

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES  
APPLICATION FOR GRANT

1. DETAILS OF APPLICANT

*1.1 Name of Organisation applying:*

IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Species Conservation Centre - Wildlife Trade Programme.

*1.2. Address for correspondence:*

[Redacted]

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

Dr. Alison Rosser, Wildlife Trade Programme Officer.

*1.4. Telephone and fax numbers:*

[Redacted]

*1.5. Nature of the Organisation ( e.g. is it an academic institution, a registered charity, company limited by guarantee?):*

IUCN - The World Conservation Union is a union of 71 sovereign states, 102 government agencies, 595 national non-governmental and 55 non-governmental organisations. To assist its member organisations and governments, the Union has six expert commissions (or voluntary networks), including the Species Survival Commission that has more than 7000 members from 170 countries and territories around the world. IUCN has its secretariat headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, with offices in another 40 countries, including the Species Conservation Centre in the United Kingdom.

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

**Aims:** The aim of IUCN's Species Conservation Centre is to conserve biological diversity by developing and executing programmes to study, save, restore and manage wisely species and their habitats. To this end the Wildlife Trade Programme provides scientific information on species in trade to policy makers and wildlife managers.

**Activities:** The Wildlife Trade Programme has recently managed four field assessment projects in Tanzania, and Indonesia to determine the status of species in trade. The Programme has developed several documents to assist the Parties in amending the CITES Appendices. The Programme is currently working with 7 governments to develop field assessment projects for 24 species.

**Structure:** The Species Conservation Centre in the UK is an outposted part of IUCN's headquarters secretariat. It comes under the supervision and management of the Head of the IUCN Species Programme based in Switzerland. The Centre exists to support the work of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC). The SSC is lead by its chair, who is elected by IUCN members every 3-4 years at the World Conservation Congress.

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.

The work to be conducted under this proposal will be supervised by Dr. Alison Rosser, IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme Officer who reports to Dr. Simon Stuart, Head of the IUCN Species Programme. Input will also be provided by the institutions mentioned under section 2.3; the actual work will be carried out by a suitably qualified Project Officer, yet to be recruited.

**A. Rosser - Posts held:**

1995- present IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme Officer

1992-1995 National Representative: TRAFFIC East Southern Africa - Tanzania Office, responsible for setting up office and wildlife trade monitoring and assisting government staff meet their obligations under CITES.

1989-1994 consultancies whilst caring for young family: WWF Tanzania, World Conservation Monitoring Centre; Temporary Research Assistant at British Antarctic Survey; Sea Mammal Research Unit and Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

**Education:**

BA Natural Sciences (2:1 Hons), University of Cambridge; MSc, Ecology, University of Durham, PhD, Behavioural Ecology of an African antelope, University of Cambridge and affiliated with University of Zambia; Post-Graduate Certificate of Education, University of Cambridge.

**Experience:** Nine years working in African developing countries in field research and capacity building roles. Some experience of teaching at university and school levels. Networking with scientists to channel scientific information to international policy makers. Writing scientific and popular articles. Editing and arranging peer review of conservation reports.

**Achievements:** In present post, over 400,000 Ch Fr. in funding raised during the last two years; produced 2 IUCN/SSC Species in Trade reports, one workshop proceedings, a booklet entitled *CITES a Conservation Tool: A Guide to amending the Appendices to CITES*, and the *IUCN Analyses of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices*.

1.8 Have you received funding under this initiative before?

Yes, In the third round, IUCN through the Shark Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission, received funds for a study on sharks, rays and sawfish in East Malaysia (£ [REDACTED]). The Wildlife Trade Programme has not previously received funding under this Initiative.

1.9 How did you learn about this initiative?

Through Colleagues.

### *1.10 Geographical coverage of the organisation as a whole:*

Both IUCN and SSC within it, have a global mandate, and have activities in almost all countries. The Wildlife Trade Programme is currently developing field projects to assess the status of species in trade in Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Mozambique, Tanzania, Togo and Bolivia.

### *1.11 A brief Description of the Organisation and recent achievements.:*

In 1994, SSC developed the new IUCN Red List Categories as an index of the state of degeneration of biodiversity. Other recent achievements include: a) publishing over 40 species action plans; b) providing impetus to form the Biodiversity Conservation Information Network (BCIS), a consortium of 11 organizations dedicated to collaborate in delivering biodiversity information to support better conservation decision-making; c) starting national networks, initially in South America and Asia, to support the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD); d) completing the first ever Red List of Threatened Plants (about to be published); and e) acting as one of the technical advisors to CITES, in particular through: independent expert analyses of CITES listing proposals; scientific support for the CITES Significant Trade Project; major inputs to the development of the new CITES listing criteria and the guidelines for the placement of confiscated species; and facilitation of the compromise on trade in African elephant products.

Much of the support to CITES is conducted through the Wildlife Trade Programme. Recently, the Wildlife Trade Programme has worked with a number of governments to undertake field assessment projects and desk based studies which aim to increase knowledge about the status of species in trade to allow informed decisions to be made about the conservation and if appropriate, the sustainable use of the species. Representatives from developing countries have emphasised the need for capacity building in field assessment and monitoring techniques, and this project has been developed in response to that request. The Trade Programme has close working relationships with the IUCN/SSC African Herpetology Specialist Group, the IUCN/SSC Freshwater Turtle and Tortoise Specialist Group, The IUCN Sustainable Use Initiative, the IUCN Regional Office in Burkina Faso and the Department of Wildlife in Togo. These associations will ensure that the proposed research and training is appropriate and is vigorously pursued and monitored.

## 2. PROJECT DETAILS

*2.1 How has the need for the work been identified? How is the project related to conservation priorities of the host country(ies)? How is the project intended to assist the host country with its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?*

The Wildlife Trade Programme's involvement with significant trade reviews, both in the CITES fora and as part of the IUCN/SSC action planning process, has highlighted the threat to reptiles from the international trade and raised concerns about management of the trade. The impact of domestic and international trade in Togo is unknown, although it has been shown that on a global scale, reptiles are generally more endangered than birds and mammals. The Authorities responsible for management of the wildlife resource in Togo have requested IUCN's assistance with this project. The Biodiversity Convention, requires countries to monitor the status of their wildlife to ensure that use is sustainable and of benefit to human society. This project aims to fulfil those needs for a selection of reptile species.

*2.2 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 could the Darwin name and logo be used?*

- 1) Togo is one of the world's poorest countries in economic terms, but has a rich herpetological fauna, which is of considerable importance as a resource for use by rural populations.
- 2) The project will forge links between taxonomic specialists, field researchers, resource managers and resource users to assess the threats to this little studied group of animals and to develop strategies to balance the contribution of these species to the needs of rural development with long-term conservation of the resource.
- 3) A project officer will train personnel from the Togolese Wildlife Department and the University of Lome in reptile census methodology. Population estimates derived under the auspices of the project will provide a baseline for future monitoring.
- 4) The project will leave in place a management plan for the conservation, and where appropriate, sustainable use of the reptiles. Several trained Togolese herpetologists will be in-place to continue monitoring and to train other personnel in appropriate techniques.
- 5) Ideally, the project will serve as a model for the development of future projects in other countries to work with different species assemblages.
- 6) The project will address several aspects of the CBD: National strategies, plans and programmes (article 6); identification and monitoring (article 7); research and training (article 12); exchange of information (article 17); and technical and scientific co-operation (article 18).
- 7) Darwin Initiative funding will trigger the release of funds from other donors.
- 8) The Darwin name and logo will be used on posters and buyer awareness leaflets to be developed in conjunction with customs departments, international pet organisations, and ecotourism outlets.

*2.3 Give the proposed starting date and duration of the project:*

1 June 1998 - 30 May 1999 (one and a quarter years of project time during this period)

*2.4 Give brief details of the main objectives of the project:*

Herpetology is a particularly overlooked discipline and this project aims to develop the capacity within Togo to undertake field assessments of selected reptiles and to develop management plans and longer-term monitoring to regulate and manage the use of these reptiles species to ensure their long term survival and contribution to rural economies. The main objectives of the project are to:

- 1) to conduct field assessments of the status of the 6 reptile species;
- 2) to train appropriate local personnel in field monitoring techniques for reptiles and techniques for the monitoring of captive breeding facilities for reptiles;
- 3) to review the status of existing snake breeding farms;
- 4) to review Wildlife Department management of reptile harvest for the export trade;
- 5) to develop a management plan for reptiles that will benefit local communities;
- 6) to leave in place an infrastructure for the monitoring of reptile populations.



2.5 Set out in greater detail the proposed programme of work for which grant is sought. Include the programme's aims and measurable objectives using the attached list of output measures. Give estimated timing of the achievements.

The project aims to undertake field assessments of reptile species in Togo and to train government and university personnel in reptile census techniques. Management plans for the 6 species will be drawn up and population assessments will provide a baseline for monitoring the effects of future offtake. The results will be disseminated in a report in the *Species in Trade* series and in scientific and popular literature. The project will last for one and a quarter years over a three year period.

In the recent IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 25% of mammals and 11% of birds were assessed as threatened with extinction. In contrast, of the 3 out of 6 Orders of reptiles assessed, the proportion of threatened species was much higher at 50%, 43% and 38%, respectively. Although these assessments indicate the problems facing reptiles on a global scale, the status of reptile biodiversity in Africa remains very poorly known and requires urgent work (Branch, Address to Third International Herpetological Congress, 1997). Furthermore, reptiles can provide important sources of food and income for rural peoples and provide indirect benefits through rodent control. For example, a reduction in the snake population in Thailand, resulted in the proliferation of rats which were estimated to have destroyed over 400,000 hectares of rice fields.

Heavy levels of offtake of reptiles to supply domestic and international markets have prompted fears that certain species may face unsustainable exploitation; an issue of concern to both the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). A number of West African reptiles are listed on the Appendices to CITES and as part of its review of trade levels in Appendix II species the CITES Animals Committee has recommended that Togo undertake field assessments of the status of the following species: *Kinixys belliana*, *K. homeana*; *K. erosa*; *Python sebae*; *P. regius*; and *Chamaeleo senegalensis*.

This project, commencing in 1998, will last full time for six months in the first year and thereafter for three months in the second year and six months in the third year. During the first six month period, a training programme in field survey techniques will be initiated, regulation and monitoring of the snake farms will be reviewed, and the management structure for the reptile trade will be reviewed. The project will then undertake subsequent training and monitoring surveys during a three month period in the second and third year in preparation for a workshop for all stakeholders in the reptile trade to discuss various issues. The initial findings of the project should be available within the first year of the project, but detailed population estimates from utilised and non-utilised sites will only be available at the end of the third phase of field work.

Reliable population estimates of tortoise, snake and chameleon populations in protected and exploited areas, will be obtained from systematic surveys of reptile abundance in different habitats and under different harvest pressures. To this end the PI will train personnel from the Wildlife Department and the University of Lome, in reptile population assessment techniques. After the initial training phase the trained personnel will be responsible for organising and carrying out field assessment surveys in various areas with the assistance of the PI. In the subsequent years, the PI would again assist the trainees with their field assessments. The extension of the initial phase of this project over 3 years will allow a larger number of sites to be surveyed, and the trainees to consolidate their experience.

Measurable outputs:

- 4a/
- 4c-4d 3 under/ post graduates will be trained, for 8 months over 3 years
- 6ab One lecturer and two wildlife department staff will be trained for 8 months over 3 years
- 7 The PO will develop training materials which may be used by other countries
- 8 The PO will spend 12 months in the host country over the 3 year period.
- 9 The Project will develop management plans for 6 species, and an overall report on the methodology and findings of the surveys.
- 11b Papers on the status and management of reptiles in Togo will to be developed
- 14a A workshop in Lome will be organised with traders etc.
- 15 Press Releases will be developed as appropriate, probably at the start and end of the project
- 22 Field survey areas will be clearly demarcated and co-ordinates noted so that repeat surveys can be conducted.

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

New project

2.7 *Will the project include an element of training? Please indicate how many trainees would be involved and from which countries? Would those trained be able to train others? Where appropriate, give the length of any training course. Broadly how many local people will be involved? How will trainee outcomes/destinations be monitored after the end of the training?*

The project aims to train two people from the Wildlife Department and three students and one lecturer from the University of Lome in basic reptilian census techniques, and interview techniques. Training will include: Survey design, census methods; handling and measuring animals; data analysis; the design of questionnaires and interview techniques to determine local levels of harvest and dependence on reptiles as food and as an income supplement.

It is anticipated that by involving personnel from the University of Lome, reptile censusing will be included in the curriculum for the training of Biologists and that students may be able to carryout vacation projects to extend the monitoring network.

2.8 *[If applicable] How is the research element of the Project to be disseminated?*

The research element of the project will provide base-line information on reptile population status, on national harvest levels for international trade and for subsistence use. The project will also collect information on the breeding success of reptiles kept in captivity and review what is known about these species from the wild, in order to assess the effectiveness of the snake breeding farms.

Information from the project will be published in a *Species in Trade* report, and where appropriate in scientific journals and conservation publications.

*2.9 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.*

This project aims to meet its goals within the time proposed.

At the end of the project, a management plan, reports and trained individuals would be left as a legacy in Togo. These would permanently enhance reptile conservation and sustainable use in this country in the future.

*2.10 Which overseas institutions, if any, will be involved in the project? Please explain the responsibilities of these institutions and provide details on the individuals who will be involved in the project:*

I. Thiaw, Regional Representative, IUCN Regional Office for Western Africa, based in Burkina Faso. Mr Thiaw will provide local co-ordination for IUCN within the region.

M. Ali Adam, of the Ministry of Wildlife, Togo has requested IUCN's assistance with this project and will identify the Togolese counterparts and University links when funding is secured.

Advisory: Bill Branch, Chair of the African Herpetology Specialist Group, South Africa

Advisory: John Behler, Chair of the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist group, New York. These specialist groups will provide advice on census methodology, captive breeding techniques and development of the management plan.

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

The Shark Specialist Group of IUCN received funding in the third round of Darwin Initiative projects to carry out a study on Sharks, rays and sawfish. Another similar project, in terms of training is the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology project on Chameleons, conservation and local communities, funded in the fourth round.

The current project is similar to the shark project in relying on inputs of advice and expertise from visiting IUCN/SSC Specialist Group members, and also in that it aims to increase knowledge about a relatively little studied group of animals. The main difference in the current project from those mentioned above, is that it aims to forge links between the bodies responsible for management of resources in Togo (Wildlife Department) and those who can undertake novel research and bring new management and conservation ideas to bear (University of Lome). The project aims to integrate training, resource monitoring, the needs of local communities and management to develop a management plan for the selected reptile species. The trained personnel, should also ensure that the project leaves a lasting contribution to resource knowledge, conservation and management in Togo.

### 3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

*Describe how 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 the results? If applicable, how will you seek the views of clients/customers?*

- 1) The Project Officer will report at the end of each field period to the Wildlife Trade Programme who, in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife and University in Togo and IUCN Burkina Faso will assess progress each year and make adjustments to the project strategy. The production of management plans, reviews of the wildlife Management system and of the experimental farms will allow for monitoring of these aspects of the project.
- 2) Training Togolese survey teams will be the most cost-effective means of carrying out the surveys and ensuring that a trained cadre of personnel will be available to carry out future monitoring.
- 3) SSC is a volunteer network and the named Specialist Groups will provide advice and assistance where appropriate, at no cost.
- 4) In-country partners from the University of Lome and from IUCN Burkina Faso will monitor the effectiveness of the management plan after the conclusion of the project.
- 5) The project could provide a pilot for similar capacity building and assessment projects in other biodiversity rich regions.
- 6) Results will be disseminated through an IUCN Species in Trade report, various papers and articles in the public press and scientific literature; and development of public awareness leaflets.
- 7) The host country institutions will be able to make their views known by commenting on the reports following each period of fieldwork.

### 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? What percentage is this of the organisation's total income?*

In 1996, IUCN's income was as follows: Sfr [redacted] from government agencies and inter-governmental sources; Sfr [redacted] from membership; Sfr [redacted] from legacies, foundations and corporations; Sfr [redacted] from exchange rate gains. The major government donors to IUCN are Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. In recent years the Species Survival Commission and Species Programme more generally have received the following grants from DETR: [redacted] for the African Elephant Specialist Group; [redacted] for the African Rhino Specialist Group; [redacted] for the Shark Specialist Group; [redacted] for the 1997 CITES Meeting. Starting in 1998, the DETR will be funding the Species Conservation Centre with an initial grant of [redacted] (the Red List Officer will be partially funded from this source). It is anticipated that one of the statutory conservation agencies (probably Scottish National Heritage) will send a Botanist to work in the Species Conservation Centre.

*4.2 Please give details of resources you have sought from the host country partner institutions.*

Funding from the Darwin Initiative will release funds from the CITES Secretariat in support of the field assessment side of this project. The Department of Wildlife will second two officers to the project during the training and field survey elements and personnel from the University will also be involved.



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 any donations in kind e.g. accommodation. Indicate any income or donations which are confirmed.

Contribution requested from CITES Secretariat [REDACTED]  
 Secondment of Togolese Department staff and university personnel  
 Contributions of advisory time, peer review by IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups.  
 IUCN Programme Officer Time [REDACTED]  
 Office Accommodation for report writing [REDACTED]

## 5. EXPENDITURE

5.1 Please state gross expenditure on the programme of work (see 2.6.) Please work by financial year (defined as April to March), using 1998/1999 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 year's duration, enter 'nil' as appropriate for future years. It would be helpful to highlight areas for which Darwin Funding is requested.

Table A

	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
<b>No. of Staff</b>			
a) UK			
i) Project oversight	1	1	1
ii) Project Officer	1	1	1
b) Collaborators			
iii) Department of Wildlife survey Staff	2	2	2
iv) Lecturer from Univ. of Lome	1	1	1
v) students from Univ. of Lome	3	3	3
vi) I. Thiaw, IUCN Burkina Faso	1	1	1
vii) IUCN Specialist Groups			
<b>Job Titles and Duties:</b>			
i) Project Oversight	Project oversight	Project oversight	Project oversight
ii) Project Officer	b) Project management, programme planning and reporting, training	Project management, programme planning and reporting, training	Project management, programme planning and reporting, training
iii) Department of Wildlife	Trainees, review management practices.	Reptile surveyors	Reptile surveyors Final reporting
iv) Lecturer from Univ. of Lome	Trainees, review management practices.	Reptile surveyors	Reptile surveyors Final reporting
v) students from Univ. of Lome	Trainees	Reptile surveyors	Reptile surveyors Final reporting
vi) I. Thiaw, IUCN Burkina Faso	Local Project oversight and advice	Local Project oversight and advice	Local Project oversight and advice
vii) IUCN Specialist Groups	Advisory body	Advisory body	Advisory body

<b>% of time each would spend</b>			
i)	5%	5%	5%
ii)	50%	25%	50%
iii)	30%	25%	30%
iv)			
v)			
vi)	5%	5%	5%
vii)	1%	1%	1%
<b>Cost</b>			
i)			
ii)			
iii)			
iv)			
v)			
vi)			
vii)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

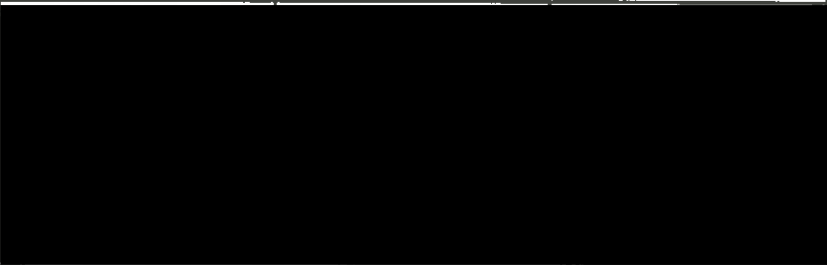
*Expenditure on other costs and then the total costs should be listed as below:*

**Table B**

	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Rents, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning			
Postage, telephone and stationery			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conference seminars etc.			
Capital items (Please specify) Camping equipment, computer			
Other (Please specify) Insurance Managment fee 14%			
<b>sub total</b>			
Cost of salaries( from prev.. table			
<b>Total</b>			

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..

Table C

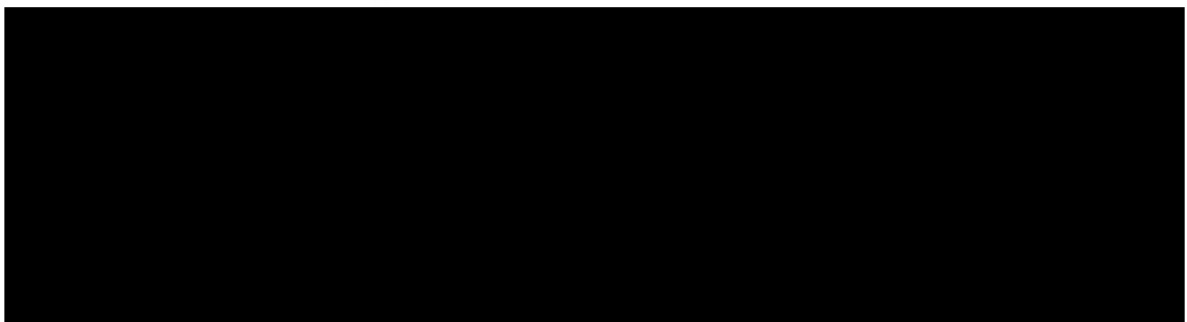
	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Income to be deducted			
Amount of Darwin Initiative funds requested			

## 6. CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the IUCN Species Conservation Centre - Wildlife Trade Programme,. I apply for a grant of £ 30,763 in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 1999 on the activities specified in paragraph 2.5.

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. +  
*These will follow by post.*



Please return completed form to the Department of the Environment, A504 Romney House, Marsham Street, London SW1P 3 PY.

Department of the Environment  
September 1997.