

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

AB224



APPLICATION FOR GRANT

**LOWLAND WET GRASSLANDS IN THE CZECH
REPUBLIC AND ESTONIA - IMPLEMENTING
SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION**

Please read the attached Guidance Note before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Applicants are asked not to use the form supplied to cross refer to information in separate documents. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate sheet if necessary.

1. DETAILS OF APPLICANT

1.1 Name of organisation applying

International Centre of Landscape Ecology, Department of Geography

1.2 Address for correspondence

International Centre of Landscape Ecology
Department of Geography
Loughborough University
Loughborough, Leicestershire
LE11 3TU

1.3 Person who may be contacted about this application, and position in organisation.

Dr Max Wade
Director

1.4 Telephone and FAX numbers

1.5 Nature of the organisation (eg is it an academic institution, a registered charity, company limited by guarantee?)

Academic institution

1.6 Describe briefly the aims, activities and structure of your organisation:

Aims: To strive towards the sound management of our natural resources by (a) providing a high quality environmental advisory service to public, voluntary and private agencies wishing to assess and manage the environment, (b) ensuring ICOLE is at the forefront of knowledge in landscape ecology, (c) disseminating information through a programme of teaching, training and publication.

Activities: Investigative and advisory work in (a) a wide range of habitat types in particular grassland and wetland habitats including floodplain, riparian, river, lake and estuarine habitats and (b) dealing with flora and both invertebrate and vertebrate fauna.
ICOLE runs an active programme of short courses and workshops covering topics such as river rehabilitation, grassland management, ecology of drainage ditches and post-project appraisal.

Structure: ICOLE comprises a team of environmental scientists: plant ecologists, animal ecologists, hydrologists, geomorphologists, soil scientists, agricultural scientists, climatologists and historical ecologists. The team is directed by Dr Max Wade. ICOLE is a self-funded centre within the Department of Geography and benefits from the university's facilities.

1.7 Provide brief details of the relevant past experience and achievements of the person to be responsible for the activities for which funding is sought. (This will normally be either the person completing this form or the contact at Section 1.3)

Dr Max Wade (BSc (Hons), PhD. Responsible for developing an integrated approach to research and advisory work in environmental management and co-ordination of short course programme. Founder Chair of Conservation Association of Botanical Societies (now Plantlife) (1986-89). Founded the International Centre of Landscape Ecology (1990). Appointed Chairman of the Aquatic Plant Management Group of the European Weed Research Society (1991). Experience of a range of habitats including grasslands, rivers and estuaries, woodlands and urban environments, and a range of flora and fauna. Max has undertaken research and has provided advice for organisations including the Overseas Development Administration, National Rivers Authority, British Council, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, National Park authorities, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, county naturalists' trusts, and county and local authorities.

Projects have included the following:

- Development of nature conservation strategy, Malltraeth Marsh, Anglesey (Countryside Council for Wales)
- Floodplain management: River Luznice, Czech Republic (Loughborough University)
- Management of irrigation systems, Zimbabwe (Overseas Development Administration)
- Development of restoration strategy for River Medlock (Manchester Development Corporation)
- Invasive riparian weeds project (National Rivers Authority, Welsh Region)
- Plant community patch structure in the Trent floodplain (Loughborough University)
- Low flow studies in rivers: River Wissey, Ely Ouse, Test & Itchen (National Rivers Authority)
- Establishment of Sumava National Park, S Bohemia (Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic)
- Development of post-project appraisal methodology (National Rivers Authority)

1.8 Have you received funding under the Initiative before? If so, please give details.

No

1.9 How did you learn about this Initiative?

External Relations Office internal news sheet, Loughborough University of Technology.

1.10 Geographical coverage of the organisation as a whole.

ICOLE has extensive experience in Europe (including Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union), southern and eastern Africa and SE Asia. Contacts in North and South America and Australasia. The Department of Geography coverage is worldwide.

1.11 A brief description of the organisation's recent achievements. (Please note that while short pamphlets may be useful, the Department does not wish to receive books or lengthy reports.)

1. Floodplain grasslands of the River Trent. An integrated project including grasslands and involving a Czech international fellow. Ecological investigations leading the definition of management strategies including two workshops (Loughborough University)*
 2. Development and implementation of nature conservation strategy for Hatfield Chase, SE Yorks. Field work over three years; establishing a working group of various agencies/authorities; running short courses and employing a conservation officer (English Nature & National Rivers Authority)*
 3. The ecology and management of irrigation systems, Zimbabwe (joint with Water Engineering & Development Centre). Research into the aquatic plants of irrigation and drainage channels leading to a sustainable approach for management. Implementation through Agricultural and Rural Development Authority including organisation of regional workshop. (Overseas Development Administration)
 4. European River Margins as Indicators of Environmental Change - a collaborative project elucidating the main factors that influence floodplain grassland plant communities across an environmental gradient of sites in Britain, Sweden, France, Italy and Rumania including workshops to integrate results (European Union)
 5. Effects of land use change on Luznice floodplain grasslands, Czech Republic - the effects of nutrients, water level and management on lowland wet grasslands (Loughborough University)
 6. Organisation of short courses/workshops including Making conservation work in the water industry (annual)*; Ecology and management of invasive plants (UK and Czech Republic)*; Grasslands for biodiversity: Managing grasslands as an ecological resource. In 1993 a total of 106 teaching contact hours were undertaken.
- (* = successfully completed)

2. PROJECT DETAILS

It is important that applicants set out precisely their objectives and the activities of their proposal. Please be as explicit as possible.

2.1 In what ways can this project be considered a Darwin project? How does the project relate to the Darwin principles? How would the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

The project emphasizes biodiversity through the study of a scarce and undervalued grassland resource, within which there diverse communities and rare species. It is important to investigate ways of maintaining and managing this fragile and threatened resource.

Darwin's theories were characteristically drawn from meticulous original observation and analysis. This proposal follows the same principle, that of smaller scale investigation enabling a wider interpretation. Detailed assessment of the lowland wet grassland resource in two Central / Eastern European countries will be used to elucidate the unifying themes that underlie the degradation of this resource generally, so that a framework for its conservation and management can be developed.

The Czech Republic and Estonia have particularly good examples of the lowland wet grassland resource, including types that are peculiar to the two countries. However, these are threatened by land use policy changes, neglect and pollution, and especially through a lack of appropriate and available information. It is therefore essential that ways of sustaining and managing this fragile resource are found.

The project would promote the Darwin initiative and his principles at an international level, in areas where, until recently, the dissemination of information has been restricted. Employees of the institutes in the Czech Republic and Estonia funded under the initiative will be known as Darwin Research Staff, and the Darwin logo will be prominent on stationary, at the international workshops and on the published manual and video.

2.2 Give brief details of the main objective(s) of the project.

The main objective is to implement conservation of lowland wet grasslands in the Czech Republic, Estonia and elsewhere in Europe. The project will identify and evaluate the biodiversity of the lowland wet grassland resource in these countries in order to produce guidelines for the conservation and management of the resource in the emerging new democracies of Central/Eastern Europe. As a further outcome this will also strengthen the understanding of how to restore biodiversity to the extensive areas of degraded wet grassland systems in Western Europe.

This will be achieved through the following aims:

- a. The identification of the location and extent of lowland wet grasslands in the Czech Republic and Estonia.
- b. Assessment of biodiversity, with an emphasis on plants and invertebrates as indicators.
- c. The identification of factors that have influenced grassland loss and survival.
- d. The development of recommendations for conservation and management.
- e. National short courses to disseminate information internally.
- f. International workshops to collate international experience and promote the lessons learnt from the two study areas.
- g. Publication of a manual for the conservation and management of lowland wet grassland resources and an informative/educational video leading a implementation.

A central component of the project will be the training of trainers to disseminate the appropriate management and introduce it into the working practice of the water industry and agricultural agencies.

2.3 Which overseas institutions, if any, will be involved in the project? Give the names of individuals as well.

Institute of Ecology, Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tallinn, Estonia (Contact: Prof. J.-M. Punning)
Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic (Contact: Dr. Pavel Blažka)
Institute of Applied Ecology, Kostelec nad Černými lesny, Czech Republic (Contact: Dr. Petr Pyšek)
Ministry of the Environment (South Bohemia), Czech Republic, České Budějovice (Contact: Dr. Vaclav Braun)

2.4 Please give the proposed timetable for the achievement of the objectives.

The project is in two stages. The first stage (April 1994 - March 1997), supported by the Darwin initiative, will lead to the production of a manual for the conservation and management of the lowland wet grassland in the Czech Republic and Estonia. The second stage (1997-1999) will implement and appraise the guidelines, and enable a modified manual to be published.

2.5 How has the need for the work been identified?

The European Union identifies the lowland wet grassland resource as a neglected biodiversity issue and as a priority habitat for protection in Europe, with little information available. Field work by ICOLE in the Czech Republic and the Baltic States illustrates that a significant resource may be lost if guidelines for management are not developed. Losses in Europe to date slightly exceed the combined area of England and Wales.

2.6 Will the project include an element of training? Please indicate how many trainees would be involved and from which countries? Would those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length of any training course.

There will be programmes for nationals to implement the proposed manual for approximately 20-25 future trainers within both the Czech Republic and the Baltic States.
These will be complemented by two international workshops, the first concerning the conservation and management of less degraded grasslands and aimed at countries that still have significant resources of this type such as parts of Austria, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Hungary, the Ukraine and Rumania.
The second international workshop will concern the restoration of grasslands for those countries experiencing a dramatic degradation in the semi-natural grassland resource such as parts of the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Spain, and Switzerland.

2.7 Set out in greater detail the proposed programme of work for which grant is sought. What will be the programme's aims and measurable objectives including the estimated timing of their achievements, what qualitative performance measures are proposed and what will be the programme's outputs.

Year 1 (1994) will involve thorough preparation, focussing on the development of a scientifically rigorous methodology and clearly defined aims. Domestic training courses will be organised in order to precipitate the aims and methods. Extensive fieldwork and analysis of collated data in years 2 and 3 (1995/96) will be monitored by annual progress reports. Two international workshops in late 1996 and early 1997, one in the Czech Republic and the other in Estonia, will initiate and develop a manual and supporting video. The manual guidelines will be implemented and appraised at key sites as a follow up to the Darwin initiative, leading to an international conference and a modified manual. This timetable is shown below.

In addition to outputs shown in the table, the target area of grasslands to be conserved rising from the project will be identified early in Stage 1.

	Year and month	Aims	Training	Monitoring and output
STAGE 1	1994 (from April)	Preparation and review of data availability	Domestic courses establishing aims and developing the methodology	Methodology report and programme plan specifying aims and objectives
	1995	Collation and analysis of archive data and fieldwork		Progress report
	1996	Continuation of fieldwork	International workshop	Progress report
	1997 (up to April)	Production of manual and video	International workshop	Publish manual and video. End of Stage 1 report
	STAGE 2	1997	Implementation of manual guidelines at selected key sites and post-project appraisal	
1998		Continuing appraisal	International conference	Conference proceedings published
1999		Continuing appraisal modifications to manual		Publish modified manual

2.8 Give the proposed starting date and duration of the project.

April 1994 - March 1997

2.9 Is this a new project or the continuation of an existing one?

New project but building on past projects and related to current collaborative project in Czech Republic

2.10 Do you know of any other individual/organisation carrying out similar work? Give the details of the work, explaining the similarities and differences.

English Nature have initiated a wet grassland survey that covers England and other work assessing losses are being undertaken in Germany and France.

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Describe how progress on the project will be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its aims and objectives, both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. How would you ensure that it achieves value for money? What arrangements will be made for disseminating results? If applicable, how will you seek the views of clients/customers?

Monitoring and evaluation of the project will take place throughout its duration in the form of progress reports produced by the end of September of each year the project runs. Additional outputs will be produced in the form of a report specifying aims and methodology towards the end of the first year, and a manual and a video at the end of the project. At each reporting stage an evaluation of short courses, international workshops and the progress towards the manual will be made. These outputs will be assessed by a panel of assessors established by, or in agreement with the Department of the Environment. This accords with normal working practice with ICOLE and the university. ICOLE also operates a quality assurance scheme. Publicity for the project and the Darwin Initiative would be assessed, the expectation being for wide coverage. Previous ICOLE projects have enjoyed publicity at an international (e.g. BBC World Service), national (television and newspapers/magazines) and local (radio (Czech & UK) and newspapers) levels.

Working groups will be established in the Czech Republic and Estonia comprising ICOLE and local experts. These groups will report on the progress achieved nationally for each of the two countries to be included in the annual reports. These working groups would continue on into Stage 2.

Results will be disseminated through the training/education element of the project. Those receiving the training will go on to become the trainers of local experts. The other key element of dissemination will be the manual which will be made available across Europe. The international conference included within stage 2 will serve to extend the dissemination and debate generated by the project.

4. INCOME

4.1 What financial support from public sources (Government Department or Agency) does the organisation as a whole receive at present, and from which organisations?

Support is received within the International Centre of Landscape Ecology through contract research for such agencies as the Department of Transport (via intermediate consultancies) and through advice to agencies including the National Rivers Authority, the Countryside Council for Wales and English Nature.

Contract income is variable from year to year and has been in excess of £100,000 per annum

Current projects supported from these sources include: environmental assessments of road projects in Sussex and Oxfordshire; evaluation of various sites for post project appraisal for nature conservation measures following river engineering projects; support for nature conservation measures to assist Internal Drainage Boards through the employment of a Conservation Officer.

Additional support is derived from short course income.

International projects have been supported by ODA and the British Council

4.2 Please give details of grant you have sought from other public sources for this project.

Loughborough University of Technology will support the project through its own research grant scheme to a total of £4,000.

The Department of Geography, ICOLE and Loughborough University will jointly provide matching funds of £41,126

4.3 Please state other sources of income and amounts to be put towards the costs of the project (including any income from private sponsorship, trusts, fees or trading activity). Include donations in kind eg. accommodation. Indicate any income or donations which are confirmed.

An International Fellowship provided by a consultancy will give support of £7,000 towards the project.

Fees from training courses and workshops will provide net income of £1,700.

4.4 Briefly describe the arrangements envisaged for meeting the costs of continuing your project beyond any period of Darwin Initiative funding, if appropriate. A clear exit strategy must be provided.

The exit strategy comprises stage 2 in the overall programme and is summarized in the table in section 2.7.

Funding is expected for stage 2 from the Fourth Framework Programme of the European Union (Environment initiatives including those aimed at links with Central and Eastern Europe).

Further income will be derived from a series of self-funding training courses, conferences and continuing education initiatives (the latter commencing in 1994 through Higher Education Funding Council, England sources).

5. EXPENDITURE

5.1 Please state gross expenditure on the programme of work (see 2.7). Please work by financial year (defined as April to March), using 1994/95 prices throughout - do not include any allowance for assumed future inflation. Indicate salary costs on Table A and total costs on Table B. For programmes of less than 3 years' duration, enter 'nil' as appropriate for future years.

Table A

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Number of Staff			
a) UK	5	5	5
b) collaborators (100% time on work) as research staff	4	4	4
Job titles and duties	Director - Research Staff - Administrative	Project management and report co-ordination Desk top and field work, reports; training Financial control and secretarial	
% of time spent on this work (UK)	Director 6 Research 18 Admin 8	6 23 5	16 56 10
Cost of this work			

Expenditure on other costs and then the total costs should listed as below:

Table B

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Rents, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning			
Postage, telephone and stationery			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars etc			
Capital items, (please specify)			
Other (please specify) Video			
Sub-total			
Cost of salaries (from previous table)			
Total of spend*			

* Grants may be limited to a percentage of the total cost of the project. The Department will look for balancing income from non-public sources (eg. private sector funding, subscriptions, donations, fees).

5.2 Please deduct any confirmed income or donations from elsewhere (where this may be costed) and indicate in Table C the amounts of grant requested under the Darwin Initiative.

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Income to be deducted	£13,457	£13,456	£26,913
Amount of Darwin Initiative funding requested	£28,345	£15,554	£36,101

6. CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees/company International Centre of Landscape Ecology
I apply for a grant of £....28,345... in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 1995 on the activities specified in paragraph 2.7..

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 enclose a copy of the organisation's most recent audited accounts and annual report.

Name (block capitals) DR PAUL MAXWELL WADE

Position in the organisation DIRECTOR

Signed P.M. Wade Date 20-01-94

Please return completed form to the Department of the Environment, A304 Romney House, Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY.

Department of the Environment
November 1993

