

DIR30S2\1049

Lao communities tackle poverty and biodiversity loss for sustainable development

The project addresses deforestation and rural poverty across Khounkham, Gnommalath, and Mahaxay Districts, Khammouane Province, Laos. It targets directly 2,200 people in 8 villages adjacent to protected forests. Target communities engage in coping behaviours with negative effects due to lack of alternative livelihood options and awareness of forest conservation. To promote improved livelihoods that simultaneously foster forest and biodiversity conservation, 400 farmers will be supported to establish Farmers' Clubs and local capacities in sustainable agriculture and NTFP/medicinal plant cultivation strengthened.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary


Q3. Title:


Lao communities tackle poverty and biodiversity loss for sustainable development

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 pdf 161.88 KB

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR29S1\1123

DIR30S1\1316

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

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

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Biome 3

Intensive land-use systems

Conservation Action 1

Awareness Raising

Conservation Action 2

Species Management

Conservation Action 3

Education & Training

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

Climate change & severe weather

Threat 3

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

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

The project addresses deforestation and rural poverty across Khounkham, Gnommalath, and Mahaxay Districts, Khammouane Province, Laos. It targets directly 2,200 people in 8 villages adjacent to protected forests. Target communities engage in coping behaviours with negative effects due to lack of alternative livelihood options and awareness of forest conservation. To promote improved livelihoods that simultaneously foster forest and biodiversity conservation, 400 farmers will be supported to establish Farmers' Clubs and local capacities in sustainable agriculture and NTFP/medicinal plant cultivation strengthened.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Laos	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 April 2024	31 March 2027	3 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Amount:	£147,830.00	£134,685.00	£129,685.00	£ 412,200.00

Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q10. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

HPPL is providing confirmed matched funding of GBP 49,878, with the total BCF Funding request being GBP 412,200.

Q11. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. 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 multi-dimensional poverty.

The project aims to support biodiversity conservation and multidimensional poverty reduction in 8 villages located near degraded forest protected areas (PAs) across the 3 districts of Khounkham, Gnommalath, and Mahaxay, of Khammouane Province, Laos. Home to numerous endangered species in the Indo-Burma Hotspot for biodiversity and situated within the upper valleys of the Mekong catchment, the rugged woodlands of the Annamite Mountains' limestone karst hills limit communities' access to arable land. Rural communities in the target area suffer high poverty rates with income levels of less than US\$2 a day. With a poverty rate of 25.5% and a rural food poverty rate of 26.5% (Lao Bureau of Statistics, WB, 2020), Khammouane's rural districts are among Laos' poorest. Youth unemployment is disproportionately high, with around 37% of potentially employable young people under 25 years of age out of work, a percentage that is higher in rural areas (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare). As a result, male youth are encouraged to migrate to cities or neighbouring countries. Gender disparities run particularly deep in rural communities whose patriarchal societies contain mores that contribute to gender inequality: women facing heavier burden of work and cultural perceptions that favour men for positions of power and for access of financial resources and that keep women from emerging as leaders and decisions-makers, for example, among others (FAO, Country Gender Assessment 2018). In addition, women often collect and sell NTFPs, which complicates actions that strive to promote biodiversity while promoting gender empowerment/equality.

Families lack sustainable incomes to lift themselves out of poverty, leading to destructive coping behaviour and biodiversity loss from slash-and-burn agriculture, encroachment onto protected forests, illegal logging, and snaring of fauna. Target communities are also disadvantaged by lack of access to knowledge and resources to engage in alternative income generating activities (IGAs) that are climate-smart and environment-friendly. This drives environmental stress, which contributes to climate change, reinforcing the negative trends already affecting the target area and exacerbating vulnerabilities, and ultimately undermining resilience. Local climate projections include drier and longer dry seasons, late rainy seasons, and more rain variability, with floods increasingly threatening to devastate subsistence farmers' livelihoods (USAID, Mekong ARCC, 2014; Mekong River Commission, Climate Change, last accessed 2023).

The project's need was identified based on the lead applicant's, Humana People to People Laos (HPPL), experience working with reforestation and sustainable agriculture in the province, its partner's, Lao Biodiversity Association's (LBA), knowledge of biodiversity and experience in the field (NTFPs, medicinal plants), and in consultation with 3 District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (DAFOs) who recommended protected forest sites requiring conservation efforts that also present opportunities to address poverty in adjacent villages. HPPL is experienced in working holistically with women farmers and their communities, with funding support from various partners. The proposed action seeks to strengthen local capacities including training on sustainable agriculture, NTFP/medicinal plant cultivation, reforestation activities, and environmental awareness raising as a means of comprehensively targeting livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation in 8 rural communities while also contributing to gender equality and social inclusion.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q13b. 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 action will support Lao PDR's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2025 (innovative multi-stakeholder efforts to address degradation and enhance conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity), contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources (ITPGRFA), the fair and equitable sharing thereof (ABS), and to adaptation and mitigation priorities set by Lao PDR's Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC (such as supporting increased forest cover for mitigation and adaptation of co-benefits).

The action will also support the CBD, especially Articles 8, 10 and 11. Regarding Article 8, in-situ conservation, the project will foster inclusive long-term forest conservation by local villagers via local forest stewardship, where communities will drive proactive restoration and monitoring efforts in several protected forests. Awareness raising on biodiversity conservation linked to rural communities' local knowledge will promote the protection of ecosystems, and the sustainable development of the cultivation of NTFPs and medicinal plants will provide the conditions needed for compatibility between the uses and the conservation of biological diversity. Concerning Article 10, sustainable use of biological diversity, the proposed action will support local populations to develop and implement remedial actions in degraded areas through collective work that will rely on the structures of Farmers' Club. This is intended to encourage and protect the sustainable use of biological resources, which combined with sustainable agriculture approaches, can contribute to the alleviation of poverty. Improved livelihoods from NTFP and medicinal plant cultivation, strengthened by the promotion of value addition and access to markets, address Article 11, incentive measures, directly linking the benefits of conservation to increased income generation and thus poverty eradication.

The proposed action further aligns with the SDGs, specifically Goal 15, Life on Land, with its focus on protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of forests. By strengthening the capacities of local actors in forest conservation and by sustainably boosting the yields of established adjacent crops through the promotion of sustainable agriculture, the action will contribute to forest protection and halting of biodiversity loss.

Furthermore, by sensitizing local communities on the importance of forest preservation through awareness campaigns and support of relevant actions, such as community-based implementation of Lao law and regulation on illegal wildlife trade and sustainable NTFP and medicinal plant production through capacity building that includes training and the provision of vital resources, the action will foster local communities' ownership over sustainable forest management, intertwining conservation with socio-economic development and exemplifying their compatibility, as it increases the welfare of target communities.

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

Q14. 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.).

HPPL has implemented community-led projects in Khammouane Province since 2017, including an EU-funded project in 100 villages covering 6 districts. HPPL applies the Farmers' Clubs methodology (proven in 11 HPP Federation countries, supported by GCF, Adaptation Fund, GEF, WB, and WFP, among others) to support climate-resilient livelihoods, and food and nutrition security. Among others, HPPL projects have been funded by WWF and IUCN (targeting reforestation and environmental awareness) and ADB (gender and economic empowerment), collectively benefiting over 190,000 people in 17 districts.

HPPL's partner, LBA, has worked with rural communities since 2003. With funding from IUCN, GEF, GIZ and others, LBA has implemented projects improving biodiversity conservation and livelihoods, including zero-deforestation agroforestry, forest protection and vocational training.

The proposed project builds on the partners' combined experience, lessons learnt, and evidence generated. HPPL contributes with presence in the target districts and expertise in organizing community-based groups. LBA brings expertise in sustainable community forest management. Lessons learnt from Project 24-003 also informed the revised project design in terms of the reorganization of activities and outputs and monitoring feasibility of revised indicators.

The intervention comprehensively addresses biodiversity conservation and poverty challenges in the target areas. Activities under Output 1 will ensure that (A1.1) biodiversity surveys for each district inform activity design and species' selection, providing the basis for a biodiversity study that will assess impact and inform conservation action needs (LBA), as well as sustainable livelihoods/poverty reduction management plans (HPPL), endorsed by local authorities. To reduce human pressure on forest habitats, awareness on impacts of harmful practices (slash-and-burn, encroachment, illegal logging, etc.) and on benefits of environmental protection will be raised (A1.2) among 2,200 community members (HPPL/LBA). Awareness of Lao law and regulation on illegal wildlife trade will be strengthened, combined with monthly community-led actions to combat those (A1.3, HPPL).

Activities under Output 2 will (A2.1) train 400 farmers (50% women, xx% youth), organized into Farmers' Clubs (50 members each), and 3 DAFO staff on forest conservation (HPPL/LBA), including nursery propagation of native trees, planting, cultivation techniques and growth monitoring. To further strengthen local capacities, (A1.2) a plant nursery will be established in each target village (HPPL), with basic greenhouses, propagation and start-up inputs (including seeds and seedlings, acquired from the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute). Farmers will plant and cultivate 200,000 tree seedlings propagated (A1.3, HPPL/LBA). Local stewardship will be promoted with farmers monitoring the cultivation of 500 trees each, recoding growth progress in logbooks with supervision by the M&E Officer through 4 yearly site visits. The expected survival rate, as evidenced in previous HPPL projects (WWF, IUCN), is approximately 80%. Failed seedlings will be replaced by stock from established nurseries.

Activities under Output 3 address capacity building for the 400 farmers, 3 DAFO staff and 3 LBA staff in climate-smart and environment-friendly livelihoods. A baseline study will be conducted (A3.1, HPPL), including gender

analysis, to inform activity design and ensure gender-sensitivity. HPPL will train participants in sustainable agriculture and hold monthly meetings to assess progress and address challenges (A3.4) through the 8 Farmers' Clubs, established as the basis for organising all field activities (A3.2). Clubs will elect their own committees for autonomous management. Gender-balance and support for women leadership will be promoted. Farmers will track progress monthly in membership logbooks, further fostering ownership and contributing to monitoring. To assist trainings, demonstration plots and vegetable gardens will be established (A3.3) for each FC. Farmers and DAFO staff will also receive fortnightly training by LBA on NTFP/medicinal plant production (A3.5), focused on sustainable cultivation and use of resources to maximize yields while conserving forest areas. LBA will conduct a market survey to identify most viable NTFP/medicinal plant varieties (e.g., cardamom, bamboo, rattan). HPPL will introduce innovative food processing, preparation, and storage techniques (A3.6) to improve marketing of produce, and will facilitate linkages with the private sector.

Under Output 4, HPPL will (A4.1) work with Lao Women's Union in each target district on women's referrals for needed services (family planning, GBV support, etc.). Awareness raising will be embedded in all Outputs, targeting male and female participants, to raise understanding of and support for empowerment and active involvement of women. The establishment of rotating childcare systems (A4.2), accompanied by training on suitable carer-to-child rate, safe facilities, etc., is intended to reduce the burden of women, allowing for more time for income generation and agriculture. Training on financial management and literacy (A4.3) will facilitate the establishment of savings groups with revolving funds for women, adding to access of services vital for women to develop socio-economically.

Q15. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

In all projects, HPPL works closely with provincial and district government staff and has established itself as a trusted government partner. HPPL has proven positive collaborations with DAFOs, having several of its agriculture extension workers join Farmers' Clubs' project activities funded by different donors. In the proposed project, 3 DAFO staff will join training via new Farmers' Clubs in sustainable agriculture and conservation. The project's approach and model used, combined with new management plans, will provide the government with resources for the widespread implementation of sustainable community-based conservation interlinked with socio-economic development.

HPPL also works with other CSOs to crowd in additional experience and expertise, such as, in this case, LBA. The project will contribute to the strengthening of capability and capacity of LBA as 2 of its staff join trainings on sustainable agriculture. HPPL will support LBA in adequate management of funds and monitoring of activity progress and indicators, to ensure overall compliance with the donor's regulation, and to equip LBA with additional capability to successfully lead future projects.

The capacities of local communities will be strengthened through the establishment of the aforementioned community-based groups/structures, trainings and provision of the necessary tools and equipment for successful implementation of livelihood and conservation activities beyond the project's lifetime. Ongoing community empowerment will support the equitable establishment of a benefit-sharing mechanism at the grassroots level that promotes fairness, gender equality and inclusivity, and collaboration in utilising natural resources. LBA will follow MAF and Lao Forestry Law regulations on sustainable NTFP species cultivation, use government supplied seedling/seeds, and work closely with district authorities to avoid NTFP exploitation and support benefit sharing amongst communities. Laos is a Party to the CBD and Nagoya Protocol and has a draft policy on ABS, but it is not yet adopted, resulting in challenges for national implementation.

Q16. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

The project is committed to addressing GESI challenges, particularly focusing on rural women who often face disproportionate exclusion and lack decision-making power within households and communities, educational and training opportunities, and have a much higher care burden than their male counterparts. It aims to redress these inequalities, which hinder women's economic empowerment and nutrition, also that of their children, a critical issue reflected in high chronic malnutrition rates in Khammouane (UNICEF, 2020).

The project will equip farmers, 50% of them women, with new skills, a supportive social network, and context-appropriate means of generating income from the sustainable NTFPs/medicinal plants cultivation and climate-smart agricultural while raising awareness and conducting capacity training on GESI. The participation of youth who face similar barriers to economic development will also be actively promoted in project activities.

Specific GESI approaches to be incorporated include gender analysis in the baseline survey to assess women's and men's interests and needs and the use of gender-sensitive and inclusive project material. The project will ensure that meetings and capacity building trainings are carried out during times where all target beneficiaries are available. The project will also facilitate the establishment of permanent rotating community childcare systems in each community in order to enable more mothers of young children to engage in income producing activities and farming. The establishment of savings groups accompanied by financial management and literacy trainings for women, who mostly lack access to such resources, will also contribute the achievement of equitable outcomes. These efforts will be supported by awareness raising initiatives among men and other community members/leaders on the importance of GESI, a key and transformative step that influences attitudes, behaviors, and social structures. This will foster more inclusive societies where individuals, regardless of their gender or social characteristics, can actively participate and benefit from services and opportunities.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction, and links between them, that this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who exactly will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

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

The project will directly benefit 2,200 community members (400 households) through increased awareness and knowledge of impacts of environmental degradation and benefits of environmental protection, as well as of Lao law and regulation on illegal wildlife trade and the importance thereof. One member of each target household (400 farmers) will be capable of forest conservation practices, sustainable agriculture and forest-related IGAs. Additionally, 200 farmer women will be capable of accessing services crucial for their socio-economic development. 3 LBA staff will also benefit from training in livelihood activities, as will 3 DAFO staff who will also participate in the conservation trainings. An additional 2,000 community members will benefit indirectly from the project.

In the short term, the project will contribute to a reduction in human pressure on species and habitats of target forest PAs achieved through an expected 75% decrease in unsustainable practices by target households, which is estimated to lead to a reduction of 30% in illegal extraction of timber and non-timber natural resources. Hunting and poaching are expected to decrease by 70% in the 8 target communities after awareness raising and continuous community-led actions. Improved knowledge and capacities in forest management are expected to mobilize half of participant farmers (200 people) to join community-led actions, including the planting and

cultivation of 200,000 trees. These interventions will inform 8 new assessments of habitat conservation action needs and 8 community trees/plant species management plans.

At least 50% of farmers (200 people) are expected to adopt sustainable agriculture and forest-related IGA practices, and to diversify their livelihood practices. In addition to general awareness raising on GESI for better understanding of and support for women's role in farming, NTFP production and conservation efforts, the project will explicitly increase the access of 200 women farmers to health and social services, rotating childcare systems, and community-based finance services.

The above is expected to lead to sustainable management of 96ha of habitats, 50% reduction in deforestation in the targeted PAs and 50% increase of target species. Considering the above results, survival rates of planted trees and time required for the planted trees/plants to yield marketable products, 200 households are expected to achieve an increase of 15% in revenue. The combination of the above results will allow for the development and endorsement of 8 new/improved sustainable livelihoods/poverty reduction management plans.

In the long-term, a more inclusive and equitable enabling environment will allow for increased conservation of targeted PAs and further improvement of livelihoods in surrounding communities, as community-based structures function as sustainable self-support platforms, supporting forest stewardship, increased access to markets and sustainable value-addition. This will ultimately and sustainably contribute to increased welfare as multi-dimensional poverty and biodiversity loss are reduced, based on credible evidence with potential to scale where vulnerable farming communities and PAs overlap. The management plans endorsed by local authorities can be expected to be mainstreamed into relevant plans, policies and budgets in Khammouane Province, extending the reach of promoted approaches and models, and contributing to systems change.

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, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

The project intends to sustainably improve income generation and forest management in Khammouane Province (Outcome), through the implementation of 4 inter-linked, integrated and mutually reinforcing sets of activities. As such, the project will act (Output – Op.1) to reduce human pressure on habitats in PAs and (Op.2) to improve knowledge and capacities in forest conservation, thereby interlinking training and action to ensure long-term results. Activities under Op.3 (strengthened environment-friendly agriculture and livelihoods) will equally contribute to reducing pressure on habitats (Op.1) and enhance agency and capacities for NRM (Op.2). Healthier ecosystems (Op.1, 2) will generate improved ecosystem services, thereby contributing to better conditions for local livelihoods (Op.3). Op.4 (Increasing women's access to services) is cross-cutting and reinforces the 3 other Outputs. Working through community-based organisations (clubs), the project strengthens social capital, reinforcing not only general resilience but also guaranteeing long-term sustainability of results. Equally, cooperating with local authorities and leveraging expertise from all selected partners, including local communities, provides an enabling environment for project continuation.

Altogether, the combination, integration and reciprocal benefits of NRM, environment-friendly livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, and women's empowerment will lead to long-term, sustainable reduction of multi-dimensional poverty and biodiversity loss, and an increase in welfare (Impact).

Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q19a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

The project was co-developed by partners and informed by consultation with local communities and authorities to ensure sustainability through self-sustaining activities that generate relevant benefits. Active engagement and

leadership of local stakeholders, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge, will engender ownership and reinforce long-term sustainability post-funding. Management plans endorsed by local authorities, and that build on existing local and district-level structures, will further guarantee the project's enduring impact by laying the groundwork for future actions, as will improved capacities and knowledge on an institutional and individual level. By organizing farmers into Clubs, the project will promote and facilitate collaboration among farmers, enhancing social capital for resilience through actions that intertwine and foster both forest conservation and economic development. As such, the project will serve as a gender-sensitive and scalable model of sustainable community-based conservation and development that can be shared and applied beyond the scope of the project.

Q19b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

HPPL will apply an evidence-based model and approach that has proven successful on a smaller scale in the same target Province. If implemented successfully, it will provide evidence for its potential to be further scaled, through replication across the country, supporting the interests of other PAFO/DAFOs and where donors such as HPP Federation could be approached for support. As the approach generates an increase in capacity with a ripple effect in the communities, such scaling across the country would have a much larger impact, capable of conserving entire landscapes and contributing to system change as evidence and stakeholders advocate for its widespread adoption, exerting pressure for its integration into relevant policies and planning.

Scaling could be hindered if authorities change commitment to development/conservation agenda and institutional capacities and financial resources are extremely reduced, which is very unlikely. Additional funding will be sought for extra support in case of cuts.

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

No Response

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.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
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Fiduciary	<p>Misuse of funds by partners, i.e. not used for intended purposes, not accounted for or misreported, either intentionally or unintentionally, that lead to reduced impact of project or risk to the project's reputation.</p>	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>Project partners have proven track-records of successfully managing and reporting on grants from a wide range of donors, supported by organizational and financial structures in place to effectively administer finances. The grant agreement will clearly outline the financial responsibilities for each partner. Additional training will be provided as needed</p>	Minor
Safeguarding	<p>Abuse and harassment, sexual exploitation by staff and endangered safety and welfare of all project stakeholders, public and project beneficiaries result in harm of individuals. Project may inadvertently heighten risk of violence against women by disrupting traditional power dynamics, and inadvertently fostering socio-economic tensions leading to increased vulnerability for women.</p>	Major	Rare	Moderate	<p>HPPL will train staff in safeguarding. Safeguarding policies are binding to all partners and adequately communicated. Transparent and inclusive Whistle-blowing, Grievance and feedback Mechanisms will immediately identify negative acts/consequences, responding accordingly. Activities will raise community awareness and support, creating a more enabling environment for women's economic activity and empowerment.</p>	Minor
Delivery Chain	<p>Communities and local authorities (PAFO/DAFO) do not engage in the project activities as expected, leading to slow implementation or limited achievement of the envisioned objectives.</p>	Major	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>HPPL has longstanding presence in the target Province and continuously works with local authorities (PAFO/DAFO) on the implementation of projects. The respective authorities and local communities were consulted during project development phase. HPPL and LBA both have extensive experience in sustaining community engagement, ensured through participatory and inclusive approaches.</p>	Minor

Risk 4	Staff members or participants contract Covid-19 or other communicable diseases, disrupting implementation of project activities.	Moderate	Possible	Minor	Project partners are experienced in delivering activities in such restricted scenarios and will adhere to national policies and regulations. HPPL will supply PPE where necessary and will utilize existing networks and virtual tools to ensure remote engagement, if necessary	Moderate
Risk 5	Extreme weather events such as floods/droughts hampers the implementation of project activities.	Major	Unlikely	Moderate	HPPL has established presence in the target area, strong working relation with local authorities to ensure that the project progresses in safe conditions, and resources to cope with extreme weather events.	Minor
Risk 6	Economic fallout generates high inflation increasing salaries and other project costs beyond the maximum allowed by the donor.	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	There is budget scope to adjust activities if price increases outside educated expectations. The donor will be contacted in a timely manner and informed accordingly if the risk materializes. If necessary and possible, additional funding will be raised to cover additional costs.	Moderate

Q21. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

No

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q23. 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.

As the Lead Partner, HPPL will be responsible for proper project management and implementation, establishing appropriate arrangements for coordination and supervision of operations to guarantee implementation quality, effective monitoring and evaluation and reliable reporting. An adaptive management approach will permit methodologies to be adjusted and evolving issues to be addressed throughout the lifecycle of the project. Workplans will be adjusted accordingly, in consultation with the donor, ensuring responsiveness to emerging circumstances and opportunities, and maximizing impacts.

A robust and over-arching Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) plan will be developed based on the logframe targets and indicators, workplan and budget (including realistic forecast). Beneficiaries, implementing partners and stakeholders will be involved in monitoring and learning processes to ensure adequate continuation, program quality, accurate tracking of expenditures and supplies, and most efficient use of resources. Primary and secondary sources, qualitative and quantitative methodologies will be used to collect data and information at various stages, through mobile and paper-based tools, covering all project results and activities. The disaggregation of data will be stipulated by the logframe.

At project inception, the MEAL plan will be established and presented in a kick-off meeting with all implementing partners. An archiving plan for relevant supporting documents will also be established at this point, ensuring that all project-related materials are adequately stored and available for audit purposes. The partners' program and financial staff will collaborate and work closely using gender-sensitive tools and templates, and respecting the established plan for data collection and reporting submission; HPPL has a gender focal point for assistance. Additional training will be provided as necessary.

HPPL will receive monthly compiled data and information from project field staff about the progress of activities and indicators and financial execution through monthly follow-up meetings and quarterly financial and program reports. To ensure appropriate expenditure and overall compliance with the donor's regulations (and apply corrective measures if necessary), HPPL will perform quarterly checks of samples of supporting documents related to costs. Project field staff will meet weekly to discuss achievements and challenges and monthly with national M&E leadership.

A baseline study will confirm the zero-time status of the project and detect any major issues and/or beneficiary concerns. Information will then be collected regularly at the field level following the MEAL plan. An end-line study will measure the project's final impact.

A close-out meeting will be held one month before the project end with all implementing partners for a smooth closure on timings and resources, organisation of final data collection and production of indicators, analysis of the programmatic impact of the project and compilation of lessons learned.

The information and knowledge generated will be disseminated to key stakeholders at local, provincial and national levels, including authorities and other CBOs and CSOs, and synergies will be sought with other initiatives in the country. Additionally, following a communication plan, information will be disseminated to the wider





public through traditional and social media. HPPL will use the extent of networks in which it is active for dissemination at the international level.

Total project budget for M&E (£) (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Total project budget for M&E (%) (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	[REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	108

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q24. 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 will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

-  [HPPLaos BCF-St2-and-Single-Stage-Logical-Framework](#)
-  27/11/2023
-  13:34:03
-  pdf 87.32 KB

Impact:

Multi-dimensional poverty and biodiversity loss are reduced and welfare increased through adoption of a sustainable community-based model integrating forest conservation and socio-economic development, supported by an inclusive and equitable environment.

Outcome:

Income generation activities and community-based forest management are improved through strengthened knowledge and capacities at community and district level, equitably increasing income and conserving protected forest areas in Khammouane Province.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Human pressure on species and forest habitats in protected areas is reduced

Output 2:

Knowledge and capacities for sustainable community-based forest conservation are improved

Output 3:

Local climate-smart and environment-friendly livelihoods are diversified and strengthened

Output 4:

Women have increased access to services that are vital for socio-economic development

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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 Conduct sample biodiversity surveys and studies
- 1.2 Conduct environmental education sessions
- 1.3 Strengthen awareness and implementation of Lao law and regulation on illegal wildlife trade

Output 2

- 2.1 Conduct capacity training on tree/plan cultivation and sustainable forest management
- 2.2 Establish 8 village plant nurseries
- 2.3 Plant, cultivate and monitor new trees/plants for increased conservation of protected forest areas

Output 3

- 3.1 Conduct baseline study
- 3.2 Establish 8 Farmers' Clubs
- 3.3 Establish 8 demonstration plots and vegetable gardens
- 3.4 Conduct capacity training on sustainable agriculture
- 3.5 Conduct capacity training on sustainable production of NTFP/medicinal plants
- 3.6 Promote value addition and market access

Output 4


- 4.1 Facilitate access to health and social services for women
- 4.2 Facilitate the establishment of rotating childcare systems
- 4.3 Conduct capacity training and facilitate the establishment of inclusive community savings groups with revolving funds


Section 11 - Budget and Funding


Q25. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

 [HPP Laos BCF-Budget](#)

 27/11/2023

 14:02:22

 xlsx 100.34 KB

Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

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

New Initiative

Please provide details:

The project represents new work in the target Khounkham, Gnommalath, and Mahaxay Districts of Khammouane Province. HPPL has an established presence in and knowledge of the districts through various reforestation projects with WWF and IUCN and sustainable agriculture and nutrition programs funded by the EU, ADB and other donors. This has allowed HPPL to build up a strong relationship with local communities and authorities, particularly the pertinent sector, via the Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices. Similarly, LBA has previously implemented projects in Khammouane and other provinces, but the project's combination of sustainable agriculture, reforestation and NTFP cultivation to tackle biodiversity loss and poverty will be a first for the target districts.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project that may duplicate or cut across this proposed project?

No

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). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

HPPL has worked with Lao communities since 2011, raising awareness, improving access to knowledge and services and building capacity through cost-effective interventions that generate long-lasting impacts and have the potential to be scaled. Similarly, the proposed project is feasible and ensures good value for money, in the following way:

Economy: As a locally-based organization, HPPL makes use of existing systems, equipment and infrastructure to keep costs at a minimum, complemented by matched funding for staff, management and rent of office space.

Capital items will be sourced in-country to avoid additional charges (shipping/customs), where feasible.

Community members will contribute time and energy to establish model fields and lead community actions.

Efficiency: The partners' experience and its long-term partnerships, knowledge of the local context, and presence in the target areas will ensure minimal start-up costs and organizational work to initiate activities. These capacities will also facilitate continued engagement among stakeholders and their execution of planning, management and monitoring responsibilities.

Effectiveness: The project will promote proven approaches and methodologies that are inclusive and adaptive, foster local ownership, and build on existing structures to ensure the generation of long-lasting impacts that can be replicated and scaled across the country.

Equity: The project was designed through a GESI lens to ensure that awareness and support of such issues are raised, and that women and youth are equally involved in project activities and can participate in decision-making. Specific activities will target women, to tackle gender disparities and promote their empowerment.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Initiative 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.

Lead partner HPPL plans to purchase only basic materials such as plastic sheeting and wire for the erection of 8 greenhouses in native tree/NTFP species cultivation along with the purchase of wire cutters and essential garden tools like rakes and hoes.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy:** including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy:** which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct:** which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

To uphold the safeguarding principles outlined by Defra, HPPL will ensure that policies and procedures address adequate protection to staff, implementing partners, the public, and beneficiaries. It is fundamental to HPPL's principles that all participants, irrespective of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, or any other characteristic, experience a secure, inclusive and respectful environment. Aligned with established organizational policies and procedures, HPPL will take proactive measures to prevent neglect, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, embracing the IASC 6 Core.

To guarantee that project partners uphold the same policies, HPPL will proactively disseminate safeguarding policies, providing necessary support and guidance to promote understanding and adherence. All staff will receive training in safeguarding and sign a Code of Conduct. All project beneficiaries will be informed of HPPL's safeguarding commitment upon inception and be provided with guidance on how to confidentially raise concern throughout the lifecycle of the project. Online awareness campaigns and on-site information dissemination in the target areas will reach the wider public.

HPPL will establish clear investigation and disciplinary procedures, and maintain an updated register of project-related safeguarding issues. A thorough recruitment approach and implementation of a whistle-blowing mechanism will further support HPPL's risk management strategies.

Q30. Ethics

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

empowering them with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools to achieve the changes they desire for their communities. This requires a participatory, gender-sensitive and inclusive approach to ensure that the rights, needs, interests, concerns and knowledge of all stakeholders, and especially of vulnerable and marginalized people, are incorporated equitably. Also key to this approach is the active involvement of communities in all stages of the project, from idea development through consultations to M&E, valuing traditional knowledge alongside international scientific knowledge and methods. As such, the approach guarantees equitable access and benefit sharing for all stakeholders.

The proposed approach, which follows FPIC principles, will be safeguarded by a Code of Conduct as well as policies and procedures to ensure that the rights, privacy and safety of all people are respected and that the health and safety of all staff is protected. This will be supported by a Grievance Mechanism that is locally appropriate, accessible and transparent. Suitable documentation will uphold the credibility of evidence. Adherence to national laws and regulations, and international commitments for human rights and biodiversity, is inherent to HPPL's work and therefore also to the proposed project.

Section 13 - British embassy or high commission engagement

Q31. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies.

Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project.

No

If no, why not?

HPPL contacted the British Embassy Vientiane by phone and was verbally advised that a meeting to discuss our proposal was unnecessary. HPPL then asked for feedback/acknowledgement regarding the project via a reply email, but they did not respond by the Stage 2 application deadline.

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

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

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
----------------------------	------	-------------------	--

Gitte Hector	Project Leader	15	Checked
Viengphayvanh Nabandith	Financial Controller	15	Checked
Inger Damkjaer	Grant Administrator & M&E Manager	15	Checked
Timthong Xaiyahome	Project Field Organiser HPPL	100	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Phouvieng Khounpaseuth	Project Coordinator LBA	30	Checked
Swady Kingkeo	Program Manager, Conservation & Livelihoods LBA	30	Checked
Somsanith Bouamanivong	Biologist, NTFP Expert LBA	30	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Unchecked

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

 [HPPL LBA CVs](#)

 27/11/2023

 14:17:47

 pdf 247.17 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project Partners

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

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 order of the letters must be the same as the order they are presented in below.

Lead partner name: Humana People to People Laos (HPPL)

Website address: <https://hpp-laos.org/>

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

HPPL has implemented community-led sustainable agriculture projects since 2011, focusing on reducing deforestation and reforesting degraded areas plus food security, MCHN, WASH, and HIV/TB prevention-treatment working with donor partners such as the EU, ADB, The Global Fund and numerous foreign embassies. HPPL projects have directly benefited 190,000 people (17 districts, 359 villages) in Khammouane, Oudomxay and Bolikhamxay Provinces particularly marginalised and vulnerable populations in rural and remote communities, particularly women, children, youth, and ethnic minorities.

For the project, HPPL will lead sustainable agriculture capacity building for 400 villagers with 8 Farmers' Clubs established (50 members each comprising at least 50% women by design) as the basis for organising all field activities including native tree reforestation and NTFP cultivation. HPPL will support farmers to set up demonstration plots and vegetable gardens, motivate about climate-smart agriculture methodologies to diversify vegetable production for improved nutrition and livelihoods, and introduce innovative food processing, preparation, and storage techniques to facilitate farmer produce marketing. HPPL will build on the trust developed with local communities and Lao authorities at the district, provincial and national level to ensure the project's success.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA)

Website address: <https://laobiodiversity.wordpress.com/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

LBA has developed expertise in implementing grassroots biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction projects in Laos since 2003. During that time, it has also fostered productive relations with Lao government authorities to help ensure the continued success of programs. LBA will conduct 3 sample biodiversity surveys (1 per district) to assist project design and tree planting, and market survey of known traders to identify viable NTFP/medicinal plant varieties to cultivate (such as cardamon, bamboo, rattan). Farmers will attend fortnightly training (delivered and managed by 3 district-level LBA staff) focused on sustainable NTFP cultivation, propagation, maximising yields, and marketing. The goals of the Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA) are to take part in the process of wildlife conservation, forest conservation, forestation, and ethno-botany according to government strategy and goals and to take part in the process of poverty alleviation according to the government policy. Main activities include supporting villagers to grow trees/NTFP as an active contribution to sustainable conservation and development of biodiversity, the natural and social environment of Laos; Active contribution to the reduction of poverty especially in remote area among minority people; and Active participation in alleviating the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable communities.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget: £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes

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

2. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

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

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes
 No

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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner:	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	<i>No Response</i>
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

6. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>





What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	<i>No Response</i>
--	--------------------

International/In-country Partner:	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	<i>No Response</i>
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> 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 combined PDF of all letters of support.

-  [HPPL LBA Letters of Support](#)
-  27/11/2023
-  14:27:02
-  pdf 256.5 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

No

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

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered? 01 January 2011

What is the legal status of your organisation? NGO

How is your organisation currently funded? HPPL's current and recent funding includes that by donors, such as the EU, ADB, French 5%, Global Fund, UNDP GEF, L'Oréal Fund for Women, WWF, IUCN, embassies of Czech Republic, Canada, Australia, and the Humana People to People Federation.

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

Aims HPPL core aim is to work shoulder to shoulder with remote and vulnerable communities in Laos empowering them to mobilise each other, work together and achieve the change they desire for their community.

Activities Activities cover the focus areas of sustainable agriculture, reforestation, health (TB and HIV), nutrition as well as water, sanitation and hygiene.

Achievements Since 2011, HPP Laos' inclusive approach has benefited 90,000 marginalized people in 180 villages, mainly in the provinces of Bolikhamxay & Khammouane. It has supported 36,000 vulnerable people through climate-resilient agriculture and led TB awareness campaigns for 485,000 people, with 315,000 screenings & 720 patients on TB treatment.

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

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

Contract/Project 1 Title EU Nutrition Project in Khammouane Province

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) US\$ [REDACTED]

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

Role of organisation in project HPPL implemented a food and nutrition security project in 100 target villages of 6 districts in Khammouane Province. The project was realised in cooperation with Health Poverty Action and the Province's Health Office.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>HPPL was responsible for agricultural activities and establishing 100 Farmers' Clubs with their own demonstration plots for participatory learning. Key project results included providing biweekly trainings for 5,000 farmers in sustainable agriculture techniques; training 102 volunteer veterinary workers and distributing 8,250 farm animals under a pass-on loan scheme; establishing small-scale irrigation systems in 70 villages for demonstration plots; establishing 6 cooperatives for income generation and marketing of products; and training farmers in food processing, storage and preserving techniques.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	<p>Mr Inpone Senekhamty Program Manager European Union Delegation to Laos [REDACTED]</p>
Contract/Project 2 Title	Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 through Community-Led Interventions [FUNDED]
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	US\$ [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	25 months
Role of organisation in project	<p>HPPL led a consortium with 2 other Lao CSO partners which assessed critical risks in 5 communities of Thakek and Khounkham Districts, Khammouane Province, to identify vulnerable individuals affected by COVID-19 and develop appropriate mitigation and response plans based on local needs and contexts.</p>
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>The project placed a particular emphasis on assisting disadvantaged returning migrant workers as well as mobilising and empowering women, including pregnant and elderly women. HPPL led the project in addressing community-based crisis prevention, mitigation, and adaptation measures in the 5 villages. Economic support was provided for people with livelihoods affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftereffects via alternative livelihood programs, which included making masks, clothing, and soap. Local communities increased their capacity to implement COVID-19 prevention measures with community plans implemented particularly directly addressing the needs of women and girls.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	<p>Ms Pinsuda Alexander Economist, ADB Southeast Asia Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division [REDACTED]</p>
Contract/Project 3 Title	The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM)

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	US\$ [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	3 years
Role of organisation in project	Implemented in 3 districts of Bolikhamxay Province, aiming to increase TB case notification through active case finding among vulnerable populations. Project raised awareness of TB in rural communities within TB hotspots, identified presumptive cases through screening and contact tracing, and referred patients to be tested in Health Centres for diagnosis.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	TB patients and families received treatment adherence support through education on TB, improved nutrition, and establishment of Trios (usually three people, including 2 family members and/or close friends and 1 patient requiring support) to ensure regular medication intake and support. Project staff worked with and built capacities of local Health Centre staff and Village Health Workers. Key Results: With 150 Village Health Workers formed 119 Trios among 131 villages with 24,576 households. Conducted TB awareness campaigns for 131,238 people. Pre-screened (interviewed) 77,790 people, referring 1,512 for 1,872 microscopy and GeneXpert tests. 360 patients x-rayed twice. 119 testing TB positive.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Mr Sakhone Suthepmany Administrator, National Program National Tuberculosis Centre (NTC), Lao Ministry of Health [REDACTED]

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q.35 Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Humana People to People Laos (HPPL)

I apply for a grant of




£412,200.00

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 key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.





Checked

Name	Gitte Hector
Position in the organisation	Country Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Gitte Hector Signature  27/11/2023  16:01:52  pdf 30.92 KB
Date	27 November 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 HPPL Financial Statements 21_22  27/11/2023  15:51:25  pdf 4.44 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF

 Ethical Standards HPP  27/11/2023  15:57:07  pdf 315.62 KB
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Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance 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:	
• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	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
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	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: Lao communities tackle poverty and biodiversity loss for sustainable development

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Multi-dimensional poverty and biodiversity loss are reduced and welfare increased through adoption of a sustainable community-based model integrating forest conservation and socio-economic development, supported by an inclusive and equitable environment (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: Income generation activities and community-based forest management are improved through strengthened knowledge and capacities at community and district level, equitably increasing income and conserving protected forest areas in Khammouane Province. (Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices as a result of improved conservation awareness and capacity for community-based forest resource stewardship (target: 96, i.e. 12ha per Farmers' Club) [DI-D01]</p> <p>0.2 Percentage of deforestation in the targeted protected areas is reduced by 50% compared to 2024 baseline.</p> <p>0.3 Percentage increase of target species compared to 2024 baseline (target: 50% of the following: Siamese Rosewood, Sindora Siamensis, Plerocarpus Macrocarpus (reforestation underpinned by endangered tree species) and rattan species).</p> <p>0.4 Number of households with an increased revenue of 15%</p>	<p>0.1 Quantitative data from community and PAFO/DAFO monitoring reports</p> <p>0.2 Quantitative data from PAFO/DAFO monitoring reports</p> <p>0.3 Quantitative data from community and PAFO/DAFO monitoring reports</p> <p>0.4 Household surveys</p> <p>0.5 Endorsement of sustainable livelihoods/poverty reduction management plans by local authorities</p>	<p>Local agriculture and forest authorities (PAFO/DAFO) continue to be supportive and engaged</p> <p>Policy initiatives will prioritize innovative models of inclusive benefit-sharing that empower local communities</p> <p>Communities continue to be willing to actively participate in inclusive forest conservation and sustainable agriculture activities and climate-smart and environment-friendly IGAs</p> <p>Rates of habitat and species loss will respond to changes in local land use and livelihood practices</p> <p>Climate events and/or disease do not impact communities, wildlife populations and protected forest areas</p>

Project Title: Lao communities tackle poverty and biodiversity loss for sustainable development

	<p>compared to 2024 baseline as a result of improved conservation and sustainable livelihoods practices promoted by the project (target: 200).</p> <p>0.5 Number of new/improved sustainable livelihoods/poverty reduction management plans endorsed by local authorities (target: 8) [DI-B04]</p>		<p>Results from proposed project will be applicable and scalable to other similar contexts in Laos and beyond</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Human pressure on species and forest habitats in protected areas is reduced</p>	<p>1.1 By year 2 of the project, at least 25% of community members in target villages are aware of illegal wildlife trade laws and regulations and of the benefits of environmental protection against 2024 baseline (disaggregated by age and gender).</p> <p>1.2 By the end of the project, number of target households reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices used as a result of project activities (target: 300, i.e. 75% of target household) [DI-B09]</p> <p>1.3 By the end of the project, illegal extraction of timber and non-timber natural resources in targeted protected areas is reduced by 30% against 2024 baseline.</p>	<p>1.1 Number and extent of community outreach campaigns and household surveys</p> <p>1.2 Quantitative data from community and PAFO/DAFO monitoring reports</p> <p>1.3 Assessments of habitat conservation action needs submitted to local authorities</p> <p>1.4 Quantitative data from community and PAFO/DAFO monitoring reports</p> <p>1.5 Biodiversity Studies and Surveys conducted by the project (A1.1) and assessments of habitat conservation action needs formulated</p>	<p>Surveys and studies conducted indicate feasible/viable opportunities and sufficient benefits for conservation</p> <p>Link between rates of habitat and species loss and encroachment and harmful practices</p> <p>Policies are in place to support and empower communities to drive actions to combat illegal poaching and wildlife trade and to protect forest habitats</p>

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	<p>1.4 By the end of project, hunting and poaching among 8 target communities in targeted protected areas is reduced by 70% against 2024 baseline.</p> <p>1.5 Number of new assessments of habitat conservation action needs are formulated for target protected areas, based on project biodiversity surveys and studies (target: 3) [DI-C03]</p>		
<p>2. Knowledge and capacities for sustainable community-based forest conservation are improved</p>	<p>2.1 By project year 2, number of community members capable of forest conservation practices after completing structured and relevant training (target: 200, disaggregated by age and gender) [DI-A01]</p> <p>2.2 Number of community members in target villages with increased participation in community-led forest management (target: 200 i.e. 50% of target participants, people, disaggregated by age and gender) [DI-B05]</p> <p>2.3 Number of new community trees/plants species management plan endorsed by local authorities (target: 8) [DI-B03]</p>	<p>2.1 Training course attendance list and pre and post-training surveys</p> <p>2.2 Monitoring records by community members</p> <p>2.3 Endorsement of community management plans by local authorities</p>	<p>Adequate feasibility of field-based monitoring at target site level</p> <p>Link between rates of habitat and species loss and encroachment and harmful practices</p> <p>Policies are in place to support and empower communities to lead resource stewardship for improved conservation</p>

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<p>3. Local climate-smart and environment-friendly livelihoods are diversified and strengthened</p>	<p>3.1 By project year 3, number of community members, DAFO staff and LBA staff capable of sustainable agriculture and forest-related IGAs after completing structured and relevant training (target: 406 (400 farmers, 3 LBA staff and 3 DAFO staff, disaggregated by age, gender and stakeholder group) [DI-A01]</p> <p>3.2 By the end of the project, number of small-holder farmers applying sustainable agriculture and forest-related IGA practices against 2024 baseline (target: 200, i.e. 50% of participants, disaggregated by age and gender)) [DI-A04]</p> <p>3.3 Number of small-holder farmers reporting adoption of diversified livelihood practices as a result of project activities (target: 200, i.e. 50% of participants, disaggregated by age and gender and number/type of practices) [DI-B10]</p>	<p>3.1 Training course attendance list and pre and post-training surveys</p> <p>3.2 Household surveys before and after training demonstrating change in practices used</p> <p>3.3 Household surveys before and after project (baseline and endline surveys)</p>	<p>Surveys and studies conducted indicate feasible/viable opportunities, interest and sufficient benefits for diversified IGAs</p> <p>Policies are in place to support and empower communities to adopt sustainable livelihoods</p> <p>Communities remain open to overcome gender inequalities</p>
<p>4. Women have increased access to services that are vital for socio-economic development</p>	<p>4.1 By end of the project, number of women with increased access to services for improved well-being (target: 200, disaggregated by age) [DI-A06]</p>	<p>4.1 Informational meetings attendance lists and pre and post-action surveys with women and District Offices</p>	<p>Policies are in place to support and empower women in sustainable socio-economic development</p>

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	<p>4.2 By project year 3, number of women capable to access community-based finance services after completing structured training in financial management and literacy (target: 200, disaggregated by age) [DI-A01]</p>	<p>4.2 Training course attendance list and pre and post-training surveys</p>	<p>Communities remain open to overcome gender inequalities</p>
<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><u>Output 1</u> 1.1 Conduct sample biodiversity surveys and studies 1.2 Conduct environmental education sessions 1.3 Strengthen awareness and implementation of Lao law and regulation on illegal wildlife trade</p> <p><u>Output 2</u> 2.1 Conduct capacity training on tree/plan cultivation and sustainable forest management 2.2 Establish 8 village plant nurseries 2.3 Plant, cultivate and monitor new trees/plants for increased conservation of protected forest areas</p> <p><u>Output 3</u> 3.1 Conduct baseline study 3.2 Establish 8 Farmers' Clubs 3.3 Establish 8 demonstration plots and vegetable gardens 3.4 Conduct capacity training on sustainable agriculture 3.5 Conduct capacity training on sustainable production of NTFP/medicinal plants 3.6 Promote value addition and market access</p> <p><u>Output 4</u> 4.1 Facilitate access to health and social services for women 4.2 Facilitate the establishment of rotating childcare systems 4.3 Conduct capacity training and facilitate the establishment of inclusive community savings groups with revolving funds</p>			