
DIR29S2\1027

A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi

The project will work with communities at Chia Lagoon in Malawi to better manage and restore this vital lagoon ecosystem, reverse declines in vulnerable and declining bird species and improve livelihoods. We will establish community-based sustainable hunting groups to better manage waterbirds – a currently unregulated and unsustainable source of food. We will establish bird sanctuaries, restore habitats, and provide biodiversity data for monitoring and the site's assessment as a Key Biodiversity Area. Supplemental, sustainable livelihood opportunities will be supported.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi

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

DIR29S1\1221

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

Freshwater (streams, rivers and lakes)

Biome 2

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 3

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Conservation Action 1

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

Conservation Action 2

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

Conservation Action 3

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

Threat 1

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

Threat 2

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 3

Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project will work with communities at Chia Lagoon in Malawi to better manage and restore this vital lagoon ecosystem, reverse declines in vulnerable and declining bird species and improve livelihoods. We will establish community-based sustainable hunting groups to better manage waterbirds – a currently unregulated and unsustainable source of food. We will establish bird sanctuaries, restore habitats, and provide biodiversity data for monitoring and the site's assessment as a Key Biodiversity Area. Supplemental, sustainable livelihood opportunities will be supported.

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	Malawi	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 2023	31 March 2026	2 years, 10 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████	██████████

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

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

BirdLife will provide co-funding to support key staff salaries and fundraising support amounting to ██████ GBP. Fundraising support is designed to help sustain and scale up the initiative post project.

Additional co-funding will be provided by Malawi University for Science and Technology (MUST) for biodiversity monitoring. Funding comes mostly from the 'Building biodiversity knowledge for action in Southern Africa...' project described in 10c. Estimated at ██████ GBP.

The project is led by South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and MUST is an Implementing Partner.

Additional in-kind support is anticipated from project partners, particularly for the biodiversity monitoring aspects.

Equipment is also anticipated to be donated by the BirdLife Partner in the Netherlands via their refurbished binoculars programme.

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

The cofunding estimated for MUST may vary.

The funds come from the 'Building biodiversity knowledge for action in Southern Africa: Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritization and Planning in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi'. Project activities include in-country assessments of KBAs, a wide range of different species and ecosystem types that are facing pressure from infrastructure and agricultural development, the over-utilisation of natural resources, pollution, biological invasions and climate change. This project has a wide remit, so it is not possible to know at this stage how many resources can be allocated to Chia Lagoon.

Therefore, the estimate given is conservative.

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. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite any evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

Chia Lagoon is linked to Lake Malawi in Nkhotakota District, close to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Chia lagoon is the largest lagoon in Malawi with an area of 17 km² (watershed 989 km²). The lagoon supports 7,857 households. The shallow waters provide a vital natural resource hub for fish, bird and plant biodiversity. However, it is highly threatened by unsustainable resource use, exacerbated by climate change.

Local communities rely on natural resources for subsistence, with 70% at or below the poverty line. Most families are involved in fishing, hunting or farming for subsistence and sale. The project will work with nine villages, Mtanga 2, Bwanakaya, Makuzi, Chiopela, Chongole, Chizongwe, Ngalauka, Chipala, Chikawe, but approaches can be scaled up. These villages have a total population estimate of 14,000 people.

Dwindling fish resources due to overfishing and population growth is driving increases in waterfowl hunting to unsustainable levels. Local Beach Village Committee members indicate that alongside bird hunters, fishermen often catch birds to supplement food at home. The unregulated nature of bird hunting makes estimation of birds taken difficult. However, a comparison with surveys from the larger Lake Chilwa suggests around 30,000-50,000 birds per year. The project will establish a monitoring and management system to better understand bird hunting pressures.

Agricultural expansion, invasive species, wood cutting and pollution compound threats to the site, negatively impacting food security, driving more unsustainable activities and undermining tourism benefits.

Invasive alien species (IAS) such as water hyacinth, prosopis and water cabbage reduce ecosystem value of

the lagoon. The riparian area is also infested by alien eucalyptus that are known to be 'water-demanding'.

Progress is being made to address overfishing in Chia Lake and Nkhotakota District (Darwin 25-009 Fish For Tomorrow). However, there are no efforts towards achieving sustainable management of birds, to establish hunting regulations, or to protect bird breeding areas. Monitoring data is insufficient for appropriate designation or management.

Chia Lagoon supports a rich variety of bird species although anecdotal reports suggest these are declining. The site has no protection or designation as, for example, a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), despite its importance for both waterbirds and threatened fish species. This makes it harder to finance and implement management measures. The project will conduct a KBA assessment, put in place monitoring protocols and make recommendations for the future.

Limited livelihood options, and lack of training and finance, drive unsustainable resource use. The area has an established tourism sector with fishing and birding trips although these suffer due to degradation of bird habitat. However, there is limited benefit sharing with local communities. We will apply the approach used at Lake Chilwa (World Heritage site, South of Lake Malawi), where community structures were established which regulate bird hunting for the benefit of the wider community.

The project will build on the experience of project partner WESM in earlier projects at Chia Lagoon, as well as recent site visits with local and government stakeholders which have confirmed positive support for the project. (See Theory of Change and Annex).

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)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, 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 contributes to:

CBD, NBSAP 2015-2025:

The NBSAP recognises the need to integrate biodiversity conservation into development, highlighting the aquatic ecosystems, especially Lake Malawi, which is facing severe threats. Also, the need to raise

awareness at public and government level.

It is aligned with the NBSAP Goal: To enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the environment and human wellbeing.

And objectives:

- a) Improve capacity and knowledge on biodiversity issues;
- b) Mainstream biodiversity management into sectoral and local plans;
- c) Reduce direct pressures on biodiversity;
- d) Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
- e) Enhance access and benefits sharing.

And targets:

1: Expand capacity for biodiversity monitoring.

2: Harnessing traditional knowledge and practices

Directly in line with initiatives to promote public engagement e.g. through Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) institutions such as Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs), Area Development Committees (ADC), Beach Village Committees (BVCs) and Wildlife Clubs and the ambition to develop Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

3: Increased awareness of importance of biodiversity

6: Restore degraded ecosystems

7: Aquatic biodiversity is managed and harvested sustainably.

In addition to extensive fisheries policies, the NBSAP commits to developing a National Wetlands Policy and promotes conservation of threatened species.

11: Minimizing pressures on vulnerable ecosystems and climate resilience

15: Safeguarding of ecosystem services

16: Benefit sharing, access and traditional knowledge (as per Nagoya Protocol)

The project will contribute to the CBD NBSAP by improving knowledge and awareness of the biodiversity of Chia Lagoon, particularly its bird biodiversity.

It will build on CBNRM efforts by establishing the first Hunting Clubs in Chia Lagoon (in line with those at Lake Chilwa).

It will increase community awareness of the need for sustainable management and provide the support and resources to empower community leadership.

The project will restore degraded ecosystems through natural regeneration and tree planting, provide additional information for a future National Wetlands Policy and identify a new Key Biodiversity Area.

The project is closely aligned with the Ramsar Convention and work towards a national Wetlands Policy and the CMS/AEWA Resolution 6.4 on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Migratory Waterbirds. The project will identify the potential suitability of Chia Lagoon as a Ramsar site.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 2017

The Act outlines which species can be hunted within and outside protected areas and the requirements for licenses and penalties.

The project will help to implement the hunting regulations in the Act, by supporting community-based

management and enforcement and awareness of the regulations.

The project will support the implementation of the newly completed National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP 2021) through IAS clearing and restoration and through access to technical assistance and advice.

It contributes to six SDGs, focusing on poverty (1), zero hunger (2), gender equality (5), sustainable cities and communities (11) responsible consumption and production (12) and sustainable landuse (15) through the management of bird hunting and investment in sustainable livelihoods, especially for women.

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 reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

This project builds on a similar initiative carried out by WESM at Lake Chilwa, which is referenced in Wetlands Policy discussion documents (See Annex). Lake Chilwa is very important for fish and wild birds, supporting around 60,000 people. Bird hunting has long been practised. but was becoming unsustainable. Rather than seek a ban on hunting, WESM worked with local government and communities to establish Bird Hunting Clubs who set up and enforced hunting regulations (licensing, bag limits, closed season, bird sanctuaries). This sustained the wild bird population and provided income for community projects. Avitourism opportunities were also developed. The project will apply a similar approach, adapted for local needs. An exchange visit by community representatives to Lake Chilwa will ensure knowledge transfer.

It complements Ripple Africa's Darwin project (25-009), 'Fish for Tomorrow', as well as other fisheries projects in the larger Lake Malawi.

It applies positive experiences of providing micro-finance opportunities), in partnership with the Microloan Foundation. Meetings with the foundation have helped to understand how locally managed microfinance can complement the project's livelihoods development activities.

It learns from similar conservation agriculture and restoration projects across Malawi, complements work at the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and the local tourism opportunities. It draws on BirdLife's extensive project management experience and global examples of Local Engagement and Empowerment, CBNRM, and advocacy as well as its leadership role in identifying sites important for biodiversity (KBAs). It will also gather insights into the development of avitourism opportunities from other BirdLife Partners.

Project activities will be organised through the delivery of four Outputs

1.0 Chia Lagoon Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and Bird Hunting Association are established and sustainably managing waterbird hunting.

Activities include the engagement of government, existing village structures, hunters, fishers and women to form local Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and an Association, following the Lake Chilwa model. An exchange visit with Lake Chilwa Hunting Clubs will be used to build capabilities amongst Chia Lagoon communities, enhanced by additional training and support. A participatory process will be supported to agree a code of conduct, hunting protocols, enforcement mechanisms of individual Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and an overarching Sustainable Bird Hunting Association.

2.0 Waterbird habitat in Chia Lagoon is better protected and restored

A participatory process will be used to identify bird sanctuaries where hunting will not be permitted, coupled with appropriate marking and signage, identify degraded areas and plan restoration. Restoration actions will be carried out with community members (including the establishment of tree/bamboo nurseries, planting and care, invasives removal and monitoring).

Awareness raising publications/broadcasts and events will be used to inform specific groups and the wider public about the project and the importance of the lagoon and its surrounding area.

A baseline waterbird survey and ecosystem health assessment (Pressure, State, Response) will be conducted. An ongoing Waterbird monitoring protocol will be designed and implemented, and training provided for community participation. Bird ID guides (flagging protected species) will be designed and distributed.

An IBA/KBA assessment will be undertaken (include fish and waterbirds as trigger species) and data shared on the KBA database and training provided to the National KBA Coordination Group.

3.0. Capacity of target communities around Chia Lagoon to pursue alternative, sustainable livelihoods is increased.

Baseline socioeconomic surveys will be conducted.. Village meetings will discuss and propose around five potential enterprises that would be economically viable and sustainable. Following consultation, training and practical support will help establish/improve up to five enterprises that would be economically viable and sustainable.

A micro lending initiative will be set up to support these and other enterprises, targeting women entrepreneurs, including training.

Avitourism will be promoted through outreach to tourism businesses, bird guide training and installation of physical facilities and a study of the potential for avitourism.

4.0 Ecosystem management and restoration are integrated into the wider water management and fisheries management structures

Meetings will be held with, inter alia, stakeholders involved in Fish for Tomorrow, Chia Lagoon fisheries management, Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. A policy review will be undertaken to identify any serious weaknesses, with recommendations, as needed.

Lessons from the project's experience will be disseminated at national level through articles/broadcasts, briefings and meetings and at international level through articles and participation in at least one

international event.

Project Management

BirdLife International will coordinate the project in close collaboration with project partners who will implement, with support, where needed, activities on the ground. A Steering Group will guide and monitor implementation. The project will draw on additional technical support from an Ad hoc Advisory Group. See also Q32.

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, who will benefit, and the post-project value to the country.

Organisational

The implementation of a Darwin project is an excellent capacity development opportunity. It requires attention to the establishment of effective tools for project management, monitoring and evaluation, safeguarding, gender/inclusion and risk management.

WESM has a small, but experienced staff although they have struggled with funding, especially since closure of large projects. Its small core team will benefit from support with project management, site assessment, monitoring and mapping tools, dissemination, advocacy and fundraising. BirdLife's staff will work with the WESM to apply best practice, coupled with additional training.

Government

The capacity building potential of the project will include the engagement of government stakeholders in the development of a CBNRM structure, the Bird Hunting Clubs, for Chia Lagoon. The application of decentralised structures to manage natural resources is an important component of Malawi's policies. There is growing experience of applying this to fisheries, but application to hunting in wetlands is relatively new. Output 4's dissemination activities will contribute to experience sharing and scaling up. Training will be provided for the National KBA Coordination Group as part of the assessment of Chia as a KBA.

Community

The development of local community capacity to understand and take responsibility for the management of natural resources lies at the heart of the project. Capacity building will include awareness raising, practical training and support in the development and running of Bird Hunting Clubs and in the development of more sustainable livelihoods opportunities that reduce pressure on natural resources by diversifying and adding value to economic activities. The project will also build capacity in local land use and climate resilience planning – by engaging communities in all aspects of restoration (nurseries, planting, areas under natural regeneration etc.) Also, the roll out of microfinance opportunities for women, working in small groups, coupled with training.

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. Please summarise how your project will

contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

The project will build on knowledge of local, gender dimensions - from previous projects and through consultation. It will increase women's voices in resource use decision making, by working with existing, or convening, women's groups. The project will facilitate activities in ways that encourage participation of women, and other under-represented groups. Survey and monitoring data will be disaggregated to assess impacts on women.

Although most hunters (and fishers who also hunt) are men, women are engaged in preparation (such as fish drying) and sales as well as cooking, wood and water collection and childcare. They are involved in subsistence and small-scale agriculture. They are equally or more impacted by ecosystem degradation. Based on WESM's experience in Lake Chilwa, it is entirely feasible to include women and young people's participation in local decision-making bodies (Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs, Village Beach Committees, Natural Resource Committees).

The project's alternative, sustainable livelihoods output will particularly benefit the economic empowerment (and social standing and autonomy) of women as they are not occupied with hunting and fishing.

The project includes actions to improve women's livelihoods and provides opportunities to increase women's status and role in decision-making. Key activities, such as business training and access to microfinance are targeted at women, although they will be available to other members of the community. Our identified microfinance provider, Microloan Foundation, works almost exclusively with women, usually in groups so they can provide each other with mutual support. Their loans are accompanied by considerable training and support.

WESM's organisational structure is rooted in local branches, so it is well placed to work locally. It has a major role in the government endorsed wildlife education programme in schools, so it is also deeply involved in supporting future generations to protect their wildlife and natural resources.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who your stakeholders are, 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?

The project's primary beneficiaries and stakeholders are the people living around Chia Lagoon.

The project will raise awareness of the importance of managing the lagoon's natural resources for everyone's benefit. It will increase understanding of the ecosystem value provided by a healthy lagoon, including fisheries, waterbirds, clean water, agriculturally productive soil, pollination, shade, tourism, to name a few.

It will provide information on practical ways that the community can manage hunting on the lagoon so that waterbird numbers increase, thus providing a lasting food resource, but also attracting visitors, adding to the natural beauty and fostering local pride.

The project will support communities to participate fully in resource management in the lagoon, improving understanding of the species there and highlighting ways to reduce pressure on natural resources by

diversification of livelihoods

The project will use community events in villages and schools alongside press, radio and social media to disseminate project learning and raise community awareness. Most importantly, the project will use small group meetings and interviews, linked to existing community structures, such as Village Beach Committee and Natural Resource Committees, and practical demonstrations to share information. Where appropriate, the project will distribute materials (e.g. Bird ID Guides and promotional materials), provide training and erect information signs.

The District Government are very keen to be involved and welcome the project. In addition to holding regular meetings with them they will be invited to participate in project activities where appropriate. For example, the exchange visit to Lake Chilwa will improve district level awareness and engagement.

The project will upload biodiversity data collected to public databases, including the World Bird Database/KBA Database in addition to making non personal data available through the project report and Dissemination actions.

The project will develop a Story Map, using satellite imagery/photos/stories, to illustrate this and other interventions.

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) and the potential to scale the approach.

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.

Long-term:

Waterbird populations of Chia Lagoon flourish and local people and biodiversity benefit from community-based management, improved ecosystem functioning and enhanced, sustainable economic opportunities.

- The project will reduce the unsustainable hunting of waterbirds through the establishment of Community Hunting Clubs and the effective operation of local agreements informed by improved knowledge of the extent of hunting, the likely sustainable level of hunting, condition of the lagoon etc.
- Local people will benefit from a growing and well managed waterbird population that allows for hunting at a sustainable level. They will also benefit from nature friendly livelihood opportunities that reduce the pressure on fisheries, hunting and riverbank encroachment for agriculture.
- Ecosystem benefits from this project (increase in waterbird numbers and diversity and waterside restoration will extend to additional communities living around the lagoon. Scaling up of the Sustainable Hunting Clubs approach, post project, to additional communities will multiply these benefits. Especially when done in parallel with community-based fisheries management (as per Fish for Tomorrow).
- If the biodiversity monitoring confirms that the Chia Lagoon should be designated as an Important Bird/Key Biodiversity Area, this will facilitate further protection and/or conservation actions.

Short-term:

Bird abundance and diversity increases, ecosystem recovers, and the quality of life and sustainable livelihood opportunities improve for Chia communities:

Bird abundance will increase by 30% and diversity by 20%.

Biodiversity knowledge (birds, fish and other taxa) of Chia Lagoon and surrounding area will be available to inform management decisions.

- Waterbird monitoring and bird monitoring for the lakeside area will be thorough and in line with the International Waterbird Counts and the level of data needed for IBA/KBA Assessment. Fish data will be sought from existing sources. Other taxa will be surveyed using experienced staff and MUST students to make a baseline inventory. This will identify potential 'trigger' species for the KBA assessment. The project will also increase capacity for national monitoring, including community members.

Biodiversity and people will benefit from 25 hectares of waterbird habitat being better protected through community-based management (10 Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs – comprising 20% women - representing 100 people) and by restoration of 9 sites of degraded watershed habitats (~75ha).

- Hunters and their families from 9 villages will benefit directly from greater waterbird abundance and sustainable waterbird hunting management. The wider population (est.14,000 people) will benefit from ecosystem restoration.

- Food insecurity will reduce due to greater bird numbers (for sustainable waterbird hunting) and through diversification and investment in livelihoods, supported by training and a micro lending scheme. This will immediately benefit 170 people in 9 villages with greater incomes, benefitting ~850 family members.

Beneficiaries

The project will target waterbird species in and around the Chia Lagoon and other biodiversity.

The project will benefit 1,020 people, including 170 people in the nine Chia Lagoon villages covered by the Hunting Clubs and/or receiving enterprise support and access to microlending scheme. (Benefitting 850 family members) and, indirectly,14,000 people in the villages.

District government will benefit from capacity building and data.

Q18. Pathway to change

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

The project addresses key drivers leading to unsustainable exploitation of waterbird populations, habitat destruction and ecosystem degradation.

The Chia Lagoon communities are low income and very dependent on natural resources.

The importance of fisheries to Lake Malawi communities is well recognised and work is underway to apply community-based management to fishing. This project seeks to apply similar principles to the sustainable management of waterbirds.

The project will raise ecological awareness and establish Community Bird Hunting Clubs and an Association to sustainably manage waterbird hunting and to better protect and restore habitat. This will sustain and increase waterbird abundance and deliver other ecosystem benefits.

It will address ecological degradation due to agricultural encroachment and tree-cutting through community led restoration, replacing habitat for birds and other biodiversity and delivering other ecosystem services.

The project will address poverty, a key driver of ecosystem degradation, by expanding and diversifying livelihoods through training, support and the application of a micro lending scheme – linked to sustainable management.

The project will work with government and other stakeholders to scale up the approach and integrate it with wider wetlands and fisheries management policies.

Knowledge and capacity gaps in biodiversity data will be filled.

Q19. Exit Strategy

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding?

How could post-project scaling of the approach (if proven) be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?

How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits?

Development of the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) approach of Community Sustainable Hunting Clubs underpins the project's exit strategy. It is anticipated that these bodies will be self-sustaining and primed to benefit from access to new initiatives in the future.

A feature of BirdLife's local to global approach is establishment of Site Support Groups/Local Conservation Groups (LCG). This approach is actively pursued by WESM, which operates through a network of branches, working actively with site support groups and a nationwide network of wildlife clubs. This approach recognises the importance of local, autonomous groups who are advocates for and guardians of their natural resource. It also facilitates a route for integration of local and Indigenous knowledge in national conservation efforts and plans. Through minimal engagement by the local WESM branch, the Hunting Clubs provide an excellent network on which to build.





Output 4 recognises the importance of demonstrating effective approaches, disseminating lessons learned and promoting ways in which economic development, climate and biodiversity goals can be achieved. Sustainability and scale up of activities are promoted through advocacy and dissemination activities aimed at District and National Governments.

Many project activities are designed to be self-sustaining (The Community Based Sustainable Hunting Clubs, the Microloan Mechanism and resulting enterprises) while others are designed to build a knowledge base on which to design future interventions (KBA assessment, waterbird census, affordable biodiversity monitoring mechanisms, avitourism feasibility assessment).

The project engages existing structures at local and district level, ensuring that capacity is built at an institutional level as well as through improved individual capabilities, increasing the likelihood of project interventions being embedded, sustained and owned by local actors.

BirdLife's international network can enable post-project dissemination of project learning amongst regional and global stakeholders for replication of successful approaches, alongside fundraising capacity building and support.

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

-  [Stage 2 Annex Chia Lagoon](#)
-  12/12/2022
-  17:06:36
-  pdf 2.55 MB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

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

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>Funds distributed to project partners not used for intended purposes or not accounted for.</p> <p>Microloan funds mismanaged or not delivering intended goals. Not continued post project</p>	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>Project partners have the organisational and financial structures in place to effectively manage finances. These are further elaborated in subcontracts with partners. Project protocols will be in place and training provided.</p> <p>The micro financing will be backed up by strong Terms of Reference and the establishment of a management board</p>	Minor

Safeguarding training at kick-off and inclusion in all subcontracts.

Deployment of whistle-blowing and reporting mechanisms.

Adherence to best practice guidelines for engaging communities in conservation (including prior informed consent, transparency, communication).

Application of policies (anti-harassment, travel, safety) and use of risk assessments in line with those of Project Coordinator.

This risk has been mitigated by prior engagement with national and district governments (as evidenced by letters of support).

Engagement by governments will be supported through practical support for their participation and alignment of objectives

Engagement of communities will be supported through prior outreach, regular communication and practical support.

Safeguarding

Project beneficiaries harmed or exploited

Moderate Unlikely Moderate

Minor

Staff safety is put at risk

Delivery Chain

National and district governments, park authorities, NGO stakeholders and communities do not engage in addressing unsustainable resource use in the Chia Lagoon ecosystem.

Moderate Unlikely Moderate

Minor

All project partners are now experienced in delivering activities within COVID 19 and other health restrictions.

Risk 4

Current economic, social and health factors, such as COVID 19 seriously impede progress.

Minor

Unlikely

Minor

The majority of interventions are local and staff are primarily in country. Where international travel is limited, online options are available.

Minor

Tourism slowdowns may limit economic opportunities in the short term.

Risk 5

Increases in waterfowl numbers and access to sustainable livelihoods, coupled with awareness actions do not lead to the behaviour change anticipated

Moderate

Unlikely

Moderate

A very similar approach has been successfully applied at Lake Chilwa, with positive behaviour change and biodiversity results. Therefore, we are optimistic that these results can be replicated.

Minor

We expect that more examples, well communicated, will lead to further take up of similar CBNRM models.

Project forecasting will include close attention to the impact of inflation on project expenditure.

Risk 6

Inflation increases salary and other (eg transport) costs beyond the 3% maximum allowed by Darwin

Moderate

Possible

Moderate

Close and timely communication with the Darwin Initiative (NIRAS) if this risk materialises.

Moderate

Additional co-funding to be raised, if possible. If not, consider adjustments to project design and budget subject to DEFRA approval.

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.

 [BCF-Implementation-Timetable-Chia Lagoon](#)
[REVIEW](#)
 11/12/2022
 20:55:36
 pdf 158.47 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 monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be guided by BirdLife's Project Management Toolkit and an M&E sub-team, tasked with designing tools to monitor delivery and impact.

Impact M&E is a priority for BirdLife. Therefore, we are using this project to increase capacity in the wider team. We have therefore decided not to outsource to an external consultant, but to use in-house expertise, to design and implement the most appropriate tools.

The M&E sub-team will support socio-economic survey activities and biodiversity/hunting monitoring tools to ensure that surveying and monitoring techniques are appropriate to the audience, yield useful information and support the overall M&E of the project.

Project performance will be monitored by the Project Steering Group, consisting of the Project Leader, IBA/KBA Officer, Project Finance, M&E Officer and at least one representative of both Partners, through progress reports, but informed by in-country visits and engagement in activities.

Evaluation of the project's success in achieving its outcomes will be monitored to allow for adaptations. The indicators found in the logical framework, and in a detailed M&E matrix, developed at the beginning of the project, will guide evaluation of the project activities, deliverables and impacts. Reliable baseline

data will be collected early in the project and impact data will be collected during the implementation.

Components include:

1. periodic assessment of project implementation and performance of activities and spending. Assessments will review delivery of activities and achievement of key benchmarks, linked to workplans.
2. Financial monitoring will examine proposed versus actual spending, apply adaptive management, and verify eligibility.
3. Project progress will be monitored in line with the annual reporting schedule and evaluated at the end of the project.

For the metrics of participation in enterprise training and CBNRM, numbers of participants will be noted, and disaggregated and tracked by gender.

Evidence gathered will include meeting notes for activities relating to community engagement and dissemination, resulting agreements/byelaws and records of monitoring/enforcement activities.

Monitoring the biodiversity benefits will be primarily through the baseline and periodic bird and other taxa population and diversity surveys, hunting data and Sustainable Hunting Report, and the design and implementation of a monitoring mechanism for the state of the lagoon and the surrounding area.

Awareness raising activities will record the nature, message and audience. Where appropriate, audience feedback will be used to understand effectiveness.

The project will use an adaptive management approach, adjusting methodologies and addressing issues as the project develops and amending workplans accordingly, in consultation with the project team and the funder. This will allow the project to be responsive to new or emerging circumstances and opportunities to increase impact. The team will also closely monitor budget pressures, especially rising inflation and economic instability, and test assumptions underpinning the project logic and identify risks early.

Project materials will be stored and made available for audit purposes. Most documentation will be able to be shared via the web-platforms of partners and Birdlife, and will be maintained by BirdLife as part of its overall reporting on 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	200

Section 10 - Logical Framework


Q23. Logical Framework (logframe)


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](#)


The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [BCF St2 and Single Stage Logical Framework
BLIChia FOR REVIEW LA10DEC](#)

 11/12/2022

 21:02:17

 pdf 192.88 KB

Impact:

Waterbird populations of Chia Lagoon flourish and local people and biodiversity benefit from community-based management, improved ecosystem functioning and enhanced, sustainable economic opportunities

Outcome:

Bird abundance and diversity increases, ecosystem recovers and the quality of life and sustainable livelihood opportunities improve for Chia communities

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Chia Lagoon Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and Bird Hunting Association are established and sustainably managing waterbird hunting.

Output 2:

Waterbird habitat in Chia Lagoon is better protected and restored

Output 3:

Capacity of target communities around Chia Lagoon to pursue alternative, sustainable livelihoods is increased.

Output 4:

Ecosystem management and restoration is integrated into the wider water management and fisheries management structures

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

level.

Ⓐ No

Activities

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

Output 1

1.1.1 Awareness raising and engagement activities to identify community members interested in participating in the waterbird management.

1.1.2 Engagement of District and local government, existing village structures (Beach Associations), hunters and women in the set up of local Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs, following the Lake Chilwa model.

1.2.1 Exchange visits with Lake Chilwa Hunting Clubs are provided for inspiration and capacity development. Training and support for the establishment of the Chia Lagoon Sustainable Hunting Clubs, and an umbrella Association (if deemed appropriate), is provided.

1.3.1 Hunters, fishers and a selection of other household members and community leaders will be surveyed to assess the extent, nature and purpose of bird hunting at Chia Lagoon (how many birds, how many hunters, which species, what is a sustainable level of hunting)

1.4.1 Participatory process to agree what sustainable hunting means, define a code of conduct, hunting protocols and enforcement mechanisms of individual Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and an overarching Sustainable Bird Hunting Association.

1.5.1 Chia Lagoon Bird Hunting Associations in operation, including monitoring of adherence to agreed bylaws

Output 2

2.1.1 Participatory process for identifying and mapping bird sanctuaries (for breeding birds, threatened species), agreeing protection measures, providing signage and any minor structures, as needed and implementing a communications plan.

2.2.1 Participatory process to plan restoration.

2.2.2 Work with community to undertake restoration actions (set up native tree and/or native bamboo nurseries, seedling purchase if required, planting and care, sustainable harvesting, invasives removal, monitoring)

2.3.1 Awareness raising publications/broadcasts, social media and events will be held focused on the community. To include community events celebrating e.g. Wetlands Day / International Day of Biodiversity

2.4.1 Baseline waterbird survey and ecosystem health assessment (Pressure, State, Response)

2.4.2 Ongoing Waterbird monitoring protocol will be designed and implemented. Training provided for community participation.

2.4.3 User friendly Bird ID guides will be designed with pictures (in English and local languages) and

distributed e.g. to WESM branches, Chia Lagoon Hunting Clubs/Beach Associations, Schools, Wildlife Clubs and tourism lodges. Share digital versions.

2.5.1 IBA/KBA assessment undertaken (include birds, fish (using existing data) and at least one other taxa – based on preliminary biodiversity surveys) and data shared on KBA database. Based on result of assessment proceed with designation and make recommendations for further action (e.g. management planning)

2.5.2 Feasibility for further protection assessed (either as a Ramsar site or Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measure (OECM, based on the CBNRM)

Output 3

3.1.1 Baseline socioeconomic surveys will be designed by external consultant and implemented by the consultant or/if deemed preferable, by the WESM team, with support of the consultant. End surveys with beneficiaries will gather feedback, assess impact and future ambitions.

3.1.2 Propose/discuss potential enterprises/look at feasibility (3 existing and 2 new - agriculture/agroforestry and processing; bee keeping; avitourism; that would be sustainable from an ecosystem, climate resilience and economic perspective).

3.1.3 Provide training and practical support to establish / expand enterprises in communities where Hunting Clubs are established e.g. bee keeping, fruit / fish processing, boat trips, micro renewables, hospitality.

3.1.4 Monitor and provide support, if needed, to enterprises.

3.2.1 Establish micro lending initiative to support these and other enterprises. Recruit members, 90% women.

3.2.2 Micro lending mechanism is in operation, coupled with finance and business training for beneficiaries.

3.3.1 Avitourism is promoted through marketing and outreach to tourism businesses, bird guide training and installation of physical facilities.

3.3.2 Provide practical support or small investments in avitourism/wildlife tourism infrastructure (e.g. boat repairs, safety equipment, signage).

3.3.3 Feasibility study of expanding avitourism and increasing benefits to local communities is conducted for Lake Malawi / Malawi.

Output 4

4.1.1 Meetings are held with stakeholders involved in Fish for Tomorrow and Chia Lagoon fisheries management and with Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. And, where applicable, with wider Lake Malawi Integrated Water Management programmes. Use meetings to share project information and promote working relationships.

4.2.1 Dissemination of project information and emerging results at national level through articles/broadcasts, briefings and meetings

4.3.2 Dissemination of project information and wider experience/lessons learned of CBNRM, especially for wetlands at international level through articles and participation in international event

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 the Lead Partner's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [BCF Budget over 100k MASTER Apr22 Chia Final](#)
 11/12/2022
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 xlsx 95.34 KB

Q25. Funding

Q25a. 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, prompted by WESM, in response to the success of their work to establish community-based waterbird management at Lake Chilwa.

The project dovetails with a recently completed project, led by Ripple Africa and funded by the Darwin Initiative, to improve the management of fisheries in Chia Lagoon.

It will draw on the Building Biodiversity Knowledge for Action (SBAPP) project, involving MUST to support some of the costs of biodiversity assessment.

The work complements several national initiatives, including a UNDP/GEF project focused on invasive alien

species, in which WESM has a role. .

The project adds to the efforts by the national government, BirdLife and IUCN to support the development of the Key Biodiversity Area mechanism as it is recognised as a globally accepted method to identify the most important areas for biodiversity, assess their status and provide a basis for future action. There are plans to carry out a few assessments of areas in Lake Malawi. The Chia Lagoon assessment would be a valuable addition. As a core member of the KBA Partnership, BirdLife will bring its experience to providing training to the national KBA Coordination Group.

Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q26. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

The capital items amount to ■■■ % of the budget and consist of:

IT Equipment for new BirdLife staff (to be retained by BirdLife)

Laptop, Printer, Office furniture (to be retained by WESM project office)

Field equipment including mobiles, GPS, binoculars (to be retained by WESM)

Local community field work equipment (tablets) - to be retained by WESM local branch and allocated to appropriate local community groups once they are established; and Binoculars (Second hand, refurbished in kind donation via BirdLife Partner in the Netherlands) - will be distributed to WESM branch/communities /Wildlife Clubs

Q27. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

The project is medium size, but represents good value for money because it is designed to deliver lasting ecosystem benefits for nine lakeside villages, benefitting 1,020 participants and their families, with indirect benefits for around 14,000 residents.

By focusing on the establishment of a Community Based Natural Resource Management structure that will help waterbird numbers and diversity to increase, the community will see the benefits of managing the resource collaboratively. It has great potential for scaling up and incorporation into wetlands and fisheries management initiatives.

The project works by addressing directly some of the drivers of threats to biodiversity, including poverty driven unsustainable resource use, specifically waterbird hunting, but also tree cutting, unsustainable reed and bamboo harvesting. It sets in place the structures and financial mechanisms for communities to

diversify their livelihoods and create opportunities.

It fills important knowledge and data gaps in a cost-effective way and applies experience and research to an identified problem. By supporting Malawi's National KBA Coordination Group and conducting a KBA Assessment for Chia Lagoon, the project will progress longer term conservation of the site – whether through designation as a Ramsar site or OECM.

It offers sustainable solutions that will remain after the project end and that are replicable at scale.

The project will provide valuable capacity development for WESM in project development and management, finance, use of satellite and mapping tools, monitoring and evaluation and fundraising.

The budget increased since Stage 1, to secure additional staff and cover increased travel and restoration costs.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q28. 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 all 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 and strengthen your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. If any of the responses are “no”, please indicate how it is being addressed.

BirdLife conducts regular trainings in its HR and Financial Policies. Organisation-wide Safeguarding Policy training is planned for 2023.

We recognise that safeguarding of communities and staff is central to conservation projects and a more detailed risk assessment will be undertaken at project inception.

Risk analysis is a useful tool, but it must be implemented through training, protocols and practice. The safeguarding principles and policies that apply to this project will be outlined to the Project Team at the Kick Off meeting and reviewed as part of project management and capacity development.

The policy will be part of subcontracts with partners.

Q29. Ethics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q30. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

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

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q31. 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?
Alex Ngari	Project Leader	25	Checked
Kariuki Nding'ang'a	BirdLife: Project Supervisor (and Partner Development Officer for WESM)	5	Checked
Agyemang Opoku	BirdLife: IBA/KBA Officer	20	Checked
Tharcisse Ukizintambara / Lewis Kihumba	BirdLife: Partnerships and Capacity Development Coordinator / Communications Manager	20	Checked

Do you require more fields?





Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Daphine Adre and Dennis Kibera / Shakira Elias	BirdLife: Finance Manager and Officer WESM: Finance Officer	35	Checked
To be recruited	BirdLife: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer	20	Checked

Tiwonge Gawa	MUST: Biodiversity Technical Lead and MSc Student Assistant	10	Checked
Blessings Chingagwe	WESM Project Supervisor	20	Checked
Chifundo Dalireni	WESM: Policy & Advocacy Technical Lead	50	Checked
Yassin Rasheed	WESM: Dwangwa Branch Manager; National Branch Coordinator	60	Checked
Ausward Bonongwe	WESM: Education and Empowerment Technical Lead	50	Checked
To be recruited	WESM: Community Field Facilitator	100	Checked

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

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

 [BirdLife Chia Lagoon Combined CVs2](#)
 12/12/2022
 16:45:02
 pdf 900.26 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q32. Project Partners

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

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

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

Lead partner name: BirdLife International

Website address: www.birdlife.org

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

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

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

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

It will provide capacity development support to WESM.

It will coordinate and support the gathering of expertise and dissemination of experience as part of its wider KBA programme, wetland conservation and migratory birds and flyways priorities.

BirdLife has extensive project management and wetland conservation experience, with dedicated conservation and policy capacity and considerable experience working on wetland management, community based management mechanisms.

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

Allocated budget (proportion or value):



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

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

Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)

Website address: www.wesm.org.mw

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

WESM is the leading membership organization promoting, advocating for, and making a visible and measurable difference to the well-informed conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and the natural environment in Malawi.

Our mission is to inform and support public participation in the wise use of Malawi's wildlife and natural environment and always speak up for it in national and local development efforts/fora.

WESM will be responsible, with support from BirdLife and MUST, for implementation of the project on the ground. This includes assessment surveys, community and government engagement, on-the-ground implementation of restoration and livelihoods development work, policy advocacy, communications and dissemination.

WESM has over 500 individuals members, over 1500 Wildlife Clubs (mostly school-based) and 9 branches

WESM's branch structure is well suited to working at local level, with a local branch nearby.

WESM has extensive experience delivering similar projects, almost always working with communities on the ground. WESM has been a partner in a number of projects funded by GEF, USAID, Danida and others. We have considerable experience providing training to government agencies and communities. By working closely with BirdLife from project design to implementation, this project also offers the opportunity to build our own organisational capacity.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

2. Partner Name: Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST)

Website address: www.must.ac.mw

MUST is a public university in Malawi established by an Act of parliament in 2012. The proposed project will be hosted in our Biological Sciences department under the MUST Biodiversity and Environment Unit.

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

Dr Tiwonge I Mzumara-Gawa who will be the biodiversity technical lead for the project holds a permanent faculty position as a lecturer in Ecology in this department and brings many years' experience as a conservation biologist to the project.

MUST hosts the MSc Biodiversity Informatics programme whose key objective is to mobilise, manage, share and use biodiversity data for decision making. Through this programme MUST will also support the project by supporting part of the ecological assessment work and is pleased to support one of the first KBA assessments to be done under the auspices of the KBA National Coordinating Group. This process will allow for practical learning for the post graduate students in the programme.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes No

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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes No


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


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


No Response

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

 [Combined Cover and Support Letters](#)

 12/12/2022

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Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund 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
29-013	Salisha Chandra	An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti
29-009	Susan Waugh	Empowering Cabo Verde communities towards responsible practices in artisanal fisheries
DARCC003	Marion Tafani	Build capacity and capability to regulate hunting and protect biodiversity
27-005	Jonathan C. Eames	Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five
24-030	Paul Kariuki Nding'ang'a	Controlling an invasive aquatic plant for improved biodiversity and livelihoods
24-019	Ken Mwathe	Developing a Community Based Ecotourism Model at Lake Natron, Tanzania

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

Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

BirdLife International

I apply for a grant of

██████████

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the

basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a 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	Helen
Position in the organisation	Bull
Signature (please upload e-signature)	Signed Certification Page 12/12/2022 12:30:34 pdf 4.12 MB
Date	12 December 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

BirdLife International 2020 Financial Statements - signed V2 09/12/2022 13:29:22 pdf 1.31 MB	BirdLife International 2021 Financial Statements Final 09/12/2022 13:29:10 pdf 1.52 MB
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

BirdLife safeguarding policy ISSUE 1 9 December 2020 09/12/2022 13:30:20 pdf 246.06 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Check

I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application	Checked
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above)	Checked
• my completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, 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 32, 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 28.	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 Initiative 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).

Project Title: **A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi**

Project Implementation Timetable

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1 Apr- Jun 23	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q5 Ap- Jun 24	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9 Apr- Jun 25	Q10	Q11	Q12 Jan- Mar 26
Output 1														
	1.1.1 Awareness raising and engagement activities to identify community members interested in participating in the waterbird management.													
	1.1.2 Engagement of District and local government, existing village structures (Beach Associations), hunters and women in the set up of local Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs, following Lake Chilwa model													
	1.2.1 Exchange visits with Lake Chilwa Hunting Clubs are provided for inspiration and capacity development. Training and support for the establishment of the Chia Lagoon Sustainable Hunting Clubs is provided.													
	1.3.1 Hunters, fishers and a selection of other household members and community leaders will be surveyed to assess the extent, nature and purpose of bird hunting at Chia Lagoon (how many birds, how many hunters, which species, what is a sustainable level of hunting)													
	1.4.1 Participatory process to agree what sustainable hunting means, define a code of conduct, hunting protocols and enforcement mechanisms of individual Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and an overarching Sustainable Bird Hunting Association.													
	1.5.1 Chia Lagoon Bird Hunting Associations in operation, including monitoring of adherence to agreed bylaws													
Output 2														

Project Title: **A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi**

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1 Apr- Jun 23	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q5 Ap- Jun 24	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9 Apr- Jun 25	Q10	Q11	Q12 Jan- Mar 26
	2.1.1 Participatory process for identifying and mapping bird sanctuaries (for breeding birds, threatened species), agreeing protection measures, providing signage and any minor structures, as needed and implementing a communications plan.													
	2.2.1 Participatory process to plan restoration. Work with community to undertaken restoration actions (set up tree nurseries, seedling purchase, planting and care, sustainable harvesting, invasives removal, monitoring)													
	2.3.1 Awareness raising publications/broadcasts, social media and .events will be held focused on the community.													
	2.4.1 Baseline waterbird survey and ecosystem health assessment (Pressure, State, Response)													
	2.4.2 Ongoing Waterbird monitoring protocol will be designed and implemented. Training provided for community participation.													
	2.4.3 User friendly Bird ID guides will be designed and distributed e.g. to WESM branches, Chia Lagoon Hunting Clubs/Beach Associations/Natural Resource Committees, Schools, Wildlife Clubs and tourism lodges													
	2.5.1 IBA/KBA assessment undertaken (include birds, fish (using existing data) and at least one other taxa – based on preliminary biodiversity surveys) and data shared on KBA database. Based on result of assessment proceed with designation and make recommendations for further action (e.g. management planning)													
	2.5.2 Feasibility for further protection assessed (either as a Ramsar site or Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measure (OECM, based on the CBNRM)													
Output 3														

Project Title: **A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi**

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1 Apr- Jun 23	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q5 Ap- Jun 24	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9 Apr- Jun 25	Q10	Q11	Q12 Jan- Mar 26
	3.1.1 Baseline socioeconomic surveys will be designed by external consultant and implemented by the consultant or/if deemed preferable, by the WESM team, with support of the consultant.													
	3.1.2 Propose/discuss potential enterprises/look at feasibility (3 existing and 2 new - agriculture/agroforestry and processing; bee keeping; avitourism; that would be sustainable from an ecosystem, climate resilience and economic perspective)													
	3.1.3 Provide training and practical support to establish / expand enterprises in communities where Hunting Clubs are established e.g. boat safety enhancements, bee keeping, fruit / fish processing, micro renewables													
	3.2.1 Establish micro lending initiative to support these and other enterprises. Recruit members, mainly women.													
	3.2.2 Micro lending mechanism is in operation, coupled with training for beneficiaries.													
	3.3.1 Avitourism is promoted through marketing and outreach to tourism businesses, bird guide training and installation of physical facilities													
	3.3.2 Feasibility study of expanding avitourism and increasing benefits to local communities is conducted for Lake Malawi / Malawi													
	3.3.3 Provide practical support or small investments in avitourism/wildlife tourism infrastructure (e.g. boat repairs, safety equipment, signage)													
Output 4														
	4.1.1 Meetings are held with stakeholders involved in Fish for Tomorrow and Chia Lagoon fisheries management and with Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. And, where applicable, with wider Lake													

Project Title: **A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi**

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1 Apr- Jun 23	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q5 Ap- Jun 24	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9 Apr- Jun 25	Q10	Q11	Q12 Jan- Mar 26
	Malawi Integrated Water Management programmes. Use meetings to share project information and promote further initiatives.													
	4.2.1 Dissemination of project information and emerging results at national level through articles/broadcasts, briefings and meetings													
	4.3.2 Dissemination of project information and wider experience/lessons learned of CBNRM, especially for wetlands at international level through articles and participation in international event													
Coordination		24												
Steering Meetings		1												
Team Meetings		1												
M&E														

Project Title: A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Waterbird populations of Chia Lagoon flourish and local people and biodiversity benefit from community-based management, improved ecosystem functioning and enhanced, sustainable economic opportunities (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words)</p> <p>Bird abundance and diversity increases, ecosystem recovers and the quality of life and sustainable livelihood opportunities improve for Chia communities</p>	<p>0.1.1 Bird populations increase by 20-30% over baseline. Bird species diversity increases by 20% over baseline. By end of project.</p> <p>0.1.2 Biodiversity knowledge (birds and other taxa) of Chia Lagoon and surrounding area will be available to inform management decisions and capacity for national monitoring will increase. By end of project. 10 people trained/mentored in survey techniques. By end of year 2.</p> <p>0.2 Approx. 25 hectares of waterbird habitat is better protected</p>	<p>0.1.1 Bird population census at start and end of project (Annual Waterbird Census part of International Waterbird Census).</p> <p>0.1.2 Annual waterbird counts, submitted on BirdLasser; Surveys for other taxa, using iNaturalist.</p> <p>Important Bird Area (IBA)/Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) assessment for birds, fish and at least one other taxa and recommendations for further action for the site.</p> <p>List of trained in-country staff/volunteers/outline of training provided.</p> <p>0.2 Map of Chia Lagoon showing area under Hunting Association Management, and areas under</p>	<p>The Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs approach works as it did in Lake Chilwa and reduced hunting pressure and habitat restoration measures lead to bird population increases.</p> <p><i>We believe this will hold true as the habitat and communities are similar.</i></p> <p>Bird population annual fluctuations do not prevent measurement of impact</p> <p><i>This is a possibility as populations may be impacted by e.g. weather, hiding longer term trends. Therefore, the population data should be analysed alongside the site condition report and non-bird taxa.</i></p> <p>Management and restoration activities result in improvements of ecological status. Area covered by Hunting Clubs and Restoration will be agreed with</p>

Project Title: A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi

	<p>through community-based management. Approx. 75 Ha of lagoon and watershed are in a better ecological state through community-based restoration. By end of project.</p> <p>0.3.1 1,500 people (50% women) from 9 villages benefit directly from greater waterbird abundance and sustainable waterbird hunting management. Wider population (est. 14,000 people) benefit from ecosystem restoration. By end of project</p> <p>0.3.2 Populations in adjacent lagoon villages benefit indirectly from a healthier ecosystem. By end of project</p> <p>0.4 150 people benefit from enterprise training and support. (60% women) 150 people (90% women) in 9 villages benefit from finance and business training and loans from Microfinance supported livelihoods investments.</p>	<p>restoration. Pressure, State, Response measure applied to assess change in state. To include extent of invasive alien species, photo evidence of restoration, application of satellite imagery to develop story map.</p> <p>0.3.1 List of villages fully engaged in project activities, with population information. List of active participants. Community survey of perceived impact.</p> <p>0.3.2. Map of Chia Lagoon showing area under Hunting Association Management, and restored areas. Indicate areas of indirect benefit.</p> <p>0.4 Detailed reports of the training provided, number of loans, purpose of loan, and financial management of the loan fund. Number and location of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender). Recipient survey.</p>	<p>the communities, so is an estimate.</p> <p><i>We believe this will hold true, although benefits may not really be evidenced until after the project has concluded. Also, the lack of recent, comprehensive bird data means that there is a risk that bird population and diversity targets are too ambitious or too conservative.</i></p> <p>Enterprise training, practical support and financial assistance leads to livelihoods improvements that do not drive further degradation</p> <p><i>Based on experience, we think this will hold true. However, the project will consider the type of enterprises undertaken and their impact on reducing unsustainable resource use.</i></p> <p><i>Income increase is modest. However, this is likely to increase over time.</i></p>
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Project Title: A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi

	<p>(170 total, as many receive enterprise support and loans)</p> <p>(Indirectly benefitting a further 850 household members)</p> <p>Monthly incomes increase by 10%</p>		
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1.0 Chia Lagoon Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and Bird Hunting Association are established and sustainably managing waterbird hunting.</p>	<p>1.1 100 community members/hunters (20% women) are aware and interested in sustainably managing the waterbirds.</p> <p>1.2 75 club members are inspired and gain capacity in sustainable hunting practices and enforcement protocols including through exchange visit with Lake Chilwa communities</p> <p>1.3 The level of bird hunting is known (extent, which species, methods), guiding management and informing monitoring.</p> <p>1.4 A code of conduct for the local Clubs and Chia Lagoon level Association is agreed upon and 10 Hunting Clubs are formally established (150 members)</p>	<p>1.1 Reports of engagement activities including participation (with gender, village and occupation information and notes on community attitudes)</p> <p>1.2 Lake Chilwa exchange visit report. Training content, participation and effectiveness report.</p> <p>1.3 Bird hunting surveys and report.</p> <p>1.4 Published code of conduct for Association and Clubs, government authorisation and membership reports.</p>	<p>There is strong political will within local government to support the structures</p> <p><i>We think this will hold true due to consultation with the District Fisheries Department, who are fully supportive.</i></p> <p>There is strong and lasting engagement by hunters and the wider community.</p> <p><i>We think this will hold true due to site visits and discussions with local people and experience from Lake Chilwa. We think that an increase in bird abundance helps to demonstrate benefit of adherence to bylaws/best practices.</i></p>

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	<p>1.5 90% of Association members adhere to sustainable hunting bylaws / use best practices.</p>	<p>1.5 Monitoring/enforcement methodology. Reports of monitoring actions and infringements. Hunting Clubs/Association member survey.</p>	
<p>2.0 Waterbird habitat in Chia Lagoon is better protected and restored</p>	<p>2.1 Nesting birds are better protected through the establishment of 5 bird sanctuaries.</p> <p>2.2 9 areas of lagoon habitat are restored or under natural regeneration (approx. 75 ha) (through invasives removal in lagoon and 5km radius and through tree planting and natural regeneration due to alternative timber lots)</p> <p>2.3 Community members in the 9 villages and wider area, including schools and wildlife clubs, are more aware of the importance of lagoon ecosystem and how to manage it through engagement events, backed up by press, social media and radio communications. (Likely audience 2000 in total / 50% female).</p>	<p>2.1 Number and location of bird sanctuaries established (Detail of protection measures).</p> <p>2.2 Field reports with location information and restoration activities described and photographic record of invasives removal, tree planting and natural regeneration.</p> <p>2.3 Report of awareness actions including date, description, audience and, where possible, feedback.</p>	<p>Bird sanctuaries, hunting management and other conservation and restoration efforts result in increased bird populations.</p> <p><i>We think this will hold true but will need to monitor carefully and make adaptations, if needed.</i></p> <p>Restoration efforts are not destroyed by extreme drought or flooding</p> <p><i>We will factor in climate resilience in the choice of restoration approach</i></p> <p>Community members are convinced by communications activities and have the willingness and capacity to participate.</p> <p><i>Based on positive reactions thus far and experience in Lake Chilwa, we think this will happen.</i></p>

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	<p>2.4.1 Bird and habitat monitoring protocol is defined and 10 Malawian monitors are trained (including local people). Simple bird ID guide is designed and distributed for volunteer/community/visitor use. (500 copies and online) By middle of year 2.</p> <p>2.4.2 Annually updated data is available on bird species using and breeding in and around the lagoon. (Including designated Bird Sanctuary areas) Data is shared with Global Biodiversity Information Facility, World Bird Database and IWC Annual Waterbird Census.</p> <p>2.5 Chia Lagoon is assessed against the Key Biodiversity Area criteria (birds, fish and at least one other taxa) <i>(Trigger species to be defined based on preliminary surveys and in discussion with National KBA Coordination Group)</i></p> <p>Based on KBA assessment:</p>	<p>2.4.1 Monitoring protocols. Training reports. List of trainees and monitors.</p> <p>2.4.2 Annual bird monitoring reports and distribution</p> <p>2.5.1 IBA/KBA Assessment (Boundaries defined, trigger species identified, monitoring done, KBA criteria applied, assess Pressure, State, Response score)</p> <p>Recommendations for further action</p>	<p>Species monitoring confirms that the site should be designated as a Key Biodiversity Area.</p> <p><i>We think this will hold true although degradation of the site may put this at risk.</i></p>
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Project Title: A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi

	<p>Feasibility of pursuing protected area or OECM status) (e.g. Ramsar site/community based managed area) is assessed. Need for Chia Lagoon Management Plan is assessed.</p> <p>By end of project</p>		
<p>3.0. Capacity of target communities around Chia Lagoon to pursue alternative, sustainable livelihoods is increased.</p>	<p>3.1.1 The baseline socioeconomic situation of the Chia Lagoon is better understood. By end of Q3. Impact of project is evaluated. By end of project.</p> <p>3.1.2 Communities identify and prioritise 5 sustainable livelihood enterprises for support within the target villages (including avitourism) By end of year 1</p> <p>3.1.3 50 individuals (60% women) are trained and supported (separate to the Microloan Foundation support) to start or improve these enterprises by end of year 2</p> <p>3.1.4 5 Supported livelihood enterprises (involving average 30 members each) will be operating around the lagoon by end of</p>	<p>3.1.1 Baseline socioeconomic survey. End of project beneficiary surveys.</p> <p>3.1.2 Community meeting reports (including participation records) and enterprise ideas outlined.</p> <p>3.1.3 Reports on training and support provided and enterprises supported (including beneficiary data).</p> <p>3.1.4 Evidence of enterprises functioning and beneficiary data.</p>	<p>Improved livelihoods options will drive a reduction in unsustainable resource use.</p> <p><i>We think this will hold true if the link between sustainable management and the alternative livelihoods is made clear and enshrined in hunting protocols and participation agreements e.g. for the microfinance loans.</i></p> <p>The project term will be long enough to establish the Microloan facility in the local community, recruit beneficiaries and provide training and loans.</p> <p><i>We think this will hold true as Microloan Foundation is established in the region already.</i></p>

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	<p>Project. (150 direct beneficiaries – including the 50 trained in 3.1.3) (60% women) (supporting 5-10 additional people)</p> <p>3.2.1 A microfinance facility is established for the target communities supported by Microloan Foundation by end of year 2.</p> <p>3.2.2 150 individuals (90% women) access loans and receive training (7 sessions) in financial management and business, linked to different enterprises by end of project.</p> <p>3.3.1 Avitourism opportunities are promoted through materials and outreach to wildlife tourism enterprises by end of project.</p> <p>3.3.2 Better facilities for boat and bird watching is available through provision of basic infrastructure and supplies (i.e. shelter, boat maintenance & life jacket provisions) by end of project.</p>	<p>3.2.1 Micro Loans structure terms of reference and governance information</p> <p>3.2.2. Detailed reports of the number of loans, recipients, purpose, and financial management of the loan fund. Recipient survey. No of women and youth participating</p> <p>3.3.1 Birdwatching / avitourism materials and reports of marketing actions</p> <p>3.3.2 Photos of birdwatching infrastructure/facilities</p>	
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Project Title: A Community Approach to Waterbird Resource Management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi

	<p>3.3.3 The potential for expanded avitourism, benefitting the local community is better understood by end of project.</p>	<p>3.3.3 Avitourism questionnaires and rapid feasibility assessment</p>	
<p>4. Ecosystem management and restoration is integrated into the wider water management and fisheries management structures</p>	<p>4.1 The project is promoted, networks are built and wider experience is gained from meetings with stakeholders involved in e.g. Fish for Tomorrow and Chia Lagoon fisheries management, Ramsar focal points, Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, and wider Lake Malawi Integrated Water Management programmes by end of Q2.</p> <p>4.2 National Dissemination. Project information and progress is shared with other Lake Malawi and Lake Chilwa water management and fisheries initiatives, and with local, district and national government stakeholders. By end of project.</p> <p>4.3 International Dissemination. Project information, progress and results from Lake Chilwa are disseminated for an international audience through at least 2 online stories, and participation in</p>	<p>4.1 Meetings with government, NGO and other stakeholders</p> <p>4.2 Reports of national dissemination communications/events/meetings</p> <p>4.3 Reports of international dissemination communications/ events/meetings</p>	<p>Relevant stakeholders will be open to engagement and will embrace lessons learned.</p> <p><i>We think this will hold true, based on engagement during planning process.</i></p> <p>There will be sufficient data available to support dissemination during the project.</p> <p><i>Dissemination can focus on Lake Chilwa results and the activities and preliminary results of Chia Lagoon. Also, to promote Community Based Natural Resource Management and Wetlands Management more broadly.</i></p>

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	at least 1 international event. By end of project		
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)</p> <p>Output 1</p> <p>1.1.1 Awareness raising and engagement activities to identify community members interested in participating in the waterbird management.</p> <p>1.1.2 Engagement of District and local government, existing village structures (Beach Associations), hunters and women in the set up of local Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs, following the Lake Chilwa model.</p> <p>1.2.1 Exchange visits with Lake Chilwa Hunting Clubs are provided for inspiration and capacity development. Training and support for the establishment of the Chia Lagoon Sustainable Hunting Clubs, and an umbrella Association (if deemed appropriate), is provided.</p> <p>1.3.1 Hunters, fishers and a selection of other household members and community leaders will be surveyed to assess the extent, nature and purpose of bird hunting at Chia Lagoon (how many birds, how many hunters, which species, what is a sustainable level of hunting)</p> <p>1.4.1 Participatory process to agree what sustainable hunting means, define a code of conduct, hunting protocols and enforcement mechanisms of individual Sustainable Bird Hunting Clubs and an overarching Sustainable Bird Hunting Association.</p> <p>1.5.1 Chia Lagoon Bird Hunting Associations in operation, including monitoring of adherence to agreed bylaws</p> <p>Output 2</p> <p>2.1.1 Participatory process for identifying and mapping bird sanctuaries (for breeding birds, threatened species), agreeing protection measures, providing signage and any minor structures, as needed and implementing a communications plan.</p> <p>2.2.1 Participatory process to plan restoration.</p> <p>2.2.2 Work with community to undertake restoration actions (set up native tree and/or native bamboo nurseries, seedling purchase if required, planting and care, sustainable harvesting, invasives removal, monitoring)</p>			

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2.3.1 Awareness raising publications/broadcasts, social media and events will be held focused on the community. To include community events celebrating e.g. Wetlands Day / International Day of Biodiversity

2.4.1 Baseline waterbird survey and ecosystem health assessment (Pressure, State, Response)

2.4.2 Ongoing Waterbird monitoring protocol will be designed and implemented. Training provided for community participation.

2.4.3 User friendly Bird ID guides will be designed with pictures (in English and local languages) and distributed e.g. to WESM branches, Chia Lagoon Hunting Clubs/Beach Associations, Schools, Wildlife Clubs and tourism lodges. Share digital versions.

2.5.1 IBA/KBA assessment undertaken (include birds, fish (using existing data) and at least one other taxa – based on preliminary biodiversity surveys) and data shared on KBA database. Based on result of assessment proceed with designation and make recommendations for further action (e.g. management planning)

2.5.2 Feasibility for further protection assessed (either as a Ramsar site or Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measure (OECM, based on the CBNRM)

Output 3

3.1.1 Baseline socioeconomic surveys will be designed by external consultant and implemented by the consultant or/if deemed preferable, by the WESM team, with support of the consultant. End surveys with beneficiaries will gather feedback, assess impact and future ambitions.

3.1.2 Propose/discuss potential enterprises/look at feasibility (3 existing and 2 new - agriculture/agroforestry and processing; bee keeping; avitourism; that would be sustainable from an ecosystem, climate resilience and economic perspective).

3.1.3 Provide training and practical support to establish / expand enterprises in communities where Hunting Clubs are established e.g. bee keeping, fruit / fish processing, boat trips, micro renewables, hospitality.

3.1.4 Monitor and provide support, if needed, to enterprises.

3.2.1 Establish micro lending initiative to support these and other enterprises. Recruit members, 90% women.

3.2.2 Micro lending mechanism is in operation, coupled with finance and business training for beneficiaries.

3.3.1 Avitourism is promoted through marketing and outreach to tourism businesses, bird guide training and installation of physical facilities.

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3.3.2 Provide practical support or small investments in avitourism/wildlife tourism infrastructure (e.g. boat repairs, safety equipment, signage).

3.3.3 Feasibility study of expanding avitourism and increasing benefits to local communities is conducted for Lake Malawi / Malawi.

Output 4

4.1.1 Meetings are held with stakeholders involved in Fish for Tomorrow and Chia Lagoon fisheries management and with Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. And, where applicable, with wider Lake Malawi Integrated Water Management programmes. Use meetings to share project information and promote working relationships.

4.2.1 Dissemination of project information and emerging results at national level through articles/broadcasts, briefings and meetings

4.3.2 Dissemination of project information and wider experience/lessons learned of CBNRM, especially for wetlands at international level through articles and participation in international event