, encouraged the parties to consider and declare such areas as “ Internationally important wetlands”.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your 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 initiative is based on over 12 years of WCS experience working with local communities in the Pearl Cays on hawksbill conservation. WCS employs scientifically rigorous protocols for data collection and nest protection that have guaranteed the reversal from almost 100% nests poached in 1999, to 95% of nests protected in 2020. This was achieved through the permanent presence of community patrollers during the nesting season, which provides an alternative income for individuals to the use of turtle products, develops collaborative relationships with enforcement authorities, and raises awareness about the value of marine turtles as an asset that deserves to be conserved for future generations. Future success will depend on the ability of WCS, other organizations and government, to provide local communities with sustainable livelihoods and improved food security through the activities proposed below.

Output 1: Hawksbill turtle populations in PCWR increase and show stability:

1.1 Patrolling and quantifying nesting activity: Community patrollers will walk each cay's nesting beach several times daily, and record each nest found as a new clutch. Each clutch will carry a registration number and coordinates recorded through GPS.

1.2 Nest excavations will be conducted during the nesting season to determine the hatching success (% of neonates to exit their eggshells) and emerging success (% of neonates to exit the nest) for each clutch. Nest contents will be used to determine causes of mortality, as well as potential number of neonates newly added to the population. Nests may be relocated to another sector of the beach in case of a risk of flooding or poaching.

1.3: Newfound turtles will be Tagged using Inconel tags and tagged turtles will be recorded.

1.4 A database will be populated by project assistant and coordinator with field data collected by community patrols. Data will be analysed using descriptive statistics. A final report will be produced and distributed to donors, partner organizations, and government agencies.

Output 2: Students and key stakeholders in PCWR have increased knowledge of hawksbill turtle protection and conservation through participation in field trips and workshops

2.1 WCS marine team will organize and carry out field trips, talks and workshops for primary and secondary schools, and field trips and training workshops with university students, to talk about the importance of marine turtle conservation, the role hawksbills play in the marine ecosystem and to raise awareness and knowledge about turtle conservation.

2.2 WCS will organize and carry out field trips and practical workshops with indigenous leaders, government officers and authorities, to train them on turtle conservation and increase technical capacity and awareness on marine turtle protection and the importance of the PCWR. WCS SMART specialist will participate in these trainings together with project coordinator.

Output 3: Alternative livelihood initiatives are implemented in exchange for hawksbill protection commitments from local communities around the PCWR

WCS will hire an experienced agricultural extensionist to support the implementation of agricultural and animal husbandry activities. WCS program Director and project coordinator, together with this extensionist will negotiate and sign conservation agreements with 260 families from 4 communities (60% female and 40% male heads of household) through which they will receive technical assistance and provision of improved staple crop seeds, as well as support to establish domestic animal husbandry (hens) in exchange for their commitments to not kill or capture hawksbill marine turtles and to report entangled adults or juveniles to community patrollers. With this activity we expect to benefit 1,300 people.

A socioeconomic survey will be designed and carried out by WCS team, to establish a baseline and measure results at the end of the project

Community patrols: WCS project coordinator will select and train eight local community members, heads of family, including women. They will be trained on data collection methods and will patrol and survey cays at PCWR daily during nesting season (from March to November), providing a steady source of income for them and their families, benefitting a total of 40 people.

WCS will work in the Reactivation of Kabu Tours: increasing vaccination rates and a slight economic reactivation in the area will make it possible to resume tours through this enterprise, which will provide sustainable livelihoods to 20 families from the Kakhabila community, benefitting an estimated total of 100 people. The reactivation will consist of a legal registration update, Facebook page and website renovation, and the purchase of capital items (boat and outboard motor), field materials and equipment. This activity will be implemented through co-finance resources provided by WCS.

Q14. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

WCS is committed to building conservation capacity among local communities, professionals and governmental officers at a local and regional level by providing scientific and technical knowledge on endangered marine turtles management and conservation through the implementation of training workshops. By fostering the reactivation of Kabu Tours community enterprise and investing in livelihoods, we are contributing to shifting away from overexploitation of marine turtles, which led to diminishing populations every year, to a greater appreciation by local communities, regarding them with pride and as a valuable asset for tourism. By providing the resources, training and capacity necessary to maintain reliable sources of food (protein and staple grains), we will promote a transition from a non-secured (and illegal) source of food (turtles) to a more abundant and secured way to obtain nutrition and cash for local families. The implications of adopting better and improved ways of growing grains and learning how to produce cheap sources of proteins are fundamental to cover basic needs that will enable generational changes in the use and conservation of marine turtles, foster development and build local resilience.

Adjacent communities, near the town of Kukra, have established a market that will offer the opportunity for beneficiary families successfully trained to produce eggs and staple grains through this project, to sell their products. WCS marine

coordinator will carry out technical and practical workshops with community patrollers and university students on the techniques and methods to protect and study marine turtles. A series of awareness workshops will be held also for school pupils and for regional and local leaders and government officers, on the importance of conserving marine turtles, their role in marine ecosystems function and their value as something unique and special to Nicaragua and Caribbean region.

Q15. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

Women in this area have traditionally had poor access to economic opportunities and have been under-represented in decision-making processes. Sustainable livelihood activities supported through project conservation agreements will target 60% female heads of households as beneficiaries and will take into account their disproportionate amount of work and responsibilities to ensure they are able to participate. WCS will engage community leaders to help raise awareness on the importance of gender equality and proportional representation and participation to support increased access to opportunities for women. WCS, with support from community leaders, will further ensure equal participation of women during community workshops, ensuring they are given equal time as men to voice their thoughts and opinions, to establish conservation agreements that aim to provide the necessary resources and capacity for improved food security and livelihoods.

WCS will strive for gender parity when selecting community patrollers, as well as when inviting university students and government officers for educational workshops and training field trips. This will be particularly significant and impactful, as within the local cultural context, these activities tend to be directed towards men, with women receiving little access to such capacity-building and earning opportunities, further contributing to their exclusion from decision-making processes. Such considerations for gender equality in the selection of stakeholders and beneficiaries will thus have an impact beyond the life of this project.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

WCS staff will share project activities and results with locals, as well as regional and National authorities. A variety of communication outlets in English, Spanish, and Creole will be used to reach our audiences effectively, ensuring that everyone understands our message. Radio announcements have shown to be effective in the communities, given their wide reach and accessibility. They have secured strong engagement rates from the audience, with people often calling in to the station to share their opinions.

We will continue with our community outreach program through education and training, re-emphasizing the importance of participatory conservation efforts, and improving sustainable livelihood activities in the Pearl Lagoon basin. Special field trips will take place for local communities, including primary, secondary, and university level students. Participants will be selected by each school through various competitions that will highlight the students' aptitudes for, and interest in, conservation, involving students, parents and teachers. After each field trip, they will share their experience with others through radio outlets.

A write up document summarizing the project's results and findings will be presented during community assemblies and delivered annually to local, Territorial, Regional and National authorities, where community members, fishers, government officers and political leaders from the south Caribbean Nicaraguan Autonomous Region will be in attendance. There will be an open space for questions and clarifications.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, 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).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

Since 1999, this project has protected a total estimated 8,214 hawksbill nests and released 616,847 hatchlings to the ocean, making a fundamental contribution to the long-term survival of the species. Through this project, WCS, with community support, will build on previous successes and lessons learned to maintain protection of >400 nests/year during this critical moment of increased pressure due to COVID-19 and political instability in Nicaragua.

In the short term, WCS will release thousands of critically endangered hawksbill turtle hatchlings to the wild that otherwise would be poached. WCS will impact the sustainable livelihoods and sources of income of a total of 1,440 people. This includes 40 people (60% men, 40% women) impacted directly or indirectly through employment opportunities in patrolling or project field operation support; 100 people (60% men, 40% women) benefitting directly or indirectly through tourism reactivation in the area; and 1,300 people (260 families, 60% female and 40% male heads of household, with an estimated average of 5 people per household), that will benefit from the provision of improved seeds, domestic animal husbandry and technical guidance in exchange for conservation commitments. This will support improved food security in a region battered by catastrophic climate events. Improved crop production may also result in the sale of surplus crops, thus supporting family incomes.

Informal interviews with coastal community leaders and fishermen have traditionally indicated the core reason they continue to kill hawksbills is because there are no other alternatives for cash or food. The reduction in tourism caused by covid and the two major hurricanes so shortly after a period of political instability have compounded these issues. WCS believes the most effective way to achieve high levels of protection for marine turtles in the PCWR will be through the three-pronged strategy proposed by this project:

- 1) strengthening the very base of family economies (agriculture and food production),
- 2) supporting local authorities and leaders to enforce regulations that protect this endangered species, and
- 3) raising awareness of, and educating new generations on, the importance of marine turtle conservation.

In the long term, WCS will continue supporting conservation and sustainable livelihood activities in the PCWR through a diverse funding portfolio, developed and leveraged through this project. Marine turtles have long life spans and conservation results take decades to become evident. Therefore, WCS will rigorously monitor key indicators, such as increased nesting females and number of nests per site, during and after the project interventions.

In the long term, educational and awareness-raising activities will have a key impact in young generations if these are paired with the improvement of their livelihoods. That is why, besides education, WCS is investing in the improvement of the very economic base of the local communities: the production of food. We believe these investments will bring about a change in attitude towards marine conservation. This initiative can serve as a model for scaling-up tangible revenue models for MPA protection, both nationally and across the broader Nicaraguan Caribbean coast.

Q18. Pathway to change

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

By working with local communities to directly protect the hawksbill turtle, WCS will raise awareness, strengthen conservation capacities, support the diversification of local food production, and develop sustainable alternative livelihoods, building towards more resilient human and turtle populations in the PCWR.

This will be achieved in part through conservation agreements in four local communities, which will establish turtle protection commitments for more sustainable fishing, in exchange for benefits that will provide alternative incomes and food security such as rice and beans with better yields and the production of reliable sources of protein (eggs and chicken) through the raising of hens. Trained community patrollers and government authorities will further ensure enforcement of turtle consumption bans and monitor turtle populations. Lastly, eco-tourism activities in a fifth village will complement these actions by providing economic relief linked directly to the improved protection of nesting beaches, which will be made clear through project activity dissemination and promotion. These alternative livelihoods will increase local





community resilience to socio-political shocks while protecting hawksbill populations and ensuring the largest rookery in the Caribbean will be viable for decades to come, making it more resilient to the impacts of climate change.





Q19. Exit Strategy

How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

Investments in sustainable livelihoods will continue producing results after project end. Families will be better trained to produce eggs, raise chickens and grow staple seeds (rice and beans) with potential to obtain better yields and sell surplus after receiving improved project seeds and technical advice. More sources of protein will be available through support provided to households to carry out animal husbandry. Tourism benefits will continue impacting the area after project end through the reactivation of community tours focused on marine turtles within the PCWR. Depending on the socio-political situation in Nicaragua, which poses uncertainty but is something WCS has experience dealing with and will continue to implement throughout, tourism activities can become an important generator for the local economy and produce long-term effect on communities by contributing to positive changes in knowledge and attitudes towards marine turtles as being valuable community assets to be conserved. Investments in family livelihoods within the community are important pieces of the project strategy which includes environmental education, technical training and law enforcement aiming to guarantee the survival of endangered hawksbill marine turtles within the PCWR. WCS, Indigenous and local community leaders, regional government and enforcement authorities will continue carrying out conservation activities in this important area, using tools and expertise gained through project training, ensuring the annual release of thousands of hawksbill hatchlings to the wild. This will include the annual recruitment and training of new community patrollers as well as the continuation of seasoned community patrollers and leaders who are already engaged from a personnel level in the protection of hawksbills. Education provided to primary, secondary, and university students will impact the next generation of leaders by fostering awareness and capacity in environmental matters. Therefore, skills and technical knowledge will not be lost after the project but will remain in the community.

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

 [simple theory of change diagram](#)
 31/01/2022
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 pdf 46.61 KB

 [PCWR Nicaragua Map final](#)
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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
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<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>Funds delivered to project consultants or local providers are inefficiently used resulting in overpriced items or services, leading to less availability of funds to achieve projects outcomes</p>	Major	Rare	Moderate	<p>WCS will execute the project directly, applying financial safeguarding and practices such as previous negotiations with providers to agree on prices and time on delivery, direct payments to providers (not through consultants or local leaders), and will also accurately estimate local transportation costs to avoid overpricing.</p>	Minor
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Project activities are not properly socialized and shared among the 4 target communities in advance, resulting in poor participation and gender-biased groups.</p>	Major	Unlikely	Major	<p>WCS's program director, with local staff, will carry out presentations and consultations about sustainable project livelihood activities to ensure all relevant groups in the 4 communities are properly informed in advance about project activities previously discussed, and gender equity principles are applied when calling the community for meetings and discussions.</p>	Minor
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Communities are not motivated to conduct domestic animal husbandry techniques and hens fail to produce expected results due to poor management.</p>	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>WCS will hire a local extensionist with experience in domestic animal husbandry and agricultural techniques, to provide appropriate training and identify key community members interested in adopting new techniques to work with them using the successful methodology "farmer to farmer" to ensure a good rate of adoption by community participants.</p>	Minor
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>Hens adapted to local conditions are not available to purchase in the quantities needed by the project.</p>	Major	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>WCS will in advance identify experienced local providers and will negotiate contracts and prices to obtain the required animals on time in a progressive way throughout the life of the project, thus ensuring enough time to find the right variety of hens to facilitate acclimation of animals to local conditions.</p>	Minor
<p>Risk 5</p> <p>Political instability affect execution of project activities</p>	Major	Possible	Major	<p>WCS has created strong relationships with local autonomous territorial governments, supporting guarantees of implementation continuity. If affected by central government regulations, WCS could still work through local universities (BICU) with which we keep a close collaborative relationship.</p>	Moderate

Risk 6 COVID-19 pandemic continues affecting project activities related to workshops and environmental education	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	WCS is implementing a Biosafety protocol to carry out group activities within rural communities. The protocol has been very effective on preventing infection when executing field activities.	Minor
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Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q21. 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 Word 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.

 [WCSNicaragua ProjectTimetable Final](#)
 31/01/2022
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 pdf 186.2 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe 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](#)).

A socioeconomic survey will be designed and carried out among target communities. Baseline data gathered during the first year of the project will be compared to data from our final year to measure the project's impact on sustainable livelihoods. The survey will be designed by the WCS Project Director and the Nicaragua Marine Project Coordinator and will be conducted by WCS field staff and volunteers from the BICU university. At least two supervision field trips per year will be carried out by the Project Director and administrative staff from the binational WCS program (Honduras, Nicaragua) to oversee sustainable livelihood activities execution, assess in situ the cultivation of improved seeds of rice and beans and the results on domestic animal husbandry activities.

An agricultural extensionist is going to be hired at the beginning of the project to execute agricultural and animal husbandry activities, provide technical assistance and follow up guidance throughout the life of the project. The WCS Marine Coordinator will supervise the work and outcomes of this consultant. Approximately 12 days per year by 2 WCS staff will be devoted to M&E activities.

In terms of turtle conservation and data collection activities, the WCS Marine Coordinator will be in charge of operational, training and field activities, thus ensuring proper execution of all planned activities. We will follow a rigorous scientific

protocol, tested internationally, to estimate the % of hatch success, hatchlings mortality rates, total # of protected nests, # of poached nests, # of naturally predated nests, as well as morphological data of nesting turtles, % of new nesting female turtles, % of revisiting females and other biological indicators. Special tags will be placed on new nesting females and all possible nesting females detected will be reviewed for tags, and data collected. A database will be populated and available for scientific publication, data sharing at a regional and global level and comparisons through time.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	██████████
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	█
Number of days planned for M&E	60

Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q23. Logical Framework

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their 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. – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible.** 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.

 [WCSNicaragua R28-Darwin-St2-Logical-Framework Final](#)
 31/01/2022
 19:20:23
 pdf 132.22 KB

Impact:

Hawksbill populations in the Pearl Cays are protected by communities with strengthened capacities and sustainable livelihoods aligned with wildlife conservation priorities

Outcome:

Hawksbill turtle population size increased and historical nesting grounds conserved through community conservation, education and investments in economic alternatives to turtle exploitation, in the Pearl Cays Wildlife Refuge (PCWR)

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Hawksbill turtle populations in PCWR increase and show stability

Output 2:

Students and key stakeholders in PCWR have increased knowledge of hawksbill turtle protection and conservation through participation in field trips and workshops

Output 3:

Alternative livelihood initiatives are implemented in exchange for hawksbill protection commitments from local communities around the PCWR

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer 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.

Output 1:

1.1 Patrolling and quantifying nesting activity in the PCWR

1.2 Carry out Nest excavations, data collection and relocation of nests if necessary to other secured areas in the same beach.

1.3 Carry out tagging of newfound turtles and record returning females.

1.4 Carry out analysis of field collected data

Output 2:

2.1 Carry out field trips, talks and workshops on primary schools and field trips and training workshops with university students

2.2 Carry out field trips and practical workshops with indigenous leaders, government officers and authorities, to increase technical capacity and awareness on marine turtle protection

Output 3:

3.1 Hiring of an agricultural extensionist to carry out sustainable livelihood activities with 4 communities.

3.2 Field trip to socialize and discuss sustainable livelihood activities with local communities and reach an agreement on the parameters to benefit families: female head of households, fishers working in the PCWR, others to be determined in conjunction with local leaders.

3.3 Field trip to negotiate and sign conservation agreements within 4 target communities

3.4 Acquisition of certified seeds of staple food and submission of them according to agreed quantities per family.

3.5 Technical advice and follow up visits to producers to supervise crop progress and ensure success

3.6 Acquisition of hens and distribution, according to workplan, and conduct practical training workshops on hens husbandry techniques, follow up.

3.7 Design and carrying out a socioeconomic survey among local communities (baseline) and carry out a second survey at

the end of the project

3.8 Data analysis of socioeconomic survey

3.9 Improve livelihoods for 8 people hired as community patrollers, benefiting indirectly 40 people based on an average household size of 5 people.

3.10 Reactivation of Kabu Tours community Enterprise, as a co-finance activity, leading to employment opportunities and opportunities to raise awareness on marine turtle conservation through tourism

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. 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 all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

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.

 [31012022_Budget-over-£100k-Dec21-MASTER-Approved CF](#)
 31/01/2022
 19:48:03
 xlsx 74.19 KB

Q25. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have assessed the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

WCS has recently hired a new administrative person exclusively for Nicaragua. She will work closely with in-country staff, which will ensure adequate and efficient follow up on financial matters, including proper implementation of financial guidelines and regulations, thus minimizing the risk of delays in reporting and mitigating any potential for fraud. There is a risk that strict regulations from the Nicaraguan government on foreign NGOs may cause delays in securing permits and financial operations. The WCS Country Director is working with regional and in-country legal staff to ensure that our organization complies with all governmental regulations and permits to mitigate any delays. In the case of foreign exchange fluctuation, there is a risk that the Cordoba (Nicaraguan currency) may become more devaluated over time due to political and social instability, in this case, WCS will manage project funds from its headquarters in New York, sending monthly cash advances to Nicaragua, thus helping reduce the impact on any devaluation.

Q26. Funding

Q26a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

Development of existing work

Please provide details:

This project builds on existing work, delivered successfully for more than a decade by WCS, working closely with indigenous local communities and local regional governments. WCS started the hawksbill conservation program in the Pearl Cays, protecting an estimated 8,214 hawksbill nests and releasing 616,847 hatchlings to the ocean since 1999, contributing to the declaration of this archipelago as a Marine Protected Area. Along with the conservation and biological work within this project, there are new initiatives not implemented before, such as the signing of conservation agreements as the framework to achieve conservation goals in exchange for sustainable livelihood activities support. WCS will also be making use of previously purchased capital items for this project, which are insured through other complementary funds. Thus, in case of robbery or accident, there will be no financial risk posed to Darwin funds.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q27. 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 are not planning to acquire capital items under this project with funds provided by Darwin.

Q28. 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 sustainable livelihood activities have been implemented in the Honduran Moskitia, a very similar cultural and ecological area to Pearl Lagoon basin in Nicaragua, with excellent results. We will apply the expertise and lessons learned in Honduras to ensure efficient implementation and effective results. Activities are focused on strengthening the very base of the local Miskito and Garifuna economy, in a high poverty area, and include agricultural activities and domestic animal husbandry, which already occur in this region. Thus, varieties of seeds and animals are available at reasonable prices in the area to be purchased for project livelihood activities. In terms of tourism reactivation, Kabu Tours is an already existing community enterprise in which WCS has invested throughout past years. Using co-finance resources, WCS will reactivate this sustainable income generation enterprise, adding important value to Darwin investments while leveraging other sustainable livelihood activities. The operating costs for maintaining turtle protection in the Pearl Cays will be kept to a minimum, taking into account that WCS already has invested in capital items, such as a boat and outboard motor, and counts on experienced staff to manage field operations, making sure most funds are directed to the field, thus, having a direct impact on marine turtle protection and community livelihoods. We will also leverage existing partnerships and relationships built through previously invested time and effort, to secure engagement and commitment by key project stakeholders contributing to project success.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

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	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. Please highlight any key safeguarding risks, including human rights issues, their assessment and measures to mitigate and manage them.

WCS staff are guided by our organization principles and code of conduct when conducting our work within and outside the workplace. We take special care when interacting with indigenous and local communities in the field. Our team is comprised of professionals with high standards with decades of experience in holding relationships with local and indigenous communities. When working with communities in new projects we ensure there is a process to obtain acceptance by the community following the concept of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) regarding our initiatives. In this case, we will socialize, discuss, sign and implement conservation agreements that will reflect this.

Q30. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance.

WCS has a robust code of conduct that details institutional and employee obligations to create an environment of safety and concern in the fulfilment of our mission. WCS is committed to compliance with human right standards and as such has adopted national and global standards for safeguarding rights, including the World Bank Social Framework. WCS played a leadership role in establishing the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (2009), affirming its commitment to a set of principles concerning respect for and advancement of global human rights standards in the course of its conservation work. These principles are applied when we work with indigenous and afro descendant communities in Nicaragua to help them on their quest to develop their livelihoods while protecting their biodiversity and traditional cultural values. We are supported by WCS's Institutional Review Board (IRB) which assesses the level of risk to human subjects in research, advises on methodologies and protections, and mitigates risk by ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been obtained at all levels of our engagement with local communities.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q31. 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 Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Edgard Herrera	Project Leader	10	Checked
Karen Joseph	Project Marine Coordinator	86	Checked
Hazel Reyes	Administration	15	Checked
Marla Arrazola	Administration and M&E	30	Checked


Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Bianca Padilla	SMART Specialist	15	Checked
Christian Barrientos	Regional Marine Coordinator	4	Checked
To be recruited	Agricultural extensionist	100	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

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

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

 [WCSNicaragua CV Package](#)

 31/01/2022

 19:26:45

 pdf 750.18 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner - i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Website address: wcs.org

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

WCS will raise awareness, strengthen conservation capacities, support the diversification of local food production, and develop sustainable alternative livelihoods, building towards more resilient human and turtle populations in the PCWR. We will build on previously established partnerships with territorial governments, local communities and the Kabu Tours enterprise, specifically, and apply the expertise, knowledge, and lessons learned gained through our bi-national Nicaragua-Honduras program in monitoring, patrolling, and sustainable livelihood activities. We will transfer these capacities to local communities, Indigenous leaders, government and enforcement authorities in the PCWR, working closely with them as partners in this project, to maintain previous successful hawksbill marine turtles nesting protection.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

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

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. **Partner Name:** Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU)

Website address: <http://www.bicu.edu.ni/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): BICU volunteers will support WCS field staff in conducting the socioeconomic survey baseline and project end surveys.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board No

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

2. **Partner Name:** Kabu Tours

Website address: no website

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Kabu Tours is an already existing community enterprise in which WCS has invested throughout past years. Using co-finance resources, WCS will reactivate this sustainable income generation enterprise, adding important value to Darwin investments while leveraging other sustainable livelihood activities by drawing ecotourists into the area.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board No

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

3. **Partner Name:** *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

- Yes
 No


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

No Response


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

 [2. WCSNicaragua LettersofSupport Package](#)


 31/01/2022

 20:13:06

 pdf 1.07 MB

 [1. WCSNicaragua Cover Letter Darwin Signed](#)

 31/01/2022

 19:58:28

 pdf 375.71 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative funding 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
CV19RR10	Roan Balas McNab	COVID-19 Response to Reduce IWT Impacting the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor
27-013	Robert Tizard	Conserving Myanmar's wetland biodiversity through sustainable rice standards
26-021	Lilian Painter	Biodiversity conservation, vicuña health and local livelihoods in Apolobamba, Bolivia
26-013	Maria Fleytas	Conservation and poverty alleviation through sustainable ranching in Paraguay
24-011	Oscar Loayza	Wildlife-friendly agroforestry and sustainable forest management in Bolivian indigenous territories
24-003	Ben Swanepoel	Conservation and poverty alleviation through scalable agro-biodiversity practice in Laos

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

- Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

I apply for a grant of







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

Checked

Name	Joe Walston
Position in the organisation	Executive Vice President for Global Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Joe W. Signature 2  31/01/2022  19:46:20  jpg 41.3 KB
Date	31 January 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [WCS Annual Report 2021 Part1 \(1\)](#)

 31/01/2022

 19:46:48

 pdf 4.86 MB


 [WCS Annual Report 2021 Part2 \(1\)](#)

 31/01/2022


 19:46:48

 pdf 4.76 MB


 [WCS Annual Report 2021 Part3 \(1\)](#)

 31/01/2022

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 pdf 977.27 KB


 [Audited Financial Statements 2019 WCS \(1\)](#)

 31/01/2022

 19:46:37

 pdf 828.76 KB

 [Audited Financial Statements 2020 WCS \(1\)](#)


 31/01/2022

 19:46:34


 pdf 355.93 KB


Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF


 [1. WCS Safeguarding Policy FINAL EN 2020 1203](#)


 31/01/2022


 19:47:04

 pdf 517.23 KB


 [2. WCS Harassment Sexual Harassment Policy Revised Feb 2021](#)

 31/01/2022

 19:47:04

 pdf 413.84 KB

 [3. WCS Code of Conduct APPROVED 2019-02-26](#)

 31/01/2022

 19:47:03

 pdf 239.39 KB

 [4. WCS Whistleblower Policy English Approved 2014-05-19 \(2017-12-06\)](#)

 31/01/2022

 19:47:03

 pdf 198.65 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial 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 Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.	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 Partner, 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 the Darwin Initiative website.	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 the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).