
DIR28S2\1074

An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti

Wildlife poisoning driven by human-wildlife-conflict and use of body parts in traditional medicine poses risks to human health and is killing threatened African vultures and other fauna at a devastating rate. This project will expand successful pilots to reduce poisoning by working with communities on both sides of the Mara-Serengeti transboundary area. It will address the factors that threaten vultures and impact negatively on communities, resulting in livelihood improvements through better protection of livestock and new sustainable livelihoods options.

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti

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

DIR28S1\1076

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

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 2

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 2

Education & awareness (incl. training)

Conservation Action 3

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

Threat 1

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

Threat 2

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 3

Pollution (domestic, commercial, agricultural)

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.

Wildlife poisoning driven by human-wildlife-conflict and use of body parts in traditional medicine poses risks to human health and is killing threatened African vultures and other fauna at a devastating rate. This project will expand successful pilots to reduce poisoning by working with communities on both sides of the Mara-Serengeti transboundary area. It will address the factors that threaten vultures and impact negatively on communities, resulting in livelihood improvements through better protection of livestock and new sustainable livelihoods options.

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 1 Kenya

Country 2 Tanzania

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date: 01 June 2022 End date: 31 March 2025 Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months): 2 years, 10 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£199,675.00	£174,003.00	£148,802.00	£522,480.00

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?

BirdLife International has secured funding to provide match funding for some staff positions from a number of private foundations (including the Band Foundation, A.G. Leventis Foundation, Kipeto Energy and the Isdell Family Foundation). The Band Foundation has provided funding to support conference and meeting costs of an African Anti Poisoning Network workshop. It also provides match funding for some indirect costs.

Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania provide match funding to cover staff costs. These are secured from various funders. In addition, the project will seek additional funding for the Community Revolving Fund from a donor who has expressed interest in this idea in East Africa.

In addition to cash match funding, we have also secured in-kind donations of high quality, refurbished binoculars from BirdLife Partner in the Netherlands, Vogelbescherming Nederland.

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?

Most of the funding is secured. However, we will seek [REDACTED] GBP additional funding for the Community Revolving Fund as outlined above.

The project is very scalable. Therefore, in addition to match funding outlined in the project budget, we will seek to leverage additional funding to expand and deepen the engagement.

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).

Poisoning is decimating wildlife across Africa, exacerbated by patchy anti-poisoning frameworks, weak enforcement and a lack of awareness and suitable alternatives.

Vultures in Africa are in crisis with seven of 11 species Critically Endangered or Endangered with poisoning the cause in ~61% of recorded deaths. The Mara-Serengeti landscape of Kenya and Tanzania is a stronghold for vultures and a huge array of other wildlife. Tracking data show that vultures travel large distances over the landscape, making it vital that conservation covers both sides of the border. Incidents of retaliatory poisoning against mammal predator attacks are widespread, threatening the predator species but having an even greater impact on the vultures that may feed, in great numbers, on the poisoned carcass. Poisoning of vultures and other species for belief-based use of body parts or whole carcasses is also a major threat.

Loss of vultures reduces biodiversity, but also poses risks to ecosystem functioning and, potentially, human health as vultures perform their essential clean-up function. Their value to communities is underappreciated.

Poison can also cause damage to the broader environment, potentially remaining in substrates used for grazing and crops, posing further risks to human health.

In Mara-Serengeti, local communities are heavily dependent on livestock farming with small scale agriculture. Communities in areas with high wildlife densities or bordering protected areas are vulnerable to human-wildlife conflict (HWC), living with significant loss of livelihoods and anxiety associated with predator attacks. Retaliatory poisoning of predators is seen as an easy way to solve the problem. The practice is illegal, with high penalties, but enforcement is neither practical, nor ideal. Compensation schemes exist but are only a partial solution.

Interviews with stakeholders in the Makao WMA, backed up by analysis from the African Poisoning Database, revealed that the practice of vulture capture and poisoning, and sale to traditional healers, for use and trade in body parts in traditional medicine was in Tanzania (but less so in Kenya) a more significant problem than HWC, requiring understanding and community engagement and action to address.

Effective solutions to HWC have been demonstrated. However, they are not implemented over large areas and so need to be expanded and replicated, and better embedded in communities. Trade in vulture body parts in Tanzania is an under-researched problem, but successful work, piloted in Nigeria and expanding to southern Africa, provides a starting point.

The project appreciates the need for a community-led approach to understand and address the drivers of poisoning and apply this to reduce it in poison hotspots around protected areas.

It will:

- (1) work with communities to minimise losses to predators, address belief-based use, improve livelihoods in harmony with nature and raise awareness of the value of vultures and the risks of poison use
- (2) mitigate the impacts of poisoning incidents that do occur through rapid response training and protector networks and strengthening the legal framework; and
- (3) connect researchers with on-the-ground conservation NGOs and support information and resource sharing.

See also Annex (Theory of Change, threat maps) and support letters.

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)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- 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.

The project supports the following policies:

In Kenya, the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013) which outlines legal protections for endangered species, the role of the Kenya Wildlife Service and compensation schemes, but also the National Wildlife Strategy (2030) which

addresses lack of knowledge, overutilization and conflict, as core to its Species Conservation, Participation, and Access goals as well as species planning.

In Tanzania, the National Wildlife Conservation Act (2009) which confirms obligations under agreements such as CMS. By focusing on one of the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), it will support a major programme for wildlife.

Both countries are signatories to the CBD and are implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The Kenyan NBSAP outlines actions included in this project e.g. gender equity in biodiversity management and impacts of poverty on biodiversity. The 2015 national report confirms that vultures are vital to the ecosystem and are the most threatened avian group, highlighting the threat of poisoning and HWC. The Tanzania NBSAP highlights lack of biodiversity data and community awareness of the ecosystem value of biodiversity. The need for community engagement in wildlife management, climate resilient land use and benefit sharing is highlighted, with the WMA system as one of the mechanisms to deliver this.

The project supports CITES, with both countries signatories, and vultures on Appendix II and their trade increasingly recognised as a priority for the Convention. Actions in Tanzania addressing illegal trade for belief-based use (potentially transboundary), supports the national implementation of CITES, through increasing the knowledge base that can guide domestic legislation.

The project's significance to CMS, to which both are signatories, is that all but one vulture species are in Appendix I of the agreement, requiring strict protection, and that it contributes directly to the CMS Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), adopted in 2016:

Objective 1. To achieve a significant reduction in mortality of vultures caused by toxic substances used in the control and hunting of vertebrates. Result 1.1, improved understanding and awareness of HWC and impacts on vultures to inform effective mitigation and Result 1.2 collaborative action to tackle unintentional poisoning.

Objective 4. To reduce and eventually halt the trade in vulture parts for belief-based use. Result 4.1 Improved understanding of the trade informs conservation approaches and Result 4.2 Stakeholders understand scale and impact of belief-based use of vulture body parts.

SDGs

The project contributes to:

SDG 1 and 2: No poverty and zero hunger. The project supports communities to decrease livestock losses due to predator attacks. and implements other sustainable livelihood actions, based on community needs.

SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing. The project reduces poisons in the environment and supports the ecosystem benefits provided by vultures which reduce the risk of disease transmission through carcass removal.

SDG 5 - Gender equality. Gender roles, inequalities and aspirations will be assessed and the results will inform the design of the activities.

SDG 15 – Life on Land. The project seeks to protect threatened biodiversity, namely vultures and other species.

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.).

The project focuses on the Mara-Serengeti landscape as a vital stronghold for vultures, and a poisoning hotspot, drawing on evidence from vulture data and analysis of poisoning incidents. It builds on initiatives by Nature Kenya and collaborating agencies, as well as research and data gathered on the efficacy of approaches. (see Annex for maps, previous projects and links to research)

The project will scale up successful models, such as improved boma (corral) construction and recommendations for safer

herding practices to reduce losses and retaliation with Rapid Response Mechanisms to reduce wildlife mortality in the event of poisoning. It will evaluate the prevalence and threat posed by belief-based use and pilots demand reduction approaches in Tanzania that have proven successful in Nigeria. Improving livelihoods, linked to wildlife conservation and raising awareness of the value of vultures in the ecosystem and risks of poison use underpin these actions.

The work in Tanzania recognises a significant gap in vulture conservation in the Serengeti landscape and the need to address threats at a landscape level.

The project design has been developed following discussions with vulture experts, governments and communities. A project development process (See Annex: Theory of Change) identified the most appropriate strategies for the target locations.

The work in Kenya will focus on Narok County as a particular poisoning hotspot, where interventions are having a positive impact but need to be significantly scaled up and where communities are keen to engage.

The work in Tanzania is informed by visits to the Makao WMA (See Letter). This site was chosen due to its relevance for vultures and its location bordering the Maswa Game Reserve on the southern border of the Serengeti NP and its proximity to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

The two locations benefit from similarities, but also key differences that enable the project to implement and evaluate a range of conservation options.

Data analysis and meetings have identified harvesting vultures for their use in traditional rituals/medicine (belief-based use) as being the more significant threat to vultures in Makao, Tanzania whereas HWC-driven poisoning is the dominant threat surrounding the Maasai Mara, with Narok County identified as a hotspot for both livestock losses due to predation and for wildlife poisoning, with vultures affected in 43% of incidents.

Project management structure and roles:

BirdLife International will coordinate the project in close collaboration with project partners who will implement, with support, where needed, activities on the ground. A Steering Group will guide and monitor implementation through regular meetings and the use of workplans and guided by a monitoring and evaluation plan. The project will draw on additional technical support from an Ad hoc Advisory Group. See also Q33.

Methods:

Activities are organised around 4 Outputs:

Output 1 (Understanding): Socio-economic drivers and impacts of wildlife poisoning in Mara-Serengeti are understood and inform a range of community-focused interventions.

Workshops and outreach surveys leading to co-creation of site-specific models for livelihoods improvements linked to reduction of poison use and conservation of nature.

Feasibility study and criteria drafted for the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones, where voluntary agreements underpin tailored vulture conservation and poison reduction efforts.

Output 2: (Community action for livelihoods and poison reduction)Vulture conservation models, incorporating livelihood improvements are implemented in the focal areas

Engage with traditional healers in Makao WM (TZ) to discourage use of vulture parts and explore mutually beneficial alternatives to belief-based use of vultures e.g. plant-based products and associated business opportunities.

Establish a Community Revolving Fund for Makao WMA supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Provide entrepreneurial training and advice promoting investment in livestock protection and supplemental businesses (inc. opportunities for women) (KE/TZ).

Feasibility study of establishing Vulture Safe Zones in East Africa, based on a promising model in southern Africa.

Work with impacted communities (KE) to select bomas for improvement, and to choose and implement the most appropriate boma improvement methodology. Provide guidance on stocking and husbandry to reduce livestock losses. Promote further uptake of boma improvement.

Organise awareness events alongside print and broadcast media to reduce poisoning behaviours and shift attitudes towards wildlife and vultures.

Output 3: (Mitigating impacts of poisoning) The impact of poisoning incidents is mitigated by the effective implementation of a Rapid Poison Response Protocol

Training and equipment provided and new anti-poisoning groups operational.

Output 4: (Capacity Building and Dissemination) Results and lessons are synthesised, shared and promoted to raise capacity and influence practice at national and international levels

A range of capacity building and dissemination activities aimed at NGOs and governments will support further scaling up.

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.

The project includes capacity building, at personal and organisational levels. Mentoring, exchanges and technical support will increase conservation and project management capacity.

The need to address the crisis affecting vultures across Africa requires a range of techniques to share experiences and lessons learnt and to advocate for resources and the wider roll out of effective interventions.

BirdLife's Preventing Extinctions Programme includes a Vulture Team representing relevant regions, and specialists in conservation, science, policy and communications who will share experience from this and other vulture initiatives and bring in technical advice from outside where needed.

A BirdLife African Vulture Network was established in 2021. The project team will share expertise in conservation, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and communications as well as finance and administration support.

Increasing capacity for vulture conservation monitoring and evaluation is an important component.

Nature Tanzania (NT) is a small, developing NGO, on the path to becoming a BirdLife Partner. NT implemented a Darwin-funded project at Lake Natron, coordinated by BirdLife, which was highly successful in large part due to the ability of the Project Manager (now Executive Director) to engage the community at Lake Natron. This provided an excellent grounding in project development and management and the successful establishment of a Community Revolving Fund. They have since set up a further fund.

Nature Kenya is a highly experienced conservation NGO, with Darwin Project Experience, who will also support NT in the design and delivery of the vulture conservation work and practical monitoring/evaluation advice.

The project will also work closely with other interested government agencies, NGOs and researchers working on vulture conservation and human wildlife conflict and poisoning in order to learn and share experiences.

The project will make use of the shared resources and information sharing platforms established and in development under the remit of the Vulture MsAP.

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.

The project seeks to understand the gender dimensions of HWC and belief-based use of wildlife, and the broader socio-economic setting through local, small scale consultations with communities in TZ and KE. Building on Partner experience working with Maasai communities the project recognises the value of improving women's livelihoods as a contribution to household incomes, as an engagement strategy and a means to increase their status and role in decision-making.

The project does not seek to reverse traditional gender roles, but will seek to ensure that the views of women and other vulnerable groups are heard, that they are able to take an active role in decision-making, and that their overall wellbeing is improved and unintended, negative consequences identified and avoided.

We have basic gender information on livestock farmers and traditional healers (mainly men), traders in products for belief-based use (mainly women), hunters (mainly men), communities in hot-spot areas (majority women), small business owners, especially crafts and commerce (often women).

The project interventions (workshops, surveys, business training, Community Revolving Fund) are designed to engage / impact a high proportion of women. Previous experience has shown that this is achievable and likely to be successful. However, we will also use the survey techniques to adjust our methodologies to best achieve our gender goals. (E.g. To confirm the following...Which outreach locations are better for women? What potential livelihood interventions have the greatest potential impact on women? What are the impacts of HWC on women? Can women's entrepreneurial actions and access to micro finance improve their livelihoods and autonomy and build positive connections with nature.)

The project outputs will be monitored using gender disaggregated information. Indicators include ambitious, but realistic targets for engaging and benefiting women.

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?

Problem analysis identified lack of awareness of/appreciation for the value of vultures and the risks posed by poisoning by communities living in proximity to wildlife to be a significant factor in wildlife poisoning.

The project will raise community awareness of the value of vultures and the risks posed by their loss and by poison use through communication and engagement activities – using workshops and face-to-face meetings as well as school/market outreach, entertainment and use of local media. Engagement of local people in monitoring, poison response teams and education actions will encourage stewardship and build skills.

Awareness activities will also relate to practical measures to reduce the risks to humans and livestock of living close to wildlife. This process will draw on the concerns and knowledge of local people as well as sharing knowledge and experience about ways to reduce conflicts with wildlife and increase sustainable livelihoods.

Awareness actions relating to the risks of belief-based use (to vulture populations) but also legal and health risks will be refined, following the market surveys and discussions with traditional healers that will assess the prevalence and drivers of the trade. Such an approach in Nigeria found traditional healers to be influential and open to exploring plant-based alternatives.

Vulture numbers are crashing across Africa. Therefore, the project includes a significant dissemination and advocacy component (data, meetings, guidance, articles, events) targeting the network of NGOs and government agencies concerned with biodiversity/vulture conservation.

The critical state of vultures across Africa is not sufficiently appreciated, despite considerable work that has been encapsulated in the CMS MSAP. The project will address this through policy recommendations, protocols and resource mobilisation aimed at government agencies.

The project will monitor audiences reached and changes in awareness, knowledge and attitudes through sampling and surveys. Project results will be publicly available and data shared.

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.

The long-term impact is that integrated and evidence-based approaches reduce wildlife (particularly vultures') mortality from poisoning and improve livelihoods for communities living adjacent to protected areas in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.

By project end, we will have achieved the following outcome:

Community livelihoods in the Mara-Serengeti are improved and pressure on wildlife (particularly vultures) reduced through addressing drivers of poisoning, including income losses, linked to human-wildlife conflict and belief based use as measured by the following indicators:

A significant proportion (50%) of households in project area in KE (100 households) are aware of and using alternative, non-lethal HWC mitigation methods (e.g. bomas, reduced grazing herds, avoidance of child herders) and livestock losses are reduced (70% reduction in economic losses for improved bomas). 20 further households have capacity and express intention to take up these practices.

50% of households in target areas report more awareness of and positive attitude towards vultures and other wildlife, and 30% a lower likelihood to use poison.

Poison incidents in target areas decline by 40%.

Incomes of beneficiaries (200 people including 50% women) in target area in Makao WMA are increased by 20% through training, small business advice and the application of a community-managed micro-finance fund, the Community Revolving Fund (CRF).

Information on the extent and drivers of belief-based use of vultures in Makao, TZ is increased. A significant proportion (25%) of healers are willing to consider safe and legal alternatives to vultures/other wildlife.

The implementation of Rapid Response Mechanism teams in KE and TZ leads to a reduction of 30% in vulture mortality when poison incidents sadly occur.

Beneficiaries:

The project will benefit predator species targeted by livestock farmers and scavenger species, especially vultures, who are victims of predator poisoning. Also, vultures poisoned for belief-based use.

It will benefit communities in Narok County bordering the Maasai Mara, Kenya and in the Makao WMA to the south of the Serengeti, Tanzania.

Through policy advocacy, training on poison reduction and response methods, the project will also increase the capacity of protected area and other local and national government staff to respond to human wildlife conflict and poisoning incidents.

Through dissemination and communication, knowledge of effective vulture conservation techniques will be extended to and gathered from other NGOs and government agencies engaged in the same issue.

Post Project:

Wildlife poisoning in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem in Kenya and Tanzania is reduced, resulting in reductions/reversal of

declines in threatened species.

Communities in the Mara-Serengeti benefit from reduced livestock losses and the development of sustainable incomes. We expect further take-up of improved bomas by other households in the region, based on the demonstration of their value.

Further work with Makao WMA is anticipated, building on the groundwork and relationships built through this project.

Vulture conservation, especially on Belief-Based Use in Tanzania will expand.

If Vulture Safe Zones are deemed a valuable response in the region and resources secured, one or more will be established.

Collaboration and dissemination will lead to further take up of HWC reduction measures and improved coordination of data.

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.

See Annex: Theory of Change

The project addresses drivers of wildlife poisoning in East Africa by focusing on those closely linked to livelihoods, and that pose the most severe threats to vultures, and other biodiversity.

Communities will be encouraged to value wildlife, understand laws and contribute to conservation. Participatory processes recognise community rights, culture and grievances.

The project builds on successful approaches to engage communities in the fight against wildlife poisoning. This project will expand this work to new areas in Kenya and to Tanzania.

The project works with communities in poisoning hot spots to investigate, refine, implement and scale up measures to reduce predation, find alternatives to illegal activities and enhance biodiversity-positive livelihoods.

In Tanzania, it will also investigate and address a key driver of poisoning, killing for belief-based use, seen as a more significant threat in Makao WMA than HWC.

Poisoning incidents will, sadly, still occur. This will be mitigated through the establishment of Rapid Poison Response Mechanisms, which have proven effective in reducing mortality at poisoning incidents.

The project will address gaps in data, provide baselines, and evaluate impact and share findings widely.

The project will address policy gaps to support vulture conservation and regulate poison use.

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?

We build relationships with communities so that initiatives have the best chance of continuing. Continuity is furthered, where appropriate, by the establishment of Site Support Groups, who participate in activities such as wildlife monitoring,

and further livelihood and conservation actions.

Vulture Safe Zones have been a useful tool for engaging communities and landowners outside protected areas in vulture conservation strategies, such as monitoring, avoidance of poison use, removal of hazards, vulture restaurants/tourism. If the feasibility study into the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones is positive, then this is a mechanism we will seek funding for.

The Rapid Response Mechanisms will be mainstreamed as much as possible into land and wildlife management plans and budgets so that they can be sustained post project. The equipment and training will be there, but commitment and some resources are needed for them to function.

The installation of predator-proof bomas, coupled with community engagement and investment, plus maintenance advice, will ensure continued reduction of livestock losses. Sharing advice on best practices to reduce risks while grazing will also contribute. Advocacy will increase households using HWC approaches, increasingly self-funded, persuaded of the business case.





The exploration and take up of opportunities to improve livelihoods in legal, healthy, sustainable ways, coupled with a community managed financial mechanism (in TZ) will help embed progress.

The gathering of knowledge on the trade in vulture parts in Tanzania will, hopefully, yield a pathway to finding plant-based alternatives. This data will be published and shared to inform next steps.

Policy improvements, such as support for the Vulture Species Action Plan for Kenya, and updates to the MsAP for Vultures will provide long-term benefits. Vulture conservation will benefit from being mainstreamed where possible into strategies and management plans.

Nature Tanzania will gain vulture conservation capacity and the Vulture teams, evaluation skills.

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

 [Annex Mara Serengeti2](#)
 28/01/2022
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 pdf 1.35 MB

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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Fiduciary	High	Unlikely	Moderate	Project partners have the organisational and financial structures in place to effectively manage finances. These are further elaborated in subcontracts with partners. Project protocols will be in place. Training will be provided. The CRF will be backed up by strong Terms of Reference and the establishment of a management board	Low
Funds distributed to project partners not used for intended purposes or not accounted for.					
Community Revolving Fund mismanaged or not delivering intended goals. Not continued post project					
Safeguarding	High	Unlikely	Moderate	Safeguarding training at kick-off and inclusion in all subcontracts. Deployment of whistle-blowing and reporting mechanisms. Adherence to best practice guidelines for engaging communities in conservation (including prior informed consent, transparency, communication). Application of policies (anti-harassment, travel, safety) and use of risk assessments in line with those of Project Coordinator.	Low
Project beneficiaries harmed or exploited					
Staff safety is put at risk					
Delivery Chain	High	Unlikely	Moderate	This risk has been mitigated by prior engagement with national and district governments (as evidenced by letters of support). Engagement by governments will be supported through practical support and recognition. Engagement of communities will be supported through prior outreach, regular communication, provision of practical support, and ongoing follow up.	Low
National and district governments, park authorities and communities do not engage in addressing HWC in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.					
Risk 4	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	All project partners are now experienced in delivering activities within COVID 19 and other health restrictions. The majority of interventions are local and the staff are primarily in country. Where international travel is limited, online options are available. Project is not dependent on tourism, which may remain hard hit.	Low
Current economic, social and health factors, such as COVID 19 seriously impede progress.					

Risk 5	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Pilot initiatives of installing improved bomas, coupled with the awareness raising and engagement activities have yielded results. Therefore, we are optimistic that these results can be replicated.	Low
Reductions in livestock losses and increases in sustainable livelihoods, coupled with awareness actions do not lead to the behaviour change anticipated				We expect that more examples, well communicated, will lead to further take up of HWC mitigation measures – including through self funding	
Risk 6	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Based on experience in Nigeria we expect to see interest and strong participation by traditional healers in the development of plant-based alternatives.	Low
Traditional healers in Makao WMA do not show willingness to consider using alternatives to animal parts or do not act in good faith				Discussions with traditional healers have been positive and open. However, we need to ground truth using market observations, especially as the activities we are asking about are illegal	


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.

 [R28 Darwin Implementation Timetable MaraSereng etiUpload](#)

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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](#)).

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of this project will be guided by BirdLife's Project Management Toolkit and an M&E sub-team, tasked with designing tools to monitor the delivery and impact of this project. The project will make use of the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist who will provide technical support as well as the M&E Officer from Nature Kenya.

Impact monitoring and evaluation is a very high priority for the Vulture Conservation team. Therefore, we are using this project to increase capacity in the wider team. We have therefore decided not to outsource the M&E to an external consultant, but to use in-house expertise at global level, coupled with the considerable conservation science expertise, to design and implement the most appropriate tools.

The M&E sub-team will coordinate with consultants who will support the socio-economic survey activities to ensure that survey techniques are appropriate to the audience, yield useful information and support the overall monitoring and evaluation of the project. They will also draw on additional advice from researchers on the Advisory Group.

The project performance will be closely monitored by the Project Steering Group, consisting of the Project Leader, Project Manager, Project Finance, M&E Specialist and at least one representative of both Partners, through progress reports, but informed by in-country visits and direct engagement in activities.

Impact of the project: Evaluation of the project's success in achieving its outcomes will be monitored to allow for adaptations if needed. The key indicators found in the logical framework, and in a detailed M&E matrix, developed at the beginning of the project, will guide the evaluation of the project results and impacts. To support this, reliable baseline data will be collected at start of the project activities, and impact data will be collected when appropriate during the project implementation.

The project will use an adaptive management approach, adapting methodologies and addressing issues as the project develops – amending workplans accordingly – in consultation with the project team and the funder.

Project achievements are evaluated during a midterm evaluation and at the end of the project.

This M&E includes:

- 1) periodic assessment of project implementation and performance of activities and spending. These assessments will review the delivery of activities and achievement of key benchmarks, linked to the workplans (e.g. staff recruitment, field office set up, consultation meetings/workshops held (were targets achieved), boma improvement criteria applied and households selected, bomas constructed, ...).
- 2) Financial monitoring will examine proposed versus actual spending and verify eligibility.
- 2) assessment of results in terms of achievement of outputs, as measured through an agreed set of indicators (based on the logical framework).
- 3) Assessment of outcomes, as measured through achievement of stated outcome indicator targets plus an evaluation process that goes beyond indicators and examines the impact of the project in terms of relevance and effectiveness in the short and medium term. This evaluation will also identify areas for improvement and lessons learned.

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 174

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.

 [R28-Darwin-St2-Logical-Framework-Template-FINAL S](#)
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Impact:

Integrated and evidence-based approaches reduce wildlife mortality from poisoning and improve livelihoods for communities living adjacent to protected areas in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.

Outcome:

Community livelihoods in the Mara-Serengeti are improved and pressure on wildlife (particularly vultures) reduced through addressing drivers of poisoning, including income losses, linked to human-wildlife conflict and belief based use

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Socio-economic drivers and impacts of wildlife poisoning in Mara-Serengeti are understood and inform a range of community-focused interventions.

Output 2:

Vulture conservation models, incorporating livelihood improvements are implemented in the focal areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya and Makao WMA, Tanzania. (Directly benefitting ~1,700 people, reaching 15,000).

Output 3:

The impact of poisoning incidents is mitigated by the set up, training and equipping of three Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) anti-poisoning groups in Kenya and Tanzania.

Output 4:

Results and lessons are synthesised, shared and promoted to raise NGO capacity for vulture conservation in Africa and to influence practice at national levels in Kenya and Tanzania and pan-African levels.

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.

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

1.1.1 Conduct outreach surveys to target households in project areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya to obtain information on key drivers of wildlife poisoning and socioeconomic situation.

1.1.2 Use surveys and desk research to establish baselines for incidents of livestock predation and poisoning incidences in Maasai Mara, Kenya, and repeat surveys at end of project to measure impact. BLI and technical assistance consultant to advise on survey content, requirements to meet monitoring needs, other project needs and safeguarding as well as gender and cultural issues. National Partners to implement with project staff.

1.1.3 End of project surveys will be carried out with a sampling of participants. Details to be developed with advice from monitoring and evaluation consultant and relevant staff.

1.2.1 Conduct stakeholder surveys at the beginning of the project in Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Tanzania on the belief-based use of vultures, believed to be the key driver of vulture poisoning in project area. NT to lead with input from BLI and Nigerian Conservation Foundation and BirdLife Zimbabwe (who have conducted similar surveys) and technical assistance on effective survey design from a consultant.

1.2.2 End of project surveys will be carried out with a sampling of participants. Details to be developed with advice from monitoring and evaluation consultant and relevant staff.

1.3.1 BLI and consultants (one for TZ and one for KE/or combine) advise on survey content, requirements to meet monitoring needs, other project needs and safeguarding as well as gender and cultural issues. BirdLife to support survey design and National Partners to implement with project staff.

1.3.2 Convene workshops in project areas in Kenya and Tanzania to promote discussion with key stakeholders to identify impacts of living with wildlife and to develop activities that the project can support to benefit communities and vultures.

1.4.1 Consolidate outputs from workshops and surveys in each project country to develop a site-specific model for priority anti-poisoning and vulture conservation interventions that has strong buy-in from communities. BLI to coordinate so that models are coherent and comparable, but National Partners to design.

1.5.1 Conduct baseline and follow up vulture population surveys in the project area. These will include nesting vulture census and road counts.

Feed data into BirdLife Database and share with other interested parties. These will supplement existing monitoring undertaken by The Peregrine Fund and Kenya Birds of Prey Trust – adding to the body of data. This is particularly lacking in Tanzania.

1.5.2 Conduct an update assessment of the Important Bird Area/Key Biodiversity Area (IBAs/IBAs) in the focal area (both are IBAs) to assess status and update relevant species data.

1.6.1 Scope potential for establishing Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) that could be established e.g. focal areas that integrate anti-poisoning - RRM and other threat mitigation actions, thus creating safe havens for vultures.

1.6.2 Develop criteria for VSZs in East Africa during RRM workshops and training, and community engagement using criteria developed for southern Africa as an adaptive model. BLI Vulture Manager to draft this, in consultation with Partners and with advice from other regions and external experts.

Establishment of VSZ, if feasible, would be outside the scope of this project.

2.1.1 Conduct focused entrepreneurial workshops in the project focal areas in the Maasai Mara to promote voluntary investment in livestock protection and supplemental businesses that are compatible with wildlife management.

This will include advice on herd size, daytime herd supervision, deterrents, high risk areas, best practices used elsewhere. It will also demonstrate cost benefits of boma strengthening (fully fortified and cheaper partially fortified option). Use local

people as advocates.

2.2.1 Apply the criteria for boma selection, which include that the boma is in an area at high risk for predation and where the household is willing to contribute a share of the cost and labour to install it (to encourage ownership) and to make a commitment to not use poison illegally or inappropriately, and to participate in awareness raising/monitoring activities.

2.2.2 Identify 20 bomas, and implement improvement methods at selected boma sites in partnership with beneficiary household.

2.2.3 Provide training so that others can reproduce bomas.

2.2.4 Put in place boma effectiveness monitoring.

2.3.1 Organise awareness-raising market outreach events, radio broadcasts, and print communication materials to reach out to key stakeholders to reduce poisoning behaviours and influence negative attitudes towards wildlife and vultures. Using the project's vulture volunteers, village elders and popular local figures and the Masai Mara Wildlife Ambassadors.

2.4.1 Conduct workshops with traditional healers in Makao WMA, Tanzania to discuss how to best address the use of vulture parts for belief-based use, including potential alternatives e.g. plant-based products and livelihood alternatives. These may be eligible for CRF financing.

2.5.1 Conduct business support and entrepreneurship training workshops in Makao WMA to build communities' capacity (especially women) to develop sustainable local livelihoods, including those that could be supported by the CRF. Topics will depend on the outcome of the earlier workshops and surveys, but will likely include livestock husbandry techniques to reduce predation (and increase incomes) plus small business ideas and planning e.g. poultry rearing, micro solar and cookstove enterprises, and local craft development.

2.6.1 Establish, through extensive awareness raising and consultation the Terms of Reference for a Community Revolving Fund (CRF) to support conservation friendly livelihoods activities with small loans at low interest.

2.6.2 Recruit and train the representative management body and the Loan Advisory Group.

2.6.3 Issue loans to support the creation of sustainable alternative livelihood initiatives such as development of plant based alternatives to vulture/wildlife parts in belief based practice, women's beadwork, poultry farming, production of biogas etc.

2.6.4 Ensure that the CRF loans also include clear guidance on the conservation commitments that go with the money (either to support a conservation focused business or to participate in an agreed set of conservation actions).

2.6.5 Maintain excellent records on loans and repayments, but also the impact on livelihoods.

2.6.6 Continue operation of the CRF after the project end.

3.1.1 Implement a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in 2 hotspots in Maasai Mara where coverage is currently poor through the establishment of local anti-poisoning groups.

3.1.2 Pilot a small-scale RRM in Makao WMA with an existing ranger group, for responding to wildlife poisoning with the provision of resources and support for implementation e.g. training, response kits, motorbikes, and handbooks.

3.2.1 In Kenya, provide RRM training to KWS law enforcement officers to strengthen the mechanism and mainstream into operational policies.

3.3.1 Liaise with other initiatives outside the scope of this project who are involved with training and support RRM capacity in Kenya and TZ so as to target training to hotspot areas where training and resources are not available.

4.1.1 Present project findings and lessons learned in national, regional, and relevant international forums. At least one webinar. Advocacy with MEAs, COP meetings, outreach to funders etc. Attendance and presentations by partners on their activities at the BirdLife Council for the African Partnership meeting and Pan African Ornithological Conference,

discussions and presentations to the BirdLife Africa Vulture Conservation Forum (BAVCF) and publication on the HATCH learning platform.

4.1.2 Develop or populate existing repositories of vulture conservation data with documented results and learnings from the project

4.1.3 Support the development of an East African Anti-Poisoning Network and the continued and improved operation of the African Wildlife Poisoning Database and associated working groups which have been supported by the Band Foundation.

4.2.1 Disseminate project updates and findings internally and via national and international media channels (newspapers, radio and newsletters). Big push on social media, development of articles and materials, press releases in regional and international media. National level actions as well.

4.2.2 Work with NGOs, communities and government to integrate project outputs into celebrations of International Vulture Awareness Day (<http://www.vultureday.org/>).

4.3.1 Develop policy recommendations on use of poisons to kill wildlife including suggestive amendment for substance controls/bans and support Kenya Wildlife service to draft and approve National Vulture Action Plan.

4.3.2 Develop a brief review of gaps in existing legislation in Tanzania and develop recommendations for future policy and legislative change concerning vultures and wildlife poisoning alongside advocating for stricter control or banning of substances/chemicals used in wildlife poisoning.

Coordination Activities:

Project management activities are not included as a Project Output. However, the following activities will take place.

- Establishment of Project Steering Group composed of representatives from BirdLife International, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania. Set up an Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Group. An informal Advisory Group will be identified including BirdLife Head of Preventing Extinctions Programme and IUCN Vulture Specialist Group and a dialogue will be maintained with other raptor conservation groups (Peregrine Fund, Kenya Birds of Prey Trust, North Carolina Zoo). The group will not meet or be constituted formerly. However, we will keep them informed as to progress, invite them to events, share findings, and seek guidance as needed.
- Staff recruited
- Project Kick-Off Meeting with Steering Group and most members of the Project Implementation Team.
- Semi-annual Steering Group meetings will be held in addition to more frequent subgroup meetings with the Project Manager and key members of the Project Implementation Team. Most meetings will be held virtually although key members of the project team will meet in-person to gather knowledge and experience.
- Detailed workplans developed. Incorporated into Subcontracts with BirdLife.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be developed, sub team to meet regularly offline, plus 1 or more site visits.
- Gender and Safeguarding Plan will be developed.
- Risk assessment and management plan will be updated, as needed.
- Project implementation
- Project interim and final report.
- Mid-Term Mini Evaluation
- End of Project Evaluation

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.

 [Budget over 100k Dec21 MASTER update BirdLife MaraSerengeti Upload](#)
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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.

This project will be subject to BirdLife's policies and guidance on financial risks which are outlined in detail in the Finance Handbook.

Detailed policies exist on avoiding and detecting fraud, bribery and other financial risks and financial operations are designed to reduce financial risks and ensure effective financial project management.

These policies are passed on, as appropriate, in subcontracts to project partners. A detailed training on Fraud and Corruption was part of recent workshop for BirdLife staff.

The financial risks and ethics of supporting livelihood activities are also recognised as a potential risk. Therefore, methodologies and, where needed, terms of reference, are designed to ensure that fairness, transparency and high ethical standards are adhered to. E.g. in the criteria for household selection for project support, in the establishment and management of the Community Revolving Fund etc.

Risks of e.g. inappropriate payments/bribery are reduced through a stringent financial oversight process. Beyond financial systems, the ethical operation of the project is supported by a transparent and open approach that enables complaints and whistle blowing from local staff, partners and beneficiaries.

The high expectations and procedural safeguards will form part of the project kick-off meeting and, where appropriate, policies are appended to subcontracts.

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 is a new initiative within a wider programme of work addressing the drastic decline in vulture populations across Africa. It builds on vulture conservation work by BirdLife and Nature Kenya in Kenya, in other communities in the Maasai Mara, but it is largely new in Tanzania where vulture conservation work has been limited to research and some community HWC focused work in Ruaha National Park and some training in Serengeti.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and North Carolina Zoo's vulture research and conservation work focused in and around Ruaha National Park in Southern Tanzania, including satellite tagging of vultures which have revealed their large range and contributed to identification of threats (including retaliatory poisoning and belief-based use, as well as habitat loss).

The project is informed by pilots to address HWC in Kenya, including Nature Kenya's own work, but also, Peregrine Fund's work in Laikipia and Northern Kenya, and joint efforts to establish poison monitoring and response capability. Other HWC projects, focused on lion and other predator conservation, have also informed the project design, including identification of hotspots. We now need to scale up the approach. The project also builds on Nature Tanzania's successful use of a microfinancing tool.

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

Yes

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

The Peregrine Fund is seeking funding (also from Darwin) to expand its work in Laikipia County to address poisoning of vultures due to human wildlife conflict. Laikipia is also a stronghold of vultures and hotspot of poisoning. The roll out of both projects would, by themselves, save the lives of many Critically Endangered and Endangered Vultures and other threatened wildlife. But, equally importantly, there is a good chance that we could reach a kind of tipping point, where the practical solutions to HWC that are being proposed start to be the norm, rather than the exception in poison hotspots. Hopefully, our combined influence will also progress the long planned Vulture Species Action Plan for Kenya and identify mechanisms to support more households to construct fortified bomas and predator deterring husbandry techniques.

We work closely with the Peregrine Fund, comparing approaches and data and would expect to use the same platforms to disseminate our results.

Our approaches are not identical, which itself provides useful data for further research.

Our proposed work on belief-based use is not being carried out, as far as we know, in the focal area, or Tanzania, more widely.

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.

Capital items planned for this project:

- GPS units for field-based staff
- Mobile phones for field-based staff
- Binoculars for field-based staff and locally recruited poison response and monitoring (to be donated by BirdLife Partner, Vogelbescherming Nederland)
- Motorbikes for local poison response teams and field-based staff
- Computers for newly recruited staff
- Office equipment for the temporary field office in Makao.

Most of the project equipment is designed to meet the needs for outreach and engagement in remote communities, conservation monitoring and communication with the project team. Computer equipment is needed for new staff hired explicitly for the project.

All equipment and vehicles will continue to be used for the same or similar purposes after the end of the project. Explicit terms of usage agreements for motorbikes used by beneficiary staff will be drawn up.

Capital items are less than 10% of the project budget.

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.

The project is quite large, but it is good value for money because it is designed to deliver lasting impacts over a large area in two adjacent countries, addressing an urgent and widespread problem – the rapid decline in threatened vulture species. The vultures in Kenya and Tanzania travel extensively over the transboundary landscape, making conservation actions in both countries essential.

The project works by addressing directly some of the drivers of threats (poisoning) and integrating better the livelihoods and wellbeing needs of the communities with appreciation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

It fills important knowledge and data gaps in a cost-effective way, applies experience and research from within and outside the project partnership to an identified problem. It offers sustainable solutions that will remain after the project end and that are very likely to be scaled up in other communities around the target landscape – and in other vulture range states.

The project's close links with other organisations engaged in vulture conservation and human wildlife conflict, the project will both benefit from and share experience and networking.

The project makes full use of in-country staff, which is both cost effective and beneficial for delivering the project activities and responding to emerging situations – especially in the light of potential future COVID 19 travel restrictions.

The project recognises the need to support the local staff team who contribute the different skills needed to deliver lasting change (conservation, engagement, advocacy, communication, management and finance). as well as new project staff.

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.

BirdLife conducts regular trainings in its HR and Financial Policies (including an extensive training for BirdLife Africa staff in 2020). Safeguarding Policy training is planned for 2022.

A preliminary safeguarding risk analysis has been carried out (See Q20) as we recognise that the safeguarding of beneficiaries and staff is central to most conservation projects, but especially when the projects deal directly with the interaction of people and nature. Safeguarding Risk Analysis will be a key component of the full scale risk assessment.

On paper risk analysis is a useful tool, but it is only useful in implemented through training, protocols and practice. Therefore, the ethics, risk, health and safety and safeguarding principles and policies that apply to this project will be outlined to the Project Team at the Kick Off meeting and reviewed as part of project management.

The Safeguarding Policy will be a component of subcontracts with downstream partners.

Q30. Ethics

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

BirdLife's local to global approach and partnership structure are grounded in a conservation approach that respects the rights and needs of local communities.

This principle is backed up by a series of policies, on safeguarding, health and safety, anti-corruption, whistle-blowing and financial safeguards that are incorporated into project management procedures and backed up through periodic training.

Our engagement with local communities is embedded in a Local Engagement and Empowerment Programme, with detailed guidance and case studies that help ensure that ethical principles and principles of prior informed consent and equal participation are upheld.

We will conduct an ethical and safeguarding risk assessment before commencement, to identify any emerging risks.

Purchasing and procurement procedures prevent corruption in the selection of vendors and subcontractors.

Transparency and clear guidelines help to ensure that project benefits are provided to beneficiaries in a fair and ethical manner.

Whistle blower policies ensure that any wrongdoing can be safely reported.

Higher risk activities such as Community Revolving Fund will have clear Terms of Reference and protocols to ensure fairness and transparency, with clear expectation and responsibilities for the beneficiaries.

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?
Salisha Chandra	Project Leader	15	Checked
Paul Kariuki Nding'ang'a	Vulture Conservation Manager / Project Supervisor	10	Checked
Jacob Milia Tilai	Senior Vulture Conservation Officer / Project Officer	25	Checked
Agyemang Opoku, Tharcisse Ukizintambara, Ken Mwathe, Lewis Kihumba	IBA/KBA Officer (Sites) / Network and Capacity Development Coord. / Head of Policy and Communications / Communications Manager	27	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Iain Dickson	Senior Officer (Monitoring, evaluation and learning)	4	Checked

Tharcisse Ukizintambara, Ken Mwathe, Lewis Kihumba Agyemang Opoku	Network and Capacity Development Coord. / Head of Policy and Communications / Communications Manager / IBA/KBA Officer (Sites)	40	Checked
Paul Gacheru / Paul Matiku	Species and Sites Program Manager and Kenya Project Lead / Executive Director and Kenya Supervisor	25	Checked
To Be Recruited	Vulture Community Liaison Officer	100	Checked
Carole Kabilu / Gibson Kitsao / James Mutunga / John Mwacharo / Peter Ngugi / Emily Mateche / Peter Njeru	Program Support Manager / Local Empowerment Manager / M&E support / Communications Officer / Communications Trainer Empowerment Officer / Policy and Advocacy Manager and Officer	20	Checked
Edwin Kamugisha	Tanzania Project Manager	25	Checked
To be recruited	Project Officer	100	Checked
Emmanuel Mгимwa	Executive Director and Project Supervisor	13	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.

 [BLI NK NT Combined CVs](#)

 31/01/2022

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 pdf 1 MB

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: BirdLife International

Website address: www.birdlife.org / www.birdlife.org/africa

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

BirdLife International will manage the project to ensure effective delivery and adaptive management. It will provide technical support on vulture conservation, livelihoods and monitoring; support advocacy and engagement actions; and guide capacity development to strengthen national implementing partners and promote sustainability.

BirdLife will coordinate the implementation of the project, including management of the subcontracts with the project partners. It will be responsible for the articulation and implementation of detailed workplans and financial plans, monitoring protocols and for the development and submission of timely financial and technical reports.

It will support the local engagement, livelihood and empowerment activities by ensuring coordination between the project partners and supporting with technical support to ensure that these are carried out effectively and in line with ethical and safeguarding principles.

It will provide capacity development support to Nature Tanzania.

It will coordinate and support the gathering of expertise and dissemination of experience as part of its wider vulture conservation remit.

BirdLife has extensive project management and vulture conservation experience, with a dedicated Vulture Team and policy capacity (inc. development of the CMS Vulture MsAP, anti-poisoning guidelines and inputs to CITES).

Project staff include a Project Manager and Project Officers, supported by technical specialists.

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:

BirdLife International (the Kenya registered NGO)

Website address:

www.birdlife.org/africa

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

BirdLife International has a legally registered NGO in Kenya. This is a requirement to operate in Kenya.

A portion of expenses are handled through the Kenyan NGO (e.g. salaries of Kenyan staff). However, all finances are consolidated into the accounts of the BirdLife International (UK).

For simplicity, all budget and activities allocated to BirdLife UK and BirdLife KE are treated as one in this application.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name: Nature Kenya

Website address: www.naturekenya.org

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

Nature Kenya, the BirdLife Partner in Kenya, will be responsible for implementing project activities in Kenya. The project is enabling Nature Kenya, through BirdLife support, to build a network of collaborators and key stakeholders to drive poisoning mitigation efforts.

Nature Kenya will take responsibility for project management and delivery of planned outcomes and targets in Kenya; establishing ecological and socio-economic baselines; creating awareness among local communities and catalyzing partnerships; monitoring and evaluation; reporting; and dissemination of lessons.

Nature Kenya will provide technical assistance to the project based on its experience and provide mentoring support to Nature Tanzania.

Nature Kenya has retained experienced technical staff who coordinate a network of qualified Vulture Liaison Officers and local vulture champions in the Mara ecosystem.

Key areas of expertise aligned to this project include: vulture awareness events, predator proofing of bomas (livestock corrals), rapid response to prevent incidental vulture poisoning and monitoring. Nature Kenya developed a national poisoning response protocol that is now approved by the national wildlife authority. Since the beginning of 2016, Nature Kenya has been supporting Kenya Wildlife Service to host a national multi-stakeholder forum on poisoning involving research and conservation organizations dealing with birds, carnivores, elephants and livestock.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name: Nature Tanzania

Website address: www.naturetanzania.or.tz

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

Nature Tanzania will lead implementation of project activities in Tanzania and ensure effective delivery. This includes engagement of communities, partners and stakeholders including the Makao WMA leadership and government of Tanzania.

Nature Tanzania has solid experience in community engagement, project management, biodiversity monitoring and in the implementation of awareness raising campaigns.

Key activities to be implemented by Nature Tanzania include; baselines and end of project surveys, capacity building and vulture awareness events, setting up the rapid response mechanism to prevent incidental vulture poisoning, monitoring, setting up and operation of a community managed revolving fund.

The Executive Director, Mr. Emmanuel Mgimwa has managed many projects including the Darwin funded project (24-019) led by BirdLife International. He, therefore, brings experience in managing Darwin funded projects among others. His experience in setting up and managing two community managed revolving funds that are still operational, and growing, local capacity building and participatory engagement of stakeholders will be an asset for this project.

Together with technical coordination and mentoring from BirdLife International and Nature Kenya, Nature Tanzania will successfully implement project activities in Tanzania. The project will also increase the organizational capacity to engage in vulture conservation in Tanzania.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

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.

 [Combined Letters of Support and Cover Letter](#)
 31/01/2022
 10:21:20
 pdf 2.87 MB

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
27-005	Jonathan Eames	Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five
24-030	Paul Kariuki Ndong'ang'a	Controlling an invasive aquatic plant for improved biodiversity and livelihoods
24-019	Ken Mwathe	Developing a Community Based Ecotourism Model at Lake Natron, Tanzania

23-010	Coline Ganz	Implementing a model for sustainable protected area management in Cambodia
23-017	Elaine Marshall	Building resilient landscapes and livelihoods in Burkina Faso's Parklands
21-2665	David Thomas	Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal

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

Company

of

BirdLife International

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	Patricia Zurita
Position in the organisation	Chief Executive Officer
Signature (please upload e-signature)	<p> DIR28S2 1074 Declaration - signed PZ</p> <p> 31/01/2022</p> <p> 10:19:04</p> <p> pdf 213.13 KB</p>


Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.


 [BirdLife International 2019 Audited Financial Statements - FINAL signed](#)

 30/01/2022


 15:04:01

 pdf 845.59 KB

 [BirdLife International 2020 Financial Statements - signed V2](#)


 30/01/2022

 15:03:54

 pdf 1.31 MB

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

 [BirdLife safeguarding policy ISSUE 1 9 December 2020](#)

 30/01/2022

 15:04:09

 pdf 246.06 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).