
DIR28S2\1047

Improved conservation and community benefits in Kenya's critical mountain forests

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PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Donna
Surname Sheppard
Organisation Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Christian
Surname Lambrechts
Organisation Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
Website [REDACTED]
Tel [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Donna
Surname Sheppard
Organisation Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Website [REDACTED]
Tel [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Improved conservation and community benefits in Kenya's critical mountain forests

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

DIR28S1\1535

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

Freshwater (streams, rivers and lakes)

Biome 3

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

Conservation Action 1

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

Conservation Action 2

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

Conservation Action 3

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Threat 1

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

Threat 2

Human intrusions & disturbance (recreation, war)

Threat 3

Climate change & severe weather

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.

Rhino Ark aims to effect lasting change in two forest ecosystems by addressing habitat degradation, biodiversity decline, engaging communities in conservation, and economically empowering them through sustainable livelihoods.

Our project will resolve illegal logging in the Aberdare ecosystem through forest restoration, build a 10 kilometre electrified fence, and support community guides to establish a lucrative ecotourism circuit. In South Western Mau, forest degradation and wildlife poaching will be addressed through a community-based forest surveillance, commercial beekeeping and forest restoration programmes.

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 No Response

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2022

End date:

31 March 2025

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

2 years, 8 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£145,218.00	£160,015.00	£74,086.00	£ 379,319.00

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?

In-kind salary and operational support. This includes:

a) Provision of five 4x4 vehicles and one motorcycle:

- One Land Rover Defender and one Kibo 160CC off-road motorcycle in support of tree planting in SW Mau;
- One Toyota Land Cruiser in support of fence construction and maintenance in Aberdares;
- One Toyota Land Cruiser in support of the SW Mau Community Ranger Team;
- One Suzuki Escudo in support of project management;
- One Suzuki Jimmy for the Project Leader.

b) 10% salary support for the technical Project Leader;

c) 50% salary support for KWS and KFS government rangers working with community members in joint forest security units;

d) salary support for KWS Fence Officer and KWS Fence Technician;

e) salary support for KFS Forest Station Managers (Ndoinet and Geta) for their technical support in tree planting and

assistance in engaging with the community forest associations.

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?

Of the ██████████ of matched funding, we have ██████████ unconfirmed. This is related to the tree planting in SW Mau. We are actively engaging the private sector in Kenya and are confident that several companies will come forward to provide the required matched funds. In the worse-case scenario, we will re-programme our core activities downward so that we can provide the ██████████ from our core funds.

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).

Kenya's mountain forests are essential habitats for wildlife including endangered, critically endangered, or declining populations of leopard, mountain bongo, black rhino, and elephant to name but a few. Furthermore, they act as critical water catchment areas, and are the source of major rivers that provide the much-needed water to Nairobi, which is the key contributor to Kenya's GDP. These rivers support the livelihoods of millions of households in the rural areas. They are also the lifeline of key conservation and tourism areas downstream, including key lakes.

Despite their importance, forest habitat loss and degradation has continued despite various conservation interventions. The key drivers of forest degradation are illegal extractive activities and unsustainable subsistence use. People enter illegally into the mountain forest protected areas to offset their economic challenges. Most often, they enter for timber harvesting, logging of red cedar (*Juniperus procera*), over-collection of fuelwood, bush meat hunting, charcoal production, and livestock grazing (although the latter may be permitted on a sustainable basis). These activities are carried out without a thought to the future, or to the possibility of alternative choices that would minimize the negative impacts on the natural capital upon which they depend for their long-term development.

A key impediment to sustainable use of forest resources by community members is that they interact with the forest and its resources as individuals and not as a cohesive group or association that would be able to co-manage the forest with the Kenya Forest Service and secure user rights, as provided under the Forest Conservation and Management Act of 2016.

In addition, community members lack the capacity to upscale some of their conservation-based livelihood activities from subsistence to commercial levels which would enable them to increase substantially their income and detract them from unsustainable or illegal forest resources extraction. For example, communities adjacent to South Western Mau are beekeepers using traditional log hives, but they have no capacity and organized framework to increase production through hive modernization, market access and improved quality standards to ensure delivery of commercial-grade honey. In northern Aberdare, community members, on occasion, take tourists to Table Mountain but they have no capacity or resources to develop and market trekking trails, and guide tourists for multi-days treks towards Olesatima Peak and the Twins Peaks.

Rhino Ark is in a position to use considerable experience acquired over 32 years in the conservation of Kenya's mountain ecosystems and the expertise of its public and private partners to safeguard the integrity of forests, conserve their biodiversity and maintain their ecological functions by transforming the interactions of forest-adjacent communities with their forest and its resources while alleviating poverty. This will be achieved by organizing communities into forest associations co-managing the forest, create bio-enterprises, and provide pro-conservation employment.

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)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

The project will support the commitments made by the Government of Kenya under the following multilateral environmental agreements:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (entered into force in Kenya on 24 Oct 1994). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art.8 (d), (e), (f) by protecting the forest ecosystems and its wildlife (the entire South Western Mau Forest Reserve and the northern part of the Aberdare ecosystem); promoting conservation-compatible livelihoods within the forest-adjacent communities (establishment of a community-based patrol team and a beekeeping cooperative society in South Western Mau; development of a community ecotourism association in northern Aberdares), and rehabilitating degraded forest areas (60 hectares in South Western Mau and 20 hectares in the northern part of the Aberdare ecosystem).
2. NAGOYA PROTOCOL (entered into force in Kenya 12 October 2014). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art. 1 and 5 by operationalizing two community forest associations that will be able to enter into an agreement with KFS to secure user rights; Art. 6 by carrying out a prior informed consent process before implementing the project activities.
3. CITES (entered into force in Kenya on 13 Mar 1979). The project will contribute towards the implementation of Art. II (4) and Art. VIII (1) by helping protect species listed in CITES Appendices (Appendix I: African elephant, leopard; Appendix II: Yellow-backed duiker, *Prunus africana*).
4. RAMSAR (entered into force in Kenya on 5 Oct 1990). The project will contribute towards the protection of the northern Aberdare, which is the upper water catchment of Malewa River, a main tributary to Lake Naivasha listed as a Ramsar Site.
5. UNFCCC (entered into force in Kenya on 28 Nov 1994). The project will contribute towards Kenya's National Adaption Plan (2015-2030) by enhancing the resilience of key mountain ecosystems to climate variability and change, and support Kenya's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) by replanting degraded areas towards achieving a tree cover of at least 10% of the land area of Kenya.

The project will contribute towards the following SDGs:

- No 1 No Poverty: by promoting poverty alleviating conservation-compatible livelihoods (establishment of an 8-person community patrol team in SW Mau; establishment of a beekeeping cooperative society in SWM benefiting 50 beekeepers; development of a community ecotourism association benefiting 10 guides, 15 porters and 5 cooks, replanting 80 hectares providing employment for 1208 persons).
- No 6 Clean Water and Sanitation: by rehabilitating critical upper water catchment areas for Malewa River (Aberdares) and Sondu and Mara Rivers (SW Mau).
- No 13 Climate Action: by enhancing carbon sinks (forest protection enabling natural forest regeneration over 19,000 hectares of degraded forest in SW Mau; replanting 60 hectares and 20 hectares of heavily degraded forest in SW Mau and northern Aberdare respectively) and increased ecosystem resilience to climate variability through forest protection and restoration.
- No 15 Life on Land: by protecting and restoring forest ecosystems in SW Mau and northern Aberdare that have a rich

biodiversity, including threatened species (e.g. African elephant, Mountain bongo, leopard, African golden cat, Yellow-backed duiker).

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 Need

Kenya's mountain forests offer essential habitat for wildlife, they act as critical water catchment areas, and are the lifeline of conservation and ecotourism areas downstream, including important Kenyan lakes. Yet, forest habitat loss and degradation continues to put these habitats under survival pressure.

Fundamentally, Kenyans are conservationists, and, given the opportunity to benefit financially from conservation action, they will readily engage. It will only be through integrated community engagement in conservation that Kenya's mountain forests have hope of surviving into the future.

Proposed Approach

Since 1988, Rhino Ark has existed in order to protect Kenya's mountain forests – Mt. Kenya, the Aberdare, the Mau Complex and Eburu Forests. We are uniquely poised to employ over 30 years of experience to effect positive change. To implement the project, and based on lessons learnt and implementation success from the past, Rhino Ark's conservation work will be anchored in the following approach:

1. Protecting the integrity of ecosystems, including wildlife and ecological services;
2. Ensuring full involvement and participation by local communities at all stages of projects;
3. Forming effective partnerships – we have just 15 of our own staff members, but have 200 to 300 people working on our projects across all mountain ecosystems;
4. Developing long-term arrangements – we ensure sustainability by continuing investing in the ecosystems where we operate well beyond the duration of any projects.

Project Design

We are a small, field-based organization, implementing practical solutions to the challenges affecting mountain forests by establishing community and government partnerships based on mutual trust and respect.

Field methodology includes interventions based on high quality, applied science, including gps mapping, photo/video documentation, conservation fencing, and forest restoration measures. We prioritize conscientious field monitoring and management; recruitment of field-wise consultants; and diligent financial oversight.

Materials and Methods

1. Forest restoration

- a) The replanting, micro-fencing, and maintenance of 60 hectares of forest in the Tirigoi area of the SW Mau; 20 hectares of forest in the Aberdare using 88,000 KFS-recommended indigenous tree species by end of 2024;
- b) Hiring and equipping of 1,200 tree planters (600 woman; 600 men) to plant 88,000 seedlings and an additional 8 community tree caretakers (4 women; 4 men) hired to safeguard and maintain re-planted areas.

2. Community livelihoods

- a) Re-building of Community Forest Association (CFA) forest co-management structure in Geta (Aberdare) and Ndoinet (South Western Mau) as evidenced by zonal elections and official registration with Registrar of Societies in 2023; and completion of membership drives in 2024 and beyond;
- b) Training of 50 beekeepers (women and men) in modern honey production techniques and established within a beekeeping cooperative concerned with commercial grade honey production;
- c) Registration of 10 women, 20 men in a community ecotourism association, trained as guides (10), porters (15), and cooks

(5) using 40kms newly documented and signposted mountain hiking trails;
d) Hiring of 10 tree nursery attendants (5 women; 5 men) in Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, to manage the establishment of 2 model tree nurseries.

3. Forest security

- a) Construction of 2 forest outposts built near forest crime hotspots in South Western Mau;
- b) Construction and maintenance of 10 kilometres of conservation electric fence (from Wanjohi to Shamata) in north-western Aberdare;
- c) Hiring, training and equipping of 8 community scouts (6 men; 2 women) in South Western Mau.

4. Communications

- a) Presentation of annual project progress reports and final results to CFAs at their AGMs;
- b) Progress reports given to KFS and KWS on South Western Mau at bi-annual aerial surveillance meetings; and on Aberdare at monthly Fence Technical Committee meetings;
- c) Facilitation of annual large-scale community gatherings for wide information sharing;
- d) Progress reports to national and international partners/supporters through our biannual ARKive newsletter and social media channels;
- e) PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa (e.g. ICCB, Pathways).

Management

Rhino Ark has a senior field manager overseeing technical, managerial and financial responsibilities for each of the South Western Mau and Aberdare components. These managers collaborate with community and government stakeholders, and other Rhino Ark staff to complete project deliverables.

Our field managers blend field duties, overseeing activity implementation, with office duties, ensuring higher level project communications and planning are well covered. They report to the Executive Director on a continuous, ad hoc basis, when guidance is required.

Time-sensitive project deliverables are under risk of delayed completion due to timeline delays in the field. However, Rhino Ark managers are conversant with nuanced field risks and challenges, and are expert in detecting alternative solutions.

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 capabilities and capacity will be built organizationally and individually in this project through structured trainings, exchange visits, mentoring, and specific project elements delivered in partnership with specialized organizations:

1. For Geta and Ndoinet Community Forest Associations:

- a) Financial management, board operations, and leadership training courses;
- b) CFA bench-marking trips to successful CFAs in Kenya including Karura Forest.

2. For the SW Mau Community Rangers brigade:

a) 8 community members (6 men; 2 women) trained and certified at nationally recognized forest security training courses; and mentored through exchange visits to the Aberdares Joint Security Unit (AJSU) – a recognized joint community / government ranger team established by Rhino Ark with KWS.

3. For the SW Mau Beekeeping Cooperative members:

a) 1-week honey training courses for 16 members x 3 training courses at the National Beekeeping Institute, Nairobi.

b) Trainings for women will include:

- beekeeping activities using Langstroth hives outside of the forest, and installed in fenced apiaries on the ground;
- tailoring courses for the construction of beekeeping suits.

c) Trainings for men will include:

- beekeeping activities using Kenya Top Bar hives / modified traditional hives inside the forest, hung in trees to avoid predation from honey badgers.

4. For the Community Ecotourism Association in Aberdare:

Training programmes with recognized certification standards for 10 women; 20 men in positions as guides (10), porters (15), and cooks (5).

5. For the community tree nursery staff:

Nursery establishment trainings for 4 men; 4 women beneficiaries including seedling management, planting for long-term survival, and marketing carried out by KFS.

The post-project value to Kenya from these numerous capacity building activities will be a groundswell of increased recognition of the importance of healthy habitat in our project areas, realized through gradual shifts in understanding, engagement, and employment in mountain forest conservation activities.

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 South Western Mau community is predominantly of Kalenjin ethnicity. Gender roles are highly differentiated, and women are culturally excluded from beekeeping, for example. Women don't speak in male-led community forums, and often don't have a say in family financial matters. This presents an implicit barrier to women participating in non-traditional (or new) activities without approval and support from men.

Among the Kikuyu ethnic group of the Aberdare ecosystem, while gender roles are differentiated, there are generally higher acceptance levels for women participating in economic activities. However, gender barriers still exist, and men often control resources and land even when the income has been earned by women.

These gender-based inequalities result in economic disempowerment of women, which goes against the spirit of the Kenyan "two-thirds" regulation – i.e. no gender may exceed $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total number for an activity or opportunity.

The project will take a 'do no harm' approach to address the structural and practical barriers to gender inequality as follows:

- a) Work closely with local administration when sensitizing communities about each project so that government partners support equitable participation of each gender;
- b) Implement women-only forums for community engagement where women are required to contribute, and use women leaders/facilitators;
- c) Implement a 50/50 split for gender-neutral labour assignments by systematic recruitment; ensure that payments are made directly to the persons (women) doing the work;
- d) For activities with cultural restrictions (e.g. beekeeping), set aside roles such as processing, sewing of beekeeping suits, and marketing for women that don't breach cultural limitations;
- e) For roles that potentially lock out women due to special risks or vulnerabilities (e.g. forest rangers), design the work to reduce or mitigate risks to ensure participation; and
- f) Implement systems to track and analyse gender participation levels, including attendance lists that capture gender information.

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?

Project outputs will be documented and shared with our stakeholders who include members of Geta and Ndoinet CFA, Kenyan government partners (KWS, KFS, Ministry of Agriculture, KEFRI), wider community stakeholders in Geta/Bushi, Wanjohi and Ndoinet Location and the international conservation community.

Annual project progress reports and final project results will be presented to CFAs at AGMs followed by Q&A sessions. Progress reports will be shared with government partners (KWS and KFS) during existing periodic (monthly, quarterly or bi-annual) meetings. Annual community barazas (meetings) will be held at Geta/Bushi, Wanjohi and Ndoinet Location. Progress reports to our national and international partners and supporters through our bi-annual ARKive Newsletter, Rhino Ark social media channels, and Rhino Ark mailing list e-shot updates. The outputs will also be presented at science conferences in East Africa (e.g. ICCB, Pathways).

Rhino Ark organizes journalist field trips to our projects to have independent mainstream media reporting. This includes print media, local radio, and television stations. On a quarterly basis, Rhino Ark will be producing periodic mini-documentaries (videos) for wide distribution.

A map brochure for the ecotourism hiking trails will be shared with our stakeholders. Data, reports and maps will be downloadable from Rhino Ark Website (www.rhinoark.org) free of charge.

To address language barrier problems, both Kiswahili and the local dialect – Kikuyu and Kipsigis- in Aberdare and SW Mau respectively will be used during all field-based meetings. A feedback mechanism will be established that will include the sharing of the telephone number of Rhino Ark Field Officer with our stakeholders, a suggestion box to be provided at Geta and Ndoinet Forest Station office, and a widely-shared Rhino Ark hotline number.

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.

Forest edge residents surrounding mountain forest ecosystems in Kenya tend to be under-employed. The vast majority participate in family agricultural activities, however these rural families can increase their resilience to environmental shocks such as climate unpredictability through supplemental employment opportunities such as those generated from this project.

Attitudes towards the environment, as measured in household surveys conducted by Rhino Ark in two other mountain ecosystems in which we work, indicate that men tend to value economic ecosystem services while women as well value the heritage and health benefits of nature. We have taken these attitudes into account, and are confident that our programmes will bring about benefits in line with our constituents' values.

Short Term Changes

For biodiversity: In the short term, forest flora and fauna will benefit from increased security through reduced disturbance from illegal human activities such as logging, charcoal burning, poaching, and from the construction of a 10km protective barrier in a vulnerable area. The critically endangered remnant population of black rhino in the Aberdare for example, and the over 600 elephants in SW Mau forest, plus numerous other species, will benefit directly from the removal of hunting parties, traps, and snares leading to reduction in wildlife injuries and deaths.

For poverty alleviation: New jobs will be created for 8 people (6 men; 2 women) as community forest rangers with the goal of improved forest security at the SW Mau. In addition, forest restoration activities including tree planting, support, in the short term, will provide employment for 12,008 people (604 men; 604 women), and bio-enterprise development will offer economic opportunities for almost 90 people in beekeeping (50 as yet undermined gender splits), ecotourism (20 men; 10 women), and community tree nursery bio-enterprises (4 men; 4 women).

Links between the two: A small sub-sector of the rural Kenyan population is engaged in illegal forest activities. Although these activities have contributed to biodiversity losses, they have also engendered excellent traditional ecological knowledge, bush craft, and tracking skills among the poachers. By offering conservation employment to them, the project will benefit from acquiring the most knowledgeable community members; those rangers in turn will benefit from secure and steady employment; and the mountain forest flora and fauna of SW Mau will benefit from an increased safe environment.

Long Term Changes

For biodiversity: Our project interventions will lead to increased closed canopy forest, increased wildlife populations, and protected water resources through establishment of a more secure forest habitat.

For poverty alleviation: The livelihood initiatives will increase resilience to climate change and improve overall security for households living in forest-adjacent communities. Rural youth from employed families established through this project will benefit from increased available funding for educational opportunities.

Links between the two: Our poverty alleviation measures will lead to increased environmental awareness and

pro-conservation behaviour, as former forest criminals reduce their participation in illegal activities, and become strong advocates for forest conservation.

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.

Rhino Ark is based within Kenya, possessing an extensive track record and credible reputation. This is a substantial enabling feature of our pathway to change. This powerful positionality enables us to mitigate risk associated with major travel and health shocks facing the world at present, and intimately understand assumptions and risks as part of our ongoing lived experience, including extensive knowledge of the people and issues breached in this project.

In addition to the summary provided in our Theory of Change diagram (attached), some examples of expected Outputs contributing to overall Outcome, and informing expected Impact include:

- a) Rehabilitation of 60 hectares of degraded forest in South Western Mau, 20 hectares in the Aberdare will increase natural forest cover and contribute to the mitigation of climate change.
- b) Establishment of bio-enterprises such as the beekeeping cooperative and community-based tree nurseries will provide income from modernized/alternative revenue streams to reduce poverty while increasing forest cover and conservation awareness.
- c) Establishment of a community forest surveillance unit will provide direct employment to 8 community members, resulting in a more secure forest, a system for forest data collection to support wider forest management, and the expansion of community participation in forest conservation.

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?

Rhino Ark's conservation approach is based on a long-term commitment to each ecosystem in which we are involved. This provides an assurance of continuing institutional technical support beyond any project funding cycle. We have evolved specific strategies for each project category (infrastructure, community livelihoods and forest conservation) to ensure that the gains accruing from the project are maintained and propagated.

Once the Aberdare fence is built, Rhino Ark will support the maintenance costs from its own core funds. A standing Fence Technical Committee comprising technical staff from key partners will oversee fence maintenance. This mechanism has proven to be robust and scalable over Rhino Ark's 33 years of operations in that ecosystem.

Under forest rehabilitation, the 3-year active seedling maintenance period provides assurance for seedling survival to a self-sustaining level. Beyond this period, our field officers will, in collaboration with respective forest managers and community representatives, undertake periodic monitoring of replanted sites. This will be galvanized by the CFA-strengthening component of the project, providing a more robust institutional framework going forward.

Under the beekeeping programme, the establishment of a beekeeping cooperative under the Kenya Co-operative Society bylaws, will provide the self-sustaining framework. Rhino Ark will continue to provide ongoing technical support and work with the cooperative to grow and up-scale membership.

The 2 security outposts to be built will be managed by Kenya Forest Service as part of their essential infrastructure, and thus fall under an existing government framework once handed over.

The model for the joint community surveillance unit has been honed by experience in another Rhino Ark ecosystem, and is considered an essential conservation service. Under this model, Rhino Ark will support the recurrent costs for the unit from core funds beyond the project funding cycle.

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

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
Fiduciary Funds issued at field level may be misappropriated or not accounted for.	Moderate	Rare	Minor	Staff are compelled to submit complete returns before a new imprest is issued. The returns are checked for completeness by the Administration Manager and the Accountant. All the accounts, including all the returns are checked yearly by the Auditors. Unaccounted funds are to be refunded by staff.	Minor
Safeguarding Staff are exposed to safety risks while working in wildlife areas.	Moderate	Rare	Minor	Staff are accompanied with KFS or KWS rangers while working within protected areas. Upon joining Rhino Ark, they are covered by one of the world leading health insurance companies (CIGNA).	Minor
Delivery Chain Delays in the supply of goods (fence material, tree seedlings, tools and equipment) may affect the delivery of key outcomes.	Moderate	Possible	Major	To mitigate such risks, Rhino Ark has stock of fence material from which material can be borrowed for other projects. We procure tree seedlings from several tree nurseries and have established our own tree nurseries on Mt. Kenya. We have several reliable suppliers for tools and equipment.	Minor
Risk 4 Climate Variability: the risk of delayed rain season or drought. Tree planting usually take place at the onset of the long rain season (March-May). However, due to climate change there are variation in the long rain season that may delay tree planting or reduce tree survival.	Moderate	Possible	Major	The site selected in SW Mau (Ndoinet) enjoys good rain across the year due convergence of winds from the Indian Ocean and from Lake Victoria. The situation in Northern Aberdare (Geta) differs. In case of drought, water will have to be brought with a water bowser.	Minor

Risk 5 Political unrest: the risk of unrest due to disputed election outcome in August 2022. After the disputed election in 2007, chaos emerged in several parts of the country disrupting normal operations for several months.	Major	Unlikely	Major	Kenyans learned from 2007 and went through peaceful elections in 2012 and 2017. In 2007, the Aberdare region was not affected unlike the SW Mau region. If unrest emerged there, we may continue some of our operations as our field staff is from the majority ethnic group of that area.	Minor
Risk 6 Operational: the risk that partners are not able to support project activities as planned. Several project activities will be implemented with technical support from partner organizations (e.g. KFS, KWS) who may not be able to provide support as planned.	Major	Possible	Major	Provision has been made in the budget to facilitate KFS and KWS technical officers and rangers in case they have no funds to mobilize themselves towards supporting the project activities.	Minor

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.

 [FINAL R28-St2-RA Timetable 31jan22](#)

 31/01/2022

 15:58:25

 pdf 803.64 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](#)).

Project monitoring and evaluation will be carried out based on a multi-disciplinary approach, with specific tasks assigned to different staff depending on their field of specialty, as follows:

1. 80Ha Forest restoration

Aberdare and Mau Field Managers will monitor and evaluate the tree planting projects. Parameters to monitor the results will include number of seedlings planted, the survival rate and the growth rate.

2. The 10km conservation fence

On a monthly basis, the Fence Technical Committee (FTC; a multi-stakeholders committee comprising of KWS, KFS, CFA, National Administration) will physically inspect the fence and measure the length (KM) constructed. Conformity to the fence design will be verified. Fence progress report and deliberations of FTC meetings will be minuted. Monthly financial returns will be prepared and verified by the project Accountant. Compliance with Kenyan laws especially regarding Public Participation, Prior Informed Consent, observing 1/3 gender rule when recruiting fence construction team from the local community will be monitored by the FTC.

3. Beekeeping Cooperative

On a monthly basis the Lead Applicant (with over two-decade experience in implementing bio-enterprise projects) will monitor project activities ranging from the socio-economic household survey to training of beekeepers and registration process of the cooperative society. She will ensure that all the required permits under the Forest Act are obtained. The project Accountant will monitor and evaluate the annual financial reports.

4. Community ranger scout brigade:

Activities of the patrol team will be monitored by Rhino Ark Mau Landscape Manager. Monthly patrol field report (including the patrol register) will be emailed to KWS, KFS, Rhino Ark and CFA regional offices. The impact of the patrol effort will be assessed and monitored by number of arrests made and successful prosecutions, number of snares removed, number of charcoal kilns destroyed, among others. Strict compliance with Kenyan laws, in particular human rights, when handling forest and wildlife offenders will be monitored.

5. Eco-tourism project

Rhino Ark Field Manager based at Aberdare will monitor day to day project process and activities. Quarterly financial reports will be monitored by the Project Accountant.

6. Communication

The Project Lead and the Public Relations Officer will continuously monitor communication with our partners and stakeholders. Annual project progress reports and Rhino Ark Newsletter (ARKive Magazine) will be widely shared. Feedback from Rhino Ark website and social media platform will be continuously monitored and a response provided if needed.

Rhino Ark Accountant and Administrator will monitor all financial returns. All accounts, including all of the returns will be checked yearly by the auditors. An external and independent consultant will be hired to monitor key milestones achieved and assess the impact of the project.

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

105

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.

-  [FINAL St2-RA LogFrame 31jan2022](#)
-  31/01/2022
-  15:28:32
-  pdf 240.91 KB

Impact:

Kenya’s vital mountain forest ecosystems protected and restored, contributing to improved biodiversity and human welfare while serving as a scalable model for conservation of other montane forests.

Outcome:

Forest conservation through integrated community engagement in South Western Mau and Aberdare resulting in 90,000ha of forest safer, 80ha restored, 3 community enterprises established, 2 community forest management structures operationalized.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

1. Forest restoration – 80 hectares heavily degraded mountain forest secured, replanted and maintained in South Western Mau and the Aberdare providing job opportunities to 604 female and 604 male community members.

Output 2:

2. Community livelihoods – Through Geta and Ndoinet CFAs, 3 community enterprises established (forest honey, ecotourism, and tree nurseries), creating 90 jobs and benefiting forest-edge communities while supporting the conservation of 90,000 hectares in South Western Mau and Aberdare.

Output 3:

3. Forest security – 3 new forest security infrastructural elements established and capacity built for 15 community rangers to undertake joint government / community forest patrols.

Output 4:

4. Communications Project outputs documented and shared with target audiences (CFAs, Kenyan government partners, community stakeholders, and international conservation community).

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

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

Output 1: Forest Restoration

- 1.1 Survey and secure restoration sites
- 1.2 Micro-fence the restoration sites
- 1.3 Identify through the CFAs the tree planters
- 1.4 Select, procure and plant indigenous forest seedlings
- 1.5 Monitor and maintain the replanted sites

Output 2: Community Livelihoods

- 2.1 CFAs re-building programme
 - 2.1.1 Conduct community CFA sensitization meetings across all administrative zones
 - 2.1.2 Facilitate election of CFA board representatives
 - 2.1.3 Support the legal registration process
 - 2.1.4 Conduct membership drive and registration of members
 - 2.1.5 Support the convening of the AGMs and review progress made over the past year
- 2.2 Commercial forest honey enterprise
 - 2.2.1 Carry out survey to gather data on individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups
 - 2.2.2 Undertake GPS mapping for all hives belonging to individual beekeepers and beekeeping groups
 - 2.2.3 Establish beekeeping cooperative with constitution and bylaws through negotiation meetings with representatives from all constituent beekeeping groups and individuals including selection of 10-member pioneer committee to lead the group to 1st official cooperative meeting and elections
 - 2.2.4 Conduct beekeeping training programmes with the National Beekeeping Institute (in Nairobi and in situ at South Western Mau) on modern beekeeping methods (hive construction and maintenance, colony management, use of beekeeping suits, harvesting techniques, adaptations to cold weather conditions, etc.)
 - 2.2.5 Select suitable location and acquire a rental property to commence honey processing activities; purchase honey processing equipment including extractors and bottling machines
- 2.3 Ecotourism enterprise
 - 2.3.1 Convene meetings with Geta CFA to identify candidates to participate in the guides, porters, and cooks training programme
 - 2.3.2 Contract a certified mountain guide consultant to carry out training courses for guides, porters and cooks
 - 2.3.3 Equip community ecotourism staff with branded uniforms, raingear, backpacks, sleeping bags, and other camping equipment
 - 2.3.4 GPSreplace map all trails and document useful landmarks and natural features towards the creation of tourist brochure/maps
 - 2.3.5 Clear and maintain all trails, camp and picnic sites through contracted labour
 - 2.3.6 Design and erect trail markers and signage
 - 2.3.7 Official commissioning of trails network and community ecotourism association
 - 2.3.8 Support the CFA in promoting trails network and community ecotourism programme via social media and national media houses
- 2.4 Community tree nurseries
 - 2.4.1 Identify through the CFAs, the tree nursery attendants and issue contracts
 - 2.4.2 Train tree nursery attendants in nursery management by KFS
 - 2.4.3 Prepare land and seedbeds, construct perimeter fence and other nursery structures
 - 2.4.4 Procure seeds and tree nursery tools
 - 2.4.5 Official public launch of nurseries, and promotion on social and other media
 - 2.4.6 Biannual review of tree nursery performance

Output 3: Forest Security

- 3.1 Two forest security outposts established (knowing that we already have a) KFS approval; b) a known standard outpost design template; c) secured forest locations)
 - 3.1.1 Procure construction materials for forest security outposts
 - 3.1.2 Build 2 forest security outposts
 - 3.1.3 Officially hand over the 2 forest security outposts to Kenya Forest Service
- 3.2 Ten kilometers of conservation fence built between Wanjohi and Shamata in Geta Forest Station, Aberdare
 - 3.2.1 Leaders and community sensitization meetings
 - 3.2.2 Procure fence construction materials, tools and equipment
 - 3.2.3 Establish forest boundary beacons by KFS surveyors
 - 3.2.4 Recruit community labour and establish fence construction camp at Wanjohi
 - 3.2.5 Official launch of the fence project "Placement of the First Post ceremony"
 - 3.2.6 Fence alignment, construction of the fence and energizer house

- 3.2.7 Fence construction committee field inspection and site meetings
- 3.2.8 Official Commissioning of the fence "Placement of Final Post ceremony"
- 3.2.9 Establish fence maintenance system including recruitment of 2 Fence Attendants
- 3.3 Community forest patrols established
 - 3.3.1 Develop standard operating procedures for the community forest patrols
 - 3.3.2 Recruit, train and equip the 8-member community ranger team
 - 3.3.3 Establish patrolling schedule; supervise and manage community rangers

Output 4: Communications

- 4.1 Convene community barazas (meetings) and CFA briefings
- 4.2 Provide briefings to field-level partner staff during periodic joint project inspections
- 4.3 Present project reports at executive level partner meeting (including aerial surveillance meeting, fence technical committee meetings)
- 4.4 Issue quarterly project updates through Rhino Ark Mailing list e-shot updates
- 4.5 Publish project reports through Rhino Ark's biannual ARKive newsletter and website
- 4.6 Publish social media story posts
- 4.7 Organize media (journalist) field trips
- 4.8 Produce periodic mini-documentary (short video) for wide distribution
- 4.9 Make PowerPoint presentations at science conferences in East Africa

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.

 [BudgetRhinoArk-DIR28S1-1535 Final](#)
 31/01/2022
 20:44:05
 xlsx 80.98 KB

Q25. Financial Risk Management

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

We have considered the financial risks of this project, and will be able to mitigate those risks. With respect to fluctuating foreign exchange rates, we have observed limited fluctuations between annual average exchange rates between the British Sterling and the Kenya shilling. However, within any year some fluctuations can be observed. In order to mitigate

against these fluctuations, we intend to receive the grant funds in our GBP account in Kenya and convert into Kenya shillings when the exchange rate is most beneficial.

We are aware of many implementation challenges that emerge when rolling out programmes in rural communities. These challenges can greatly impact timelines. We have added a time buffer around our activities to cater for this. With Darwin funds disbursed on an annual basis, this creates some restriction on natural implementation flows. We have considered this in project design to ensure funds are not placed in the wrong implementation year.

The misappropriation of funds is addressed in established procedures through Rhino Ark's financial team ensuring that field spending and major purchases are suitably monitored. Monthly disbursements are made in tranches and the next funding tranche is not disbursed until the prior disbursement has been fully accounted.

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:

The proposed project is a blend of new initiatives - benefiting from lessons learned in other ecosystems - and upscaling of pilot projects:

- a) The establishment of a honey cooperative in SW Mau is a new initiative in that ecosystem, drawing from experience establishing a similar cooperative in another mountain forest, namely Eburu.
- b) The operationalization of two CFAs in SW Mau and Aberdare is a new initiative in these ecosystems. However, it benefits from experience gained in operationalizing the Eburu CFA.
- c) The establishment of an 8-person community patrol team is a new initiative in SW Mau. It is informed by the successful implementation of a 7-person community patrol team in the Aberdare ecosystem.
- d) Re-afforestation in SW Mau is an up-scaled existing forest restoration pilot project implemented with limited funding from private donors. Re-afforestation in northern Aberdare is a new initiative.
- e) The establishment of two tree nurseries is a new initiative in Aberdare and the upscaling of an existing pilot project in SW Mau.

We have approached the Darwin Initiative because these ecosystems are large; and the required resources are substantial to start these projects. In the long-term, Rhino Ark will be able to maintain these projects.

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.

The capital items including the 2 security outposts, 10km of conservation electric fence, and the 2 model tree nursery structures will remain with the respective community or government agency that is responsible for their long-term care and usage.

Justification for exceeding 10% of total project cost:

Each of the capital items to be procured under this proposal are essential to the realization of the poverty-alleviating pro-conservation livelihoods that form together the main thrust of the project. They contribute directly to project outcomes. As such, they should be considered as integral assets that provide long-term value to the communities and government institutions and support conservation.

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

With an investment of approximately [REDACTED] per hectare or [REDACTED] per person, 90,000 hectares will be better conserved, and the livelihoods and incomes of at least 1,313 community members will be directly improved.

Efficiency

The proposed interventions build upon decades of on-going engagement with central Government agencies and forest-adjacent communities leading to:

- a) Substantially reduced effort and time required to secure trust among implementing partners and beneficiaries;
- b) Commitment by beneficiaries in proposed interventions;
- c) Our interventions receiving higher legitimacy, thereby reducing start-up and implementation costs.

Effectiveness

Rhino Ark has over 30 years of experience in mountain forest conservation and restoration. This has enabled Rhino Ark to increasingly identify approaches and methods that are most cost-effective.

Against an application for a grant of [REDACTED], counterpart contributions amounting to approximately [REDACTED] have been secured reducing the grant amount requested.

Through Rhino Ark's ongoing accountability structure to our Board of Trustees, strong budget forecasting and management are assured.

Equity

Our results are targeted at the poorest, including direct job opportunities for at least 622 women, and, as yet, an undetermined number of women beekeepers.

Additionality

Rhino Ark's similar community-based conservation programmes in other mountain forests, for example, the Eburu beekeepers cooperative society experience, and the 7-member Aberdares Joint Security Unit are replicated in new mountain ecosystems through this project. These new possibilities to replicate our successful programmes would not be possible without help from the Darwin Initiative.

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.

Rhino Ark has a Human Resource policy that explicitly outlines the code of conduct for staff, and to which all staff are bound. At project level, our engagement with key partners is conducted in a structured manner that provides a framework through which recognition of, and facilitating compliance with applicable safeguards can be mainstreamed.

As part of the implementation of the various project components we will provide formal briefings and a copy of Rhino Ark's safeguarding documentation to all downstream partners. This will include provision to government partners, local communities through their respective forest association leadership, and to contractors and consultants that will be engaged. For new team members that will be employed, in particular the forest scouts who will interact most frequently with the community both in and outside the forest, a special module on the policy will form part of their induction training.

To ensure tracking of and compliance to the safeguarding policy, this shall be inbuilt into the agenda for the partners' technical committee meetings that oversee the various aspects of project implementation. This will ensure that issues are appropriately reported and documented, and that follow up action is carried out as needed.

Q30. Ethics

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

Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, the lead organization, is registered with the NGO Coordination Board and operates within the existing legal framework.

The proposed Beekeeping Cooperative Society will be registered with the Cooperative Societies of Kenya and will operate within the by-laws established by the shareholders. Equitable access and sharing of benefits accruing from the Cooperative will be as per the by-laws.

The guides, porters and cooks in the Community Eco-tourism Association will be organized as a Community-based Organization registered with the Ministry of Gender and Social Services and will be led by executives elected by members in a free and fair election.

The success of forest restoration and beekeeping in South Western Mau will be hinged on traditional knowledge of the Ogiek community, a forest dwelling community.

The team implementing the 10km conservation electric fence in the Aberdare will be equipped with the requisite safety working gears and uniforms.

We adhere to the principles of the Prior Informed Consent and Public Participation, in line with the Environmental Management and Coordination (Conservation of Biological Diversity and Resources, Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing) Regulations, 2016.

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.

No

If no, why not?

Rhino Ark staff are based in Kenya and fully embedded within Kenyan society. Our Board comprises top managers from public and private sectors, with great understanding of the Kenyan situation. We have continuous contacts with the relevant National and County governments. We receive daily security briefs from Castor Vali.

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?
Christian Lambrechts	Project Leader	10	Checked
Donna J. Sheppard	Project secretary; technical, managerial and financial oversight of beekeeping component	10	Checked
Eric K. Ngure	Technical, managerial, and financial oversight of South Western Mau Forest component	33	Checked
Adam Mwangi	Technical, managerial, and financial oversight of the Aberdare ecosystem component	33	Checked

Do you require more fields?





Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Catherine Wambui Mwangi	Public relations and communications	20	Checked
Alex Amani	Social media communications	20	Checked
Valerie Robert Gunputrav	Administrative and financial support, staff liaison, and procurement	20	Checked

Kamaljeet Singh Bhari	Financial management and accounts	10	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

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.

 [CVs for Core Project Staff RhinoArk 2022](#)
 29/01/2022
 06:25:31
 pdf 3.84 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: Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust

Website address: www.rhinoark.org

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

Since 1988, Rhino Ark has spearheaded promotion of mountain forest ecosystem conservation in Kenya - contributing to safeguarding the integrity of these critical forests, conserving their biodiversity and maintaining their ecological functions. Our integrated approach incorporates communities into conservation in tandem with pro-conservation livelihood initiatives and employment opportunities.

Rhino Ark's role as a lead partner is providing overall coordination and oversight of project implementation. Our 15-member team comprises staff with a complementary mix skills gained from working in the public and public sectors in local and international organizations.

We enjoy the advantage of being a fully Kenyan-based organization: all project resources will be deployed 100% IN COUNTRY. In each of the ecosystems where we operate, our field officers work closely with communities and partners on a permanent basis, directly monitoring project activities in person. These relationships position Rhino Ark as a trusted long-term partner at both grassroots and institutional levels, and we have delivered projects valued at over £ 19.4 million over 33 years.

Our team is supported by 3 consultants in the areas of accounting and public relations. A high-profile Board oversees Rhino Ark operations, and is chaired by the current Chairman of the Kenya Forest Service.

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:

Kenya Wildlife Service

Website address:

www.kws.go.ke

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

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is the legally mandated state agency tasked with the management of national parks and reserves in Kenya, as well as the oversight of wildlife conservation and management outside national parks and reserves.

KWS participated in identification of the problems this project proposes to address. Quarterly aerial surveys, jointly undertaken by KWS, KFS and Rhino Ark, above the Aberdare Ecosystem and South Western Mau have helped to map out illegal red cedar logging hotspots and provide a count of livestock grazing in the forest reserve.

In this project, Kenya Wildlife Service will participate in the community foot patrols in the South Western Mau Forest

KWS has a Station in Kericho town, bordering South Western Mau Forest, with a team of 30 rangers equipped to undertake patrols. KWS provides the necessary authorization and security support to protect wildlife within this Reserve.

In the Aberdare ecosystem, KWS has one Fence Officer, 5 Fence supervisors and 109 Fence Attendants to repair and maintain the existing 400-kilometres electric fence. The team can be mobilized to re-align, rehabilitate or extend existing fence sections

Allocated budget:

██████████

Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name: Kenya Forest Service

Website address: www.kenyaforestservice.com

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

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) is the legally mandated state agency managing forest reserves in Kenya, providing the necessary authorization and security support to work in the Northern Aberdare and South Western Mau Forest.

KFS participated in identification of the problems this project proposes to address. Quarterly aerial surveys, jointly undertaken by KWS, KFS and Rhino Ark, above the Aberdare Ecosystem and South Western Mau have helped to mapped out illegal red cedar logging hotspots and a count of livestock grazing in the forest reserve.

KFS will:

- a) Provide guidance with the establishment of the two tree nurseries;
- b) Provide guidance and assistance with the rehabilitation of the forests in northern Aberdare and South Western Mau Forest;
- c) Participate in the community foot patrols in the South Western Mau Forest; and,
- d) Assist and participate in the engagement with the local communities via the community forest associations (CFAs).

KFS has a Forest Station in both ecosystems under this project:

- Geta Forest Station (Northern Aberdares);
- Ndoinet Forest Station (South Western Mau).

Each forest station is headed by a Forest Manager, supported by technical staff and rangers.

Allocated budget:

██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

3. Partner Name: Ndoinet Community Forest Association (NOCFA)

Website address: N/A

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The Ndoinet Ogiek Community Forest Association (NOCFA), with a membership of 1,294 individuals drawn from the forest adjacent area, is a registered society under the Forest Conservation and Management Act of 2016. Under this Act NOCFA membership are entitled to participate in co-management of the forest reserve and through a negotiated process with the Kenya Forest Service, is provided with the opportunity to derive specified user rights from the forest.
NOCFA will play a central role in the mobilization of communities for livelihoods projects (beekeeping, tree nursery), forest rehabilitation (equitable recruitment of labour), and recruitment of community rangers for the forest surveillance programme.
NOCFA leadership will be a joint partner in planning and implementing the activities to strengthen the CFA governance structures through capacity building. Their leadership will be members of the implementation committee that will oversee the various projects components and participate directly in the project monitoring processes under this framework.
NOCFA leadership have been engaged in project design through joint discussions with Rhino Ark and Kenya Forest Service, and they have formally endorsed the project through a letter dated 21 January 2022.

Allocated budget: [REDACTED]

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

4. Partner Name: Geta Community Forest Association (GECOFA)

Website address: N/A

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

GECOFA is a registered society established under the Forest Conservation and Management Act of 2016. The Act stipulates that the CFA is entitled to co-manage the forest reserve together with the Kenya Forest Service. GECOFA operations are guided by the Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) jointly developed with various stakeholders. GECOFA was registered in 2005 and was among the pioneer CFAs in Kenya with membership of 4000 individuals drawn from forest-adjacent communities.

Under this project, the GECOFA's involvement with implementation will provide leadership to engage with the community in the following ways:

a) In the construction and maintenance of the 10km conservation fence: by default, CFA executives are members of the Fence Implementation Committee and Fence Technical Committee. Community labour will be hired through the CFA.

b) 40km eco-tourism circuit: community labour will be hired to map, open and maintain the hiking trails. The Porters and Guide Association will draw members from GECOFA.

c) Forest restoration: 22,000 seedlings of indigenous trees will be raised, planted and tendered by the CFA.

GECOFA was actively involved in project design especially in identifying the problem and the proposed interventions as evident in the Letter of Support dated 29th January 2022.

**Allocated
budget:**

██████████

**Represented on
the Project
Board**

Yes

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

Yes

**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.

 [RA Cover Letter R28 Darwin St2 31Jan2022](#)

 31/01/2022


 20:22:02

 pdf 614.95 KB

 [All Letters of Support RhinoArkDIR28S1-1535](#)

 30/01/2022

 08:16:09

 pdf 2 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)?

No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead partner.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 1988
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other (if selected, please explain below)
Other explained	Rhino Ark is a charitable trust: a non-profit non-governmental organization with the legal capacity to receive voluntary donations from the public to fulfil its purpose.
How is your organisation currently funded?	<p>Rhino Ark's core funding comes from the Rhino Charge – a 4x4 competition raising around [REDACTED] annually (except in 2020 & 2021 due to COVID-19).</p> <p>Additional funding comes from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) National foundations (Safaricom Foundation, MPESA Foundation, African Fund for Endangered Wildlife, Mount Kenya Trust) and many contributions (cash and in-kind) from corporates;b) International trusts, foundations and NGOs (Rare Species Conservatory Foundation, Tusk Trust, Calgary Zoological Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, Elephant Cooperation, ClimateCare);c) International organizations (UNDP, UNEP, IFAD) <p>Finally, Rhino Ark receives large in-kind donations from the Kenyan Government through Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Ministry of Water.</p>

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

Aims	Rhino Ark aims to foster the conservation and sustainable management of Kenya's mountain forests and other threatened wildlife habitats, through public/private partnerships, in an equitable, efficient and transparent manner by developing and implementing effective, result-oriented management tools that involve and support the adjacent local communities.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Construction of electric fences to address human-wildlife conflicts and protect mountain forests and their wildlife;b) Engagement and education of adjacent communities in conservation;c) Establishment of wildlife corridors;d) Establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms;e) Advocacy;f) Use of science to assess and guide conservation interventions.

- Achievements**
- a) 650 kilometres of conservation electric fence built and maintained;
 - b) 80,000 households protected from marauding wildlife;
 - c) Engagement of 178 schools in conservation;
 - d) Two community patrol teams operational;
 - e) Creation of two wildlife corridors;
 - f) 570,000 hectares of protected forests better conserved.

Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead partner that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	Mt. Kenya Wildlife Fence Project - Phase V: Tigithi River to Sagana River (State Lodge) - 60km
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	2 years
Role of organisation in project	Rhino Ark is a key partner in this project by a) covering all the labour costs; b) covering site management costs; and c) overseeing the implementation of the project together with Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, the Upper Tana Natural Resources Management Project and Mt. Kenya Trust.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>Aims: Restore harmony between people, forests, and wildlife around Mt. Kenya.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Address human-wildlife conflicts on the south-western slopes of Mt. Kenya Forest and in the Imenti Forest. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 60 km of comprehensive electric fence; b) Three energizer houses; c) Four elephant grids.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	<p>Mrs. Faith Muthoni Livingstone Project Coordinator Upper Tana Natural Resources Management Project Email: [REDACTED]</p>

Contract/Project 2 Title	Eburu Ecosystem Conservation Project
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	8 years
Role of organisation in project	Rhino Ark is the lead coordinating and implementing organization of the project.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>Aims: Enhance the conservation of Eburu Forest</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Address human-wildlife conflicts around Eburu Forest Reserve; b) Establish management tools for better control of access to forest resources; c) Engage community in conservation and support pro-conservation livelihoods. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 43.3 comprehensive electric fence built; b) Three energizer houses built; c) Conservation curricula implemented in the 32 primary and secondary school surrounding the forest; d) 10 tree nurseries established in schools surrounding the forest; e) Participatory Forest Management Plan reviewed; <p>Publication of a visitor guidebook for Eburu Forest.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	<p>Henri Kilonzo</p> <p>Senior Manager Foundations Programmes</p> <p>Safaricom Foundation</p> <p>Email: [REDACTED]</p>

Contract/Project 3 Title	South Western Mau Ecosystem Conservation Programme
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	4 years
Role of organisation in project	Rhino Ark is the lead coordinating and implementing organization of the project.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>Aims: Conserve and restore South Western Mau Forest</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support forest patrols by KFS and KWS rangers; b) Restore degraded forest areas; c) Engage community in conservation. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Uniforms and camping equipment provided to KFS and KWS rangers; b) Training of KFS and KWS rangers in the prosecution of wildlife and forestry crimes; c) 40 hectares of degraded forest areas replanted with young trees; d) Conservation curricula implemented in the 46 primary and secondary school surrounding the forest; e) Pilot sustainable energy programme in 15 schools.

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail) Dr. Kipkirui Langat
Chairman, ISLA / South Western Mau Board
Email: [REDACTED]

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

Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust

I apply for a grant of

[REDACTED]

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 Christian Lambrechts





Position in the organisation Executive Director

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [Certification letter 28January2022 final](#)
 31/01/2022
 20:58:04
 pdf 139.78 KB





Date 28 January 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [Rhino Ark AFS 2020-2021 signed FINAL-compressed](#)
 27/01/2022
 10:40:09
 pdf 2.84 MB

 [Rhino Ark AFS 2019-2020 signed FINAL](#)
 27/01/2022
 10:03:16
 pdf 4.49 MB

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

 [RA - HR Handbook 2014 Ver1.2 Final](#)
 27/01/2022
 10:14:30
 pdf 1.09 MB

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).