Applicant: **Jones, Ellie**
Organisation: **British Asian Trust**
Funding Sought: **£585,619.00**

DIR28S2\1008

Promotion of coexistence in human-elephant conflict hotspots in Northeast India

Human-elephant conflict threatens lives/livelihoods of people and elephants in N.E.India. We will facilitate coexistence in major HEC hotpots in this region by empowering communities through: (1) educating villagers about elephants, HEC and protecting people/property/elephants/biodiversity (2) training villagers to install solar-powered electric fencing to protect crops without harming elephants; (3) identifying other livelihood options, training villagers, especially women, to generate extra income. Thus, we will reduce poverty by protecting lives/livelihoods/property and by increasing incomes, while protecting elephants to reduce biodiversity loss.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name   Ellie

Surname   Jones

Organisation   British Asian Trust

Website (Work)

Tel (Work)

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Address

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Ellie
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Charity/ trusts**
Name	British Asian Trust
Phone (Mobile)	████
Email (Work)	█████████████
Website (Work)	███████████
Address	████
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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Promotion of coexistence in human-elephant conflict hotspots in Northeast India

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

DIR28S1\1174

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

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 3

Intensive land-use systems (agric., plantations and urban)

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

Human intrusions & disturbance (recreation, war)

Threat 3

Other threats

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.

Human-elephant conflict threatens lives/livelihoods of people and elephants in N.E.India. We will facilitate coexistence in major HEC hotpots in this region by empowering communities through: (1) educating villagers about elephants, HEC and protecting people/property/elephants/biodiversity (2) training villagers to install solar-powered electric fencing to protect crops without harming elephants; (3) identifying other livelihood options, training villagers, especially women, to generate extra income. Thus, we will reduce poverty by protecting lives/livelihoods/property and by increasing incomes, while protecting elephants to reduce biodiversity loss.

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	India	Country 2	*No Response*
Country 3	*No Response*	Country 4	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

⊙No

Q7. Project dates

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

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£159,589.00	£182,327.00	£243,703.00	**£** 585,619.00

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?

The British Asian Trust (BAT) commits to providing £▮▮▮▮ in match funding for this programme, raised from our network of supporters, trust and foundation and corporates. Funding from the Darwin Initiative will be invaluable in enabling us to engage and raise funds from these sources. Any balance not raised, will be met from existing organisational funds raised during the BAT/Elephant Family CoExistence campaign in 2021. CoExistence brought over 120 life-sized Asian elephant sculptures, made by Adivasi people in Tamil Nadu, to the Royal Parks in London, raising both awareness and funds to promote human-wildlife coexistence in India.

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?

All the funding is confirmed.

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).

Northeast India, which is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, harbours half the flowering plant species of the subcontinent, the one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal tigers and over 20% of the Asia's wild elephants. Moreover, 30% of India's 450 million forest-dwelling indigenous people live here, dependant on its natural resources. There is an urgent need to protect biodiversity by focusing on the needs of poor communities and the wildlife living alongside them.

Human-elephant conflict (HEC) helps drive both poverty and biodiversity loss. In target districts in Assam and Meghalaya, on average 30% of the population live below the poverty line, with West Garo Hills in Meghalaya among the poorest districts in India. Changes in land use, loss of habitat and human encroachment are driving HEC in these areas. Villagers in these communities suffer daily incursions by elephants, threatening them, their crops and their homes. Consequently, elephants are also at risk from retaliatory killing. In the last 6 years, there have been over 90 human deaths and 60 elephant deaths in target districts. Elephants are a landscape species, requiring large and diverse habitats to survive. They are also a keystone species, 'ecosystem engineers' that are crucial to the survival of the wider ecosystem. By focusing on HEC, we will help protect biodiversity while also addressing poverty.

Implementing partner Aaranyak has been addressing human-wildlife conflict, forest fragmentation and biodiversity loss in Northeast India for 20 years. It has mapped areas of high HEC in the region. Bringing together Aaranyak's experience in reducing HEC and biodiversity loss through community-centred interventions, with BAT's experience in HEC education, seasonal fence training and livelihood interventions, this project will develop a rounded approach to HEC mitigation in six districts in Assam and one in Meghalaya. Our work in different HEC hotspots to date has evidenced the impact a holistic HEC mitigation/livelihoods approach can have on the attitudes and behaviours of villagers towards elephants and the wider ecosystem, its ability to reduce human/elephant deaths, and household incomes. By protecting elephants and people, and their ability to maintain viable livelihoods, the project will help address poverty and biodiversity loss in target communities.

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 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.

Primary contribution:
• Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): This project promotes in situ conservation (Art.8); sustainable use of natural resources/biodiversity (Art.10); providing incentives to conserve biodiversity (Art.11); public education in the value and importance of biodiversity and natural resources (Art.13); technical/scientific cooperation in adopting a new approach to human-wildlife conflict mitigation (Art.18).
• 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (First Draft): The project aligns in the post-2020 Framework of the CBD in its vision (by aiming to achieve human-elephant coexistence), its mission (by aiming to conserve and sustainability use biodiversity in target areas) and contributes towards at least three of its goals (i.e. net biodiversity gain in target areas, better understanding of the value of elephants and their habitats, equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits, and improved capacity and financial status of local stakeholders).
• Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): This project will contribute to six SDGs, including: SDG1 (ending poverty) by protecting and improving livelihoods among poor communities; SDG2 (zero hunger) by improving the food security of households whose crops will be protected from damage; SDG5 (gender equality) by including women across all programme activities; SDG 15 (life on land) by supporting conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

• India's National Biodiversity Action Plan, by raising awareness of the values of biodiversity and steps to conserve/use it sustainably (Tgt1); reducing degradation, fragmentation and loss of natural habitats to improve the environment and human well-being (Tgt3); ensuring ecosystem services, especially those affecting human health/livelihoods/wellbeing, are safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women and local communities, particularly poor and vulnerable sections (Tgt8).
• National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan of India (still in preparation), which aims to work towards harmonious co-existence by making every effort to ensure that mitigation measures are developed, assessed, customized, and evaluated using site-specific HWC mitigation instruments that are effective and wildlife friendly. As such, the project also aligns with India's Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation, which are also in preparation.

Secondary contribution:
• Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals: By March 2020, the Indian sub-species of Elephas Maximus had been added to Appendix 1 of the CMS because it is both endangered and crosses national jurisdictional and international borders. The elephant populations targeted by this project in northeast India regularly cross national boundaries – from Assam to Meghalaya and Assam to Arunachal Pradesh – and also national boundaries to Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Policy alignment:
• IUCN's Human-Wildlife Taskforce Guidelines for Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (due for publication early 2022). The project follows the Assess > Plan > Act approach to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation promoted by IUCN's Human-Wildlife Taskforce guidelines chaired by Dr Alexandra Zimmerman of Oxford's WildCRU.
• IUCN's AsESG Guidelines for Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation: Dr Zimmerman also chairs the HEC working group of IUCN's Asian Elephant Specialist Group, which is modifying the HWC guidelines to focus solely on Asian elephants. The AsESG guidelines are yet to be finalised, but the basic approach is the same as the HWC guidelines above.

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 project's community-centred approach to addressing HEC to protect human lives/livelihoods, as well as elephants, their habitat and associated biodiversity, builds on BAT and Aaranyak's HEC/poverty alleviation projects in Assam and Myanmar. Core to our approach is recognising that HEC is similar everywhere but differs in local detail. Our methodology, therefore, starts by profiling target areas, engaging communities as partners to understand their situation and collaboratively plan action, as recommended by IUCN's Human-Wildlife Taskforce Conflict Mitigation Guidelines which advocate three phases: Assess > Plan > Act. Capacity building communities is at the heart of our sustainable approach, including and training them as delivery partners and decision-makers.

Evidence from BAT and Aaranyak's own interventions and beyond has informed our approach. Evidence from evaluations of Aaranyak's interventions utilising HEC education and non-lethal, solar fencing, shows the huge impact on attitudes/behaviours towards biodiversity and human/elephant lives. More recently, Aaranyak undertook a 3-year pilot of livelihoods interventions in villages in Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam, which resulted in an average annual income increase of 40% across 756 households. While similarities with the villages targeted make this achievable, given the ongoing threat of COVID and other factors, we anticipate 600 households achieving an annual income increase of 30% for this project.

This project will refine and expand this approach into seven other HEC-hotspot districts (Jorhat/Majuli/Sibsagar/Dibrugarh /Tinsukia in Assam, West/North Garo Hills in Meghalaya), targeting 20 HEC-affected villages. Core aspects of the methodology include:
• Profiling the problem/building evidence: Consulting key stakeholders to identify target communities and households, and

understand HEC in target areas, including officials/government records, community leaders, youth groups, volunteer committees (e.g. Village Defence Committees) and individuals. A rapid and participatory assessments will be carried out to identify core demographics (such as women-led households, daily wage earners, landed farmers, landless farmers etc.) and ensure all are represented. Villagers will not only be surveyed, but engaged in the surveying, using adapted questionnaires developed for the purpose.
• Promoting security of humans/elephants by raising awareness: Village champions will be trained to deliver HEC awareness events for at least 70% of households (n=1,800) across 20 villages. Helped by the profiling data and in-house specialists, we will prepare educational materials (posters, audio-visual presentations, games) in local languages to convey information on: elephants/their ecology/behaviour/needs, causes of HEC, ways to minimise/avoid harm to people/property, and reasons to conserve elephants/their habitats and other key species to reduce human-wildlife conflict/safeguard biodiversity. 100,000 people in target areas will also be reached with key messages through radio, social and other media. In communities, villagers directly targeted by the project (n=1,300) will be asked to sign a biodiversity pledge.
• Protect livelihoods/assets: Through dialogues with communities, we will identify appropriate mitigation strategies. We will train 60 villagers to install seasonal/solar-powered/electric fences across areas where crop raiding is serious, using similar protocols to those pioneered by the Centre for Conservation Research, Sri Lanka and used by BAT's partners in Myanmar (Darwin 27-012). Trained fencers will be supported to erect 120kms of fencing before Yr2's harvest seasons (Jun-Jul/Oct-Nov). Village Fence Committees will be established to organise fence installation/removal plans, guarding/maintenance/monitoring to aid efficacy and sustainability post-project. We will form Rapid Response Units, training villagers to respond safely/effectively/non-aggressively to HEC incidents, warn villagers of elephants nearby and facilitating safe passage for both parties.
• Promote livelihoods: Poorer households will be helped to adopt effective income-generating activities. Aaranyak's work elsewhere identified viable livelihood options. Farm-based options include crops elephants dislike (ginger/turmeric/limes /chillies/garlic), fisheries, mushrooms, livestock (pigs/goats/chickens). Non-farm activities include beekeeping/weaving /natural dyeing/food processing/plant nurseries. We will train individuals from 600 households (80% women) in their chosen options, providing materials to get started/help turning training into confident practice. Village champions/HEC-mitigation committee members will be taught to help households access government crop compensation/micro-loan schemes.
• Share knowledge/build capacity: Project findings will be shared with target communities 3-times at their own meetings held after the agricultural year (around project year-end). By organising/participating in local/national HEC-mitigation workshops and producing articles for publication, we will share project findings with other organisations addressing HEC (government and non-government) in Assam/India/elsewhere to inform HWC/HEC policies/practice. We will exchange information/ experiences between this project and BAT's Myanmar project (Darwin 27-012). At its region-wide gathering, we will give a presentation to members of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, including its HEC taskforce. BAT will also leverage its own networks/platform, including leaders in conservation, High Commission in India, its Royal Patron HRH The Prince of Wales, and leaders from the South Asian diaspora/philanthropic community to raise awareness of HWC/share learnings from the project.

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.

BAT has worked with local and global partners to design an intervention that builds capability and capacity at multiple levels:

Individual/Community:
• Local champions will be trained, and supported to record data, undertake outreach activities, and support others to access social/government entitlements, building their confidence and position in communities beyond the project.
• 1,300 households (50% of households in target villages) will better understand elephant behaviour and ecological value, and how to protect their property/families, particularly from elephants, empowering individuals and communities to address these challenges and appreciate this flagship species in the long-term.
• 60 people will be trained as trainers to support the installation of fencing and train community members to install and maintain these fences, providing them with key skills of benefit to their community and a central role in that community
• 600 households will receive livelihood training, increasing their capacity to earn and develop a sustainable livelihood.
• Village infrastructure will also be strengthened through the establishment of seasonal fencing and Village Fence Committees to support them.

Institutional:
• This project builds on the IUCN guidelines and will evidence their applicability in HEC hotspots. Aaranyak is a member of the IUCN and BAT has an ongoing relationship with this group, ensuring opportunities for sharing learning with other stakeholders, feeding back into the guidelines and for other members to operationalise this in different geographies.
• This project will build on existing good practice and learn from the experience of similar programmes delivered by BAT and Aaranyak, particularly BAT's work in Myanmar (Darwin 27-012). By sharing existing manuals and resources, the project will build on proven intellectual property and improve the capacity of all institutions involved.
• Gathering and sharing evidence and learning is embedded across the project activities to build best practice across the sector

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.

Target districts include indigenous groups (Tai Ahom, Mishing, Deori, Motok, Garo, and Rabha are the largest ethnic groups) and migrant workers. In these communities, women have equality in decision-making/household affairs and greater freedom to work/own assets than elsewhere in India. However, gender inequalities remain.

As a result of their gendered roles in communities, men and women's vulnerability to HEC is different. As primary carers, women encounter elephants while procuring natural resources and in/around their homes and villages. Meanwhile, men come into contact with elephants in the fields and often have responsibility for protecting the villages and their families from incidents of HEC. As a result, data collected and analysed by Aaranyak across 5 districts in Assam from 2018-2021 shows a higher number of male deaths due to HEC (21) than female (5). As such, interventions required to improve the safety of both women and men are different.

Moreover, data collected by Aaranyak also shows that the majority of women are involved in income generating activities and could adopt additional livelihoods such as handicrafts/livestock-management/kitchen gardens. Women are also socially allowed to form women's groups and committees for their self-development and economic security, and the education of women and girls is increasingly supported.

The project will incorporate the lived experience of target women and men, holding profiling/skills assessment sessions to inform/design interventions that empower them. The sessions will identify and analyse gender perspectives of daily life and social affairs, and explore inputs for the empowerment of women at an individual, group and community level. Analysis will also be made of how interventions may impact workload, time/space/context, and individual agency. An initial assessment has already been carried out in preparation for the project and potential areas for intervention identified. For example, supplementary livelihood activities will focus mostly on women (80%).

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?

• Individuals/households: Knowledge and understanding of elephants and other key species (including ecology and migratory patterns), strategies to mitigate HEC and improve safety, and issues affecting local biodiversity (collection of firewood, fishing, illegal hunting) will be increased through the production and dissemination of printed/audio/visual educational materials and delivery (by village champions) of educational workshops. In addition, knowledge and skills regarding livelihood options will be improved through workshops and training. Improvement will be measured with pre-and post-workshop/training evaluations, while behaviour change will be measured by project staff and village champions through direct observation and secondary information gathering. Materials will all be produced in local languages and project staff will work closely with villagers and village leaders/institutions from the beginning, through rapid and participatory assessments, to ensure activities are fitted to the needs of the community and those vulnerable to HEC.
• Villages/communities: Outreach/mobilisation meetings with village heads, Panchayat members, village development

committees, youth club members, women Self Help Groups, teachers, and farmers will raise awareness of the issue of HEC and engage them in the project. Understanding of the impacts and mitigation strategies for HEC and project progress will be shared in communities through educational materials, disseminated by village champions/at village meetings, online, and through local media (radio/print) Awareness/understanding will be measured through reports covering community feedback and downloads and shares of educational materials online.

• Practitioners and decision-makers: Awareness and understanding of best practice in HEC mitigation strategies, combining biodiversity protection and livelihoods interventions, will also be improved among practitioners and decision-makers at a local and global level, including civil society organisations, Forest Departments, Civil Administration, Power Departments, District level government and international and bilateral agencies. To this end, the project aims to publish learning from the project and hold workshops/seminars with stakeholders to influence for adoption of best practice.

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.

Short-term:
• HEC-affected villagers: 1,300 households will improve their knowledge/understanding of elephant behaviour/ecology/how to live safely alongside them, resulting in adoption of HEC avoidance measures. We will thereby facilitate a 75% reduction in human deaths across 20 communities.120kms of seasonal fencing protects fields/key assets, resulting in a 40% reduction in damage to property, including shops/stored grain, and 30% reduction in crop losses. Additionally, 600 impoverished households (3,000 people) in 20 HEC-affected villages will experience a 30% income increase leading to a decrease in household poverty in HEC-affected communities. The livelihoods intervention will primarily focus on training women (80%), particularly women head of households.

• Elephants and biodiversity: By increasing villagers' knowledge of elephants, the ecological value of them/their habitats, and the role of other key species (deer, gaur, boar, leopards, primates), we will facilitate the understanding that underpins coexistence and reduce HEC-induced elephant deaths by 40% in target areas. Project beneficiaries will also sign a pledge not to log illegally, or hunt bushmeat, an agreement that has proved highly effective in previous interventions where similar HEC mitigation measures have been established (results provided in cover letter). By learning about elephants and how to facilitate their passage in a safer, RRU teams will reduce the fear that induces defensive-aggression in elephants. They will thus help reduce the reactions that can lead to human and elephant deaths.

Long-term
• HEC-affected villagers: By educating communities on the causes of HEC and sustainably increasing the capacity of villagers through training to educate others (village champions) and protect/supplement their livelihoods (HEC affected households), the project will ensure communities in biodiverse landscapes continue to live in a way that promotes coexistence. By establishing systems of management, facilitated by local champions and a village committee, to continue installing/maintaining seasonal fences, help villagers apply for government loans/compensation schemes, and generate extra household incomes, we will ensure this collaborative initiative continues to have a beneficial impact on villagers and quality of life in communities after this project has ended.

• Elephants and biodiversity: By enabling communities to think more positively towards elephants, through raising awareness and incomes, elephants are much less likely to be killed. By forming well trained RRU teams to facilitate the safe passage of elephants around villages, elephants will also become less defensive-aggressive in the target areas. By educating villagers on the value of protecting biodiversity, including elephant habitats and corridors, and by motivating them to pledge not to log illegally or hunt bushmeat, this project will reduce and may reverse biodiversity loss in target areas.

• HEC mitigation policies and practice: By following IUCN's HWC Guidelines and demonstrating an effective approach to HEC mitigation, we aim to improve the way HEC programmes are conceptualised, designed and delivered across India using evidenced methodology, best practice, and learnings from field experience. Because the programme methodology will be locally and regionally focused, as well as aligned to international guidelines, we believe there is great opportunity to scale this work to additional hotspots in the Northeast India and beyond.

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.

BAT and Aaranyak's experience in other communities/geographies shows when villagers learn about elephants/causes of conflicts/ways to avoid harm, they become more positive towards elephants and actively promote coexistence.

Our experience also shows the intrinsic link between conservation and poverty reduction. By enabling communities to live safely alongside elephants, understand their significance, and enable elephants to pass by unhindered, we will reduce human/elephant deaths. By focusing on interventions that protect household/community assets and promote supplementary livelihoods, we will ensure a reduction in poverty and improve attitudes/behaviours towards biodiversity. Evidence from Aaranyak's work in other Assam districts shows villagers stop illegal logging, hunting bushmeat and other detrimental practices once they understand the consequences and no longer need the extra income.

The combination of a reduction in human/elephant deaths and increase in incomes will promote coexistence, protecting elephants/their habitat. Evidence from a range of sources (Fritz, 2017) show the crucial role elephants play in maintaining forest ecosystems. By protecting them and their habitat, we will contribute to the restoration of a vital biodiverse landscape. In the longer-term, by promoting collaboration and sharing learning, and testing the IUCN HWC Mitigation Guidelines, enabling replication and improving implementation of HEC interventions beyond the target areas.

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?

By the end of this project, villagers in 20 target communities who learned about elephants and avoiding HEC are likely to share their knowledge, so that more households will adopt the HEC mitigation measures promoted by this project. At the same time, the trained HEC champion in every village will continue to raise awareness by sharing knowledge about elephants, tactics for avoiding HEC, and the value of biodiversity conservation. The trained fencers in every village, as well as informed fence committee members, will continue to install, maintain, monitor and remove seasonal fences when and where needed by community members to reduce livelihood damage by elephants.

Community RRU teams will continue to manage an HEC-alert network to warn villagers of the presence of elephants and ensure their safe passage, reducing the defensive-aggressive reactions in people and elephants that tend to exacerbate HEC. A hundred households will continue to generate supplementary incomes from the enterprises established under this project, and trained individuals, most of them women, may use their knowledge to start other enterprises and/or share their skills with other villagers. Aided by the HEC-mitigation champion and village committee members, community members will continue to access government loan/compensation schemes which can be used to finance more micro-enterprises.

The Aaranyak team will maintain its involvement with the target communities and associated district officials, but will advise, or supervise, rather than manage, giving assistance as needed to help project activities become embedded in communities' own cooperative systems. Meantime, Aaranyak aims to extend this project approach and methodology, modified by any lessons learned, into other HEC hotspots in Assam. They will also share the approach, protocols and the lessons learned with relevant government, NGO and academic organisations to help inform and improve HWC and HEC policies and practice in India and elsewhere.

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

⤓ <u>R28 Darwin Application Bibliography</u>	⤓ <u>BAT HEC Hotspots Assam and Meghalya Map</u>
📅 31/01/2022	📅 31/01/2022
🕐 14:44:19	🕐 11:59:33
📄 pdf 56.92 KB	📄 pdf 360.82 KB

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 <u>Risk Guidance</u>**. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.**

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the <u>Risk Assessment template</u> **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
Fiduciary Funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for properly: i.e. misappropriation of funds, fraud or corruption. Funds not used as intended and project impact compromised as a result.	Major	Rare	Moderate	• Financial due diligence on partners to ensure all policies and practices are fit for purpose and enable proper financial management • Ensure all financial management processes and policies are followed and all relevant staff have trained • Spot/audit checks conducted as appropriate and local staff to oversee finances/check expenditure	Minor
Safeguarding Harm caused to members of the community, particularly those who are vulnerable, as a result of intentional or unintentional behaviours, equating to abuse or neglect.	Major	Unlikely	Major	• Due diligence checks on partners to ensure proper policies, procedures and clear reporting processes are in place • Spot checks to ensure incidents are reported and dealt with properly across the organisation • Ensure proper HR checks and training are in place for all staff in contact with communities	Moderate
Delivery Chain Working in remote and rural parts of the country through a regional partner, undermines the delivery of the project due to lack of control of project activities resulting in impact to project	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	• BAT's experienced staff in India will work closely with Aaranyak, conduct project visits and support the delivery of the project • Good communication and relationship with Aaranyak to ensure regular updates on delivery and activity • Clear and regular reporting will identify any challenges early for BAT to respond	Minor
Risk 4 Community engagement: Critical members of the community not engaged, or bought into the value of the project	Major	Unlikely	Major	• Build good relationships with key members of the community and local stakeholders early • Participatory approach and transparent process followed to ensure the project is designed in collaboration with the community • Working with local partner and others who know the community and local context, language etc.	Moderate

Risk 5	Major	Possible	Major	• Ensuring good relationships with key stakeholders early	Moderate
Policy and Local Government: Relevant local political stakeholders, and civil servants are not engaged or bought into the value of the project				• Designing the project in a consultative way and introducing it early to senior leaders in local government	
Risk 6	Moderate	Possible	Major	• Plan for contingency and delays	Moderate
COVID- 19: Ongoing pandemic forces lock downs or restrictions that restrict movement or activity locally including local outbreaks or peaks in cases.				• Review what activities, if any, can be done remotely, respecting social distancing and other precautions taken like conducting activities outside • Clear protocols for protecting against the spread of COVID-19, including providing masks, hand sanitiser and hand washing facilities	

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_FINAL
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    docx 42.78 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**).**

The project incorporates a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework centred on the project's primary beneficiaries - villagers in biodiverse landscapes affected by HEC. Project progress and performance will be monitored and

measured against the log frame, timetable and budget provided.

BAT will promote an adaptive approach to project delivery, working with Aaranyak to regularly review and adapt activities based on evidence from the field. We will also build a learning agenda to share findings across the sector. Our team will check data, verify information and conduct project visits to ensure the programme is being delivered to the highest quality. The following methodologies will be used to monitor and evaluate project interventions:

• Rapid Rural Appraisals will be used to assess the broad demographics provided at the inception meetings by district officials for each target village and to plan the more detailed socio-economic/HEC surveys conducted in each village by project staff and local volunteers.

• Participatory Rural Appraisals in each village will be used to verify the data/profiles provided by the socio-economic/HEC surveys.

• Pre and post education and training workshops/meetings surveys will assess improvements in knowledge, understanding and skills.

• GIS mapping in target locations, augmented by additional data collected throughout the project period, will build an ever better understanding of local biodiversity and HEC issues, monitor changes over time and inform us of any need to modify our actions.

• Trained volunteers will work alongside project staff to gather data on behaviour change in participant households through direct observation and secondary information, as well as the work they are doing, such as recording applications for government grants for crop loss/micro-enterprise loans. Volunteers will also be trained to gather data on signs/sightings/movements of elephants and other key species in or near the village using specially developed forms.

• Village Fence Committees will be established to work with trained fencers to monitor and maintain the seasonal solar powered fences, including collecting data on their effectiveness using elephant sightings/signs and damage to fences and crops, modifying the system as needed.

• RRU teams will be trained to log elephant alerts, record details of elephant encounters, HEC incidents and responses.

• Village Development Committees will monitor and document the progress and efficacy of the supplementary income-generating enterprises implemented by project trainees.

• Village meetings at the end of each agricultural season will form an important beneficiary feedback mechanism whereby villages comments/complaints/feedback will be gathered by project staff.

Aaranyak will be responsible for collecting, collating and analysing monitoring data during the course of project activities. BAT will be responsible for validating and reviewing the project data, as well as meeting all Darwin Initiative reporting requirements.

The BAT team will engage an independent MEL consultant to support Aaranyak to set up the right approach tools, and systems to collect data around the relevant indicators to evidence impact. The MEL consultant has worked on similar projects and will provide experience, best practice and capacity building support to ensure this is done properly and effectively.

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	209

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.

    ⤓ <u>R28_Darwin St2_LogFrame</u>

    ▦ 31/01/2022

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    ▤ pdf 149.35 KB

Impact:

Human elephant coexistence (HEC) enabled at landscape level in Northeast India by safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of people and elephants, resulting in improved welfare of communities and biodiversity protection.

Outcome:

Effective application of IUCN Guidelines-based HEC mitigation model in 7 HEC-prone districts in Assam/Meghalaya, resulting in increased incomes for 600 households and improved protection for Asian elephants/other rare species

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Profiling the problem and building evidence: Specific data gathered and analysed for the 7 target districts, including on the human population and local biodiversity, focusing primarily on elephants, HEC, and other rare species

Output 2:

Promoting security for people and elephants by raising awareness: Knowledge and understanding of elephants, HEC and strategies to improve safety/security is increased for at least 50% of households in 20 villages across 7 districts (n=2600 total households)

Output 3:

Protecting livelihoods and assets: A system of seasonal crop protection is established in 20 target villages, involving the installation of temporary fencing and the formation of local Rapid Response Units (RRU)

Output 4:

Promoting supplementary livelihoods: Income generation support through training opportunities and access to finance facilitated for 600 households in 20 target villages

Output 5:

Sharing knowledge and building capacity: Skills, learning and best practices derived from this project, and from other national and international HEC projects, are shared locally, regionally and internationally to inform and capacity-build project partners and other human-wildlife coexistence (HECx) facilitators in India and elsewhere.

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.

1.1 Conduct an inception meeting in each district (n=7) for the project implementing team and government stakeholders (Forest Dept and District officials) to discuss/agree a project plan, identify 20 target villages, sources of existing information on the chosen sites, and plan to collect additional necessary information.

1.2 Conduct an outreach and mobilisation meeting in each of the selected villages (n=20) to explain the project and gain

'buy-in', including village heads, Panchayat members, village development committees, youth club members, women Self Help Groups (SHGs), teachers, farmers etc. We will aim to reach at least 20% of the population of each village, and identify and recruit village volunteers (10 per village) to carry out the profiling surveys.

1.3 Conduct a 'Rapid Rural Appraisal', a socio-economic survey, in each village as part of the outreach and mobilisation meetings to develop community profiles, establishing the baselines and providing an understanding of the dependence of each community on natural resources shared by both people and elephants, as well as their culture and history.

1.4 Conduct Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) questionnaire-based surveys to verify data socio-economic data gathered and data on HEC pattern, damage and loss to farmers, existing practices of HEC mitigation, and its effectiveness. Based on the RRA information gathered, the project team will select representatives of different demographics (women-headed households, daily wage earners, landed farmers, landless farmers etc.) and conduct surveys through project team members and volunteers.

1.5 Establish a system to monitor elephant movement/behaviour through sightings/signs reported by villagers (to be verified by Aaranyak and the village 'champion' see 2.1 below) and fence guards/monitors. Data gathered will include elephants/key species from sightings/signs around villages, HEC patterns, human deaths/severe injuries from HEC, damage to property and crop loss with estimates of cost; existing practices of HEC mitigation, and their effectiveness.

1.6 Analyse the data gathered, prepare GIS maps, write reports, and disseminate the results to concerned stakeholders (including to village meetings).

2.1 Recruit a 'champion' for each village (n=20) to help coordinate, organise surveys, gather data, and liaise with those affected by HEC. Champions will largely be selected from the volunteers who support with the socio-economic surveys and will be chosen based on their interest in the work, literacy, dedication to the cause and communication skills.

2.2 Meetings led by the Project Team with relevant specialists to develop an education strategy, module, timetable, and materials to raise awareness.

2.3 Develop printed/audio/visual IEC (Information, Education, Communication) materials in Assamese and Garo plus other local languages as needed, these will be disseminated through trainings and events in local communities, as well as on social media. We aim to reach 100,000 people across a variety of channels.

2.4 Train village champions to help deliver the outreach programme to raise awareness about elephants, avoiding HEC, and conservation.

2.5 Conduct awareness events in each target village (via village organisations), at least six events per village (n=120) over an 18 month period (Q1, Y2 – Q2, Y3. The events will involve adults and youth, but with separate events for women. We aim to reach at least 70% of the village population (n=1,800 households) over the six events.

2.6 Working with the village champions, establish a system to monitor whether targeted households adopt best practices to minimise/avoid HEC through direct observation (for example, whether the households are still using illegal electric fences, harming elephants using spears while chasing away) and secondary information gathering (for example, complaints from Village Heads, members of Village Defence parties)

2.7 In consultation with the project M&E specialist, establish a system to monitor the impact of awareness-raising activities, conducting assessments to reveal their effectiveness so that the approach, or activities, can be modified if necessary.

2.8 Hold a workshop for media personnel to generate awareness about elephants and HEC to facilitate positive reporting on conflict issues, and to help modify the aggressive methods often used by the government anti-depredation squads which can cause elephants to become aggressive.

2.9 Conduct a series of Q&A radio shows (at least five) with local radio stations to raise awareness about elephants, and develop a short film, on HEC mitigation and the role people play.

3.1 Hold one community dialogue in each target village (n=20) to share best practices to mitigate and reduce crop-raiding and damage to property (including grain stores), at least 70% of the HEC affected households will be represented.

3.2 Under the village committee, establish a village fence committee (VFC) comprising at least 20 members to manage and maintain the solar fences.

3.3. In year 3, VFC will be supported to set up a revolving fund with seed funding of approximately GBP300 from the project to sustain the fences post the project period and install new fences

3.4 Form Rapid Response Units (RRU), one per village (n=20) comprising 10 members, training them in non-aggressive methods of deterrence and involving them in alerting villagers to the presence of nearby elephants through app technology.

3.5 Provide training, assisted by trained RRU members, for government anti-depredation squads on basic elephant ecology and behaviour, causes of HEC, and involve them in monitoring elephants and HEC so as to improve their own practices and performance and help reduce conflict.

3.6 Produce a best practice manual for members of the RRUs and government anti-depredation squads.

3.7 Provide the RRUs/ADS with field gear, and villagers with torches, solar street lights (if appropriate) and first aid kits to help them facilitate safe passage for elephants and to monitor HEC.

3.8 Produce a manual in Assamese and Garo on how to install, manage and maintain a solar-powered fence to be used by

fencing trainers, fence owners, fence committee members.
3.9 Install up to 120kms of non-lethal, solar-powered, seasonal fences based on site need and the movement of elephants.
3.10 Working with the village champion, farmers and fence committee, establish a system to collect and collate data on the effectiveness of the solar fences, reporting the results and making them available.

4.1 Assess markets, value chains, micro-finance opportunities and viable supplementary livelihood options for HEC-affected people in target villages.
4.2 Conduct consultation workshops, at least two in each village (n=40), to select beneficiaries from 600 households to be supported with supplementary livelihood opportunities.
4.3 Conduct capacity-building training programmes on the supplementary livelihood options for the registered beneficiaries. Any individual from each of 600 selected households aged 18 or above can participate and engage in the livelihood opportunities.
4.4 Provision of materials and tools needed to implement livelihood option, as well as hand-holding support. Specific materials will depend on the livelihoods selected.
4.5 Provide help to the beneficiaries to establish a system to process, add value and market the products they develop through this project.
4.6 Link the livelihood beneficiaries with appropriate government schemes facilitated by Aaranyak, the village champion and literate members of the village committee.
4.7 Conduct annual evaluation and impact assessments to measure project progress and performance against outputs and outcomes
4.8 Document case studies and other qualitative data, including quotes, videos and photographs, and feedback from project staff.

5.1 The project team will join a village meeting to share findings from project activities with local communities. Meetings will be joined in every village at the end of each project year (n=60)
5.2 Preparation and publication of five reports/journal articles, sharing the learning and findings from the project. Reports/articles will be shared on partners' websites and disseminated through partners' social media and networks.
5.3 Hold workshops/seminars to share project findings and lessons learned with practitioners in order to institutionalise them and ensure sustainability. 10 online/offline workshops/seminars will share learning with different or combined stakeholder groups (including civil society practitioners, funders, and policy makers) and three workshops will be held to specifically inform India's National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan, and its Guidelines for HEC Mitigation
5.4 Conduct an exchange study-trip programme of the project personnel to and from BAT's HEC intervention in Myanmar (Darwin 27-012) to learn and share knowledge on successful implementation of holistic HEC projects involving livelihood interventions and seasonal solar fencing.

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 <u>Finance Guidance</u> **for more information.**

- <u>Budget form for projects over £100k</u>

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.

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.

Based on our experience managing large, multi-stakeholder programmes with partners in India, BAT has assessed the risks relevant to the successful delivery of the project and identified thosethat could undermine proper financial management. Issues include poor budgetary control, fluctuating foreign currency, Fraud, Bribery, corruption and inflation. We have identified various mitigation steps that our experienced staff will implement during the course of the project to ensure effective financial management and project delivery:

• Clear financial procedures, manuals and controls across all organisations to ensure timely payments, proper financial records and systems for data, including following privacy regulations and using accounting software as appropriate
• Clear budgetary planning, reporting and reforecasting procedures to ensure thorough forecasting, planning and reporting on budgets linked to delivery of activities and log frame.
• Robust policies to address fraud, bribery and corruption, including a clear no tolerance approach, training, reporting mechanisms, and whistleblowing protections where necessary
• A foreign currency policy that recognises fluctuations, takes a cautious approach to managing risk and provides an accurate approach to budgeting and reporting, including using spot rates, quarterly average rates to set budgets, and absorbing gains to cover loses when required.

Q26. Funding

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

◉ New Initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new initiative. It builds on learning and experience of work by both BAT and Aaranyak in other locations (as outlined above), but will be the first initiative of this nature in these locations. Since 2002, Aaranyak has been working in other HEC hotspots in Assam, delivering and developing a range of interventions, including HEC education, solar fencing to protect fields and property, as well as starting to explore livelihood enhancement schemes. Aaranyak is currently working in Conflict Hotspots 1, 2 and 3 in Assam, as shown on the Map of HEC Hotspots in Assam and Meghalaya accompanying this proposal. This project will refine their approach, particularly in the areas of livelihood interventions and seasonal fencing, and deliver it in seven districts in three new hotspots:

• Jorhat, Majuli, Sibsagar, Charideo,and Dibrugarh in Assam (Conflict Hotspot 4)
• Tinsukia in Assam (Conflict Hotspot 5)
• West and North Garo Hills in Meghalaya (which form part of Conflict Hotspot 1)

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.

Capital items represent 8% of the budget and include materials central to the project activities (solar fencing equipment and GPS units for monitoring wildlife) and required for project delivery (laptops, motorbikes and cameras). BAT and

Aaranyak will maintain an asset register throughout the life of the project. On completion, we propose the following:
• Laptops, cameras, motorbikes and GPS units: Based on previous projects, the anticipated life span of these items is 5 years. They will be purchased by and the property of Aaranyak, who will continue to utilise the equipment to deliver HEC interventions in the target communities or surrounding communities going forward.
• Solar powered fencing equipment: As outlined in the methodology section, village fence committees will be established to manage and maintain the solar fences. The ownership of the fences will be transferred to the village committees via an MOU, which will outline their responsibilities for maintenance.

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.

Economy:
• Where possible, resources have been leveraged across interrelated activities and activities designed to contribute across multiple outcomes
• The budget will be monitored on an ongoing basis and spend managed efficiently to maximise outputs and impact
• Rapid and participatory assessments will ensure resources are targeted to identified need/context
Efficiency:
• Activities have been designed to reach whole villages (n=2,600 households), leading to improvements in knowledge/understanding/behaviour across at least 50% (n=1,300)
• Existing partner and village infrastructure and resources will be used where possible.
Effectiveness:
• We have good evidence, including from BAT and Aaranyak's own work, of the efficacy of the interventions. Project evaluations evidence the impact of the HEC education approach on human/elephant deaths, crop losses and villagers' behaviour towards biodiversity, and Aaranyak's 3-year livelihoods pilot in Manas Tiger Reserve shows a 40% annual increase in incomes across 756 households.
• Global learning and guidance regarding HEC mitigation models and livelihoods interventions have informed the project design, including the IUCN HEC Mitigation Guidelines and learning from BAT's HEC mitigation project in Myanmar (Darwin 27-012)
Additionality/Equity:
• Households most vulnerable to HEC in target communities and need of support will be identified using rapid and participatory socio-economic surveys. Women will be included throughout, with separate workshops/trainings for their inclusion.
• Benefits of the project will be seen long after it ends, including the increase in earnings, the building of local and community knowledge and capacity, the longevity of the fencing and all the local mechanisms facilitated.

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.

We take several steps to ensure we have the highest standards in safeguarding, including@
• Strong policies and procedures to clearly outline guidance, and expectations around standards of duty and care and reporting concerns. This includes having a dedicated safeguarding lead both within the organisation and the trustee group, safeguarding officer and a Safeguarding Working Group where these issues are regularly discussed
• We conduct HR checks for all staff including obtaining appropriate references and DBS/police checks as appropriate.
• We conduct thorough and regular training for all staff and partners where relevant to ensure that all policies and procedures are clear and staff supported to ensure safeguarding in the community
• Our due diligence covers safeguarding to ensure that any partners policies, procedures, and culture reflect our own standards and
• We have worked with partner, Aaranyak, to assess their capacity to manage safeguarding risks and believe they have the systems, people, and commitment to manage this. They have a number of relevant policies that cover these issues and an Internal Complaints Committee where these issues are discussed. We will support them to improve their practices where appropriate and conduct checks to ensure policies are being properly followed

Q30. Ethics

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

BAT is a registered company the UK and meets all UK legal requirements. Aaranyak is registered in India and meets all legal requirements there. Both organisations have policies that outline clear standards for principles and behaviours that are expected from staff and partners including Code of Conduct, Equal Opportunities, Conflict of Interest and Safeguarding.

BAT's localisation agenda ensures we are locally led, and our programmes team are based in India. The Aaranyak team are based in the Northeast where they have been established for many years and where the work will be conducted. Many of their team are from and/or based in the community. They are committed to honouring the value of traditional knowledge, and proper consent in relation to working in the community following IUCN ESMS guidelines. They are committed to developing guidelines of their own to reflect these principles. With respect to research, Aaranyak follow the Standard Operating Procedures set by the Government of India and the state of Assam.

Aaranyak have received awards including, Institutional Award in the Field of Science and Technology, Sansad Adarsha Gram Yojana-Good Practices Award and the RBS 'Earth Heroes' Award, recognising their contribution to scientific research and environmental protection.

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, advice attached

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

  ⤓ British Deputy High Commission India_Letter of Support
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  🕐 13:28:32
  📄 pdf 107.14 KB

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?
Belinda Stewart-Cox	**Project Leader**	10	Checked
Auro Shashwat	Programme Manager	45	Checked
Dr Bibhuti Lahkar	Aaranyak Project Lead: Overall Coordination	50	Checked
Dr Alolika Sinha	Biodiversity Lead, including documentation and data analysis: Overall Coordination	70	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⊙ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Jayanta Kumar Pathak	Education and Outreach Specialist	50	Checked

Bipul Das	Livelihoods Specialist	50	Checked
Abhijit Boruah	Conflict 4 region: Profiling the problem and building evidence	100	Checked
Rubul Tanti	Conflict 5 region: Profiling the problem and building evidence	100	Checked
Anjan Baruah	Garo Hills region: Profiling the problem and building evidence	100	Checked
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.

⤓ R28 Darwin St2 Application_CVs
🗓 31/01/2022
🕘 13:31:19
📄 pdf 597.99 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:	British Asian Trust
Website address:	www.britishasiantrust.org

| Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): | BAT (project lead) launched in 2007 by HRH The Prince of Wales and a group of British Asian business leaders. Since then, we have impacted the lives of 6.6 million people across South Asia through child protection, education, livelihoods, and mental health interventions. In 2019, BAT merged with Elephant Family, a leading conservation organisation, combining our expertise in wildlife conservation, livelihoods, and strategic collaboration to achieve large-scale, sustainable change. Building on Elephant Family's track record and expertise, our conservation programme pioneers and scales lasting solutions to protect people and wildlife in biodiverse landscapes. Our 3-year HEC project in Myanmar (Darwin 27-012) received the highest rating of A++ from the Darwin reviewers based on its first phase.

Led by Belinda Stewart-Cox and our India Team, BAT's responsibilities include:

• Programme/Grant management, including due diligence, monitoring workplans/deliverables, regular review meetings/project visits, reporting, financial oversight, data verification, coordination between project stakeholders.
• Capacity building to ensure strong systems are adopted for MEL/safeguarding /linking conservation/HEC mitigation with proven strategies in livelihood development.
• Regional/cross-sector learning and best practice sharing, connecting key stakeholders. Working with IUCN's HWC/HEC taskforces, linking with other BAT programmes, and leveraging BAT's networks across the diaspora, private sector, philanthropy and government. |
|---|---|
| **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:	Aaranyak
Website address:	https://aaranyak.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Aaranyak (implementing partner) was registered in 1989 and their work centres on conservation of biodiversity in Northeast India through research, environmental education, capacity building and advocacy for legal and policy reform to address ecological security. In 2002, Aaranyak formed the Elephant Research and Conservation Division (ERCD), which will be leading on this project with BAT. They calculate that, in the past 10 years, the work of the ERCD has saved the lives of approximately 700 elephants and led to the successful restoration of 6 sq. km of elephant habitat in HEC hotspots in Assam. This project brings together the experience and learnings from across these interventions to effect improvements in the ecosystem of as-yet-unreached HEC hotspots in Assam and Meghalaya. Led by Bibhuti Lakhar, Head of the ERCD, and team in Assam, key responsibilities include: • Project intervention design, using a data and community-led approach managed by a team with experience in HEC/working in the local context. • Local stakeholder management/collaboration with local communities, forest departments, other relevant officials. • On-ground implementation, management/delivery of agreed interventions, including risk management /adaptation based on local changes/challenges. • Monitoring/evaluating project progress/impact, including data capture, analysis, and review.
Allocated budget:	████████
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

2. 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

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.

⤓ R28 Darwin St2 Application_Letters of Support	⤓ R28_Darwin_St2_Cover Letter
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🕐 13:33:48	🕐 13:33:34
🄰 pdf 754.55 KB	🄰 pdf 248.44 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
27-012	Belinda Stewart-Cox	Promoting human-elephant coexistence through education and seasonal fencing
24-024	Belinda Stewart-Cox	Integrating biodiversity and elephants into peace and development
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*

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

British Asian Trust

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	Richard Hawkes
Position in the organisation	Chief Executive
Signature (please upload e-signature)	⇩ RH_Signature 📅 31/01/2022 🕓 13:37:23 📄 png 42.75 KB
Date	31 January 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

⇩ BAT Annual Accounts (2020-21)
📅 31/01/2022
🕓 14:43:20
📄 pdf 1.44 MB

⇩ BAT Annual Accounts (2019-20)
📅 31/01/2022
🕓 13:36:28
📄 pdf 2.62 MB

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

⇩ BAT Safeguarding of Partners and Communities Nov 2020
📅 31/01/2022
🕓 13:36:40
📄 pdf 283.56 KB

⇩ BAT Safeguarding Policy Statement Nov 2020
📅 31/01/2022
🕓 13:36:34
📄 pdf 126.34 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.

Unchecked

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 <u>Forms and Guidance Portal</u>.

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).