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Build capacity and capability to regulate hunting and protect biodiversity

This project will promote engagement and capacity of key actors for hunting management and regulation in Sao Tome and Principe. It will address conservation aspects of the islands' unique fauna and the management of invasive species, to provide a much-needed update to the National Hunting Law; and build an evidence-based framework to reach conservation targets while balancing human needs. It will culminate with the elaboration of a road map to effectively regulate hunting and support alternative livelihoods in the country.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type

Organisation

Name

BirdLife International Secretariat



Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Title:

Build capacity and capability to regulate hunting and protect biodiversity

Q4. Summary

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

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This project will promote engagement and capacity of key actors for hunting management and regulation in Sao Tome and Principe. It will address conservation aspects of the islands' unique fauna and the management of invasive species, to provide a much-needed update to the National Hunting Law; and build an evidence-based framework to reach conservation targets while balancing human needs. It will culminate with the elaboration of a road map to effectively regulate hunting and support alternative livelihoods in the country.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q5. Project Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1 Sao Tome and Principe

Country 2 No Response

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q6. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2022

End date:

31 March 2024

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

1 year, 6 months

Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	Total request
Amount:	£91,312.00	£108,192.00	£ 199,504.00

Q8. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: % 75

Q9a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Birdlife has been working for many years with the National Authorities of Sao Tomé and Príncipe and other local and international partners for conservation action in the country.

Match funding for this project will be provided by three ongoing initiatives for which Birdlife has direct fund management:

1) European Commission, European Development Fund- 'Parcs Nationaux d'Obô de São Tomé et de Príncipe' (ECOFAC 6);

2) European Commission - 'Landscape management in São Tomé and Príncipe: an integrated approach that meets the challenges of climate change adaptation, biodiversity and ecosystems conservation for sustainable human and economic development'; and

3) Global Environmental Facility (GEF6) - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Biodiversity & Land Degradation focal areas 'Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management'.

Hunting is a transversal theme to these projects but not a specific target of any, so match funding will cover key costs to increase synergies and impacts.

Q9b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



Q9c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

There is no unconfirmed match funding for this proposal.

Section 4 - Project need

Q10. The need that the project is trying to address

Please describe evidence of the capability and capacity need your project is trying to address with reference to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. For example, how have you identified the need? Why should the need be addressed or what will be the value to the country?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the need (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

The island country of Sao Tomé and Príncipe (STP) is recognized for its unique biodiversity, and is classified as the second most important African forest for the conservation of bird diversity, and general high endemism across all taxa (1,2).

Nevertheless, several of the islands' endemic birds are threatened by hunting, targeted and opportunistic, including, but not only, the Critically Endangered Dwarf Olive Ibis, and two Endangered and one Near Threatened species of fruit pigeons (3,4). The islands' forests also host several introduced mammals, including mona monkeys, African civets and feral pigs and cats. These constitute an additional threat to the endemic bird species (5,6,7), but also an important source of protein and revenue for hunters (8,9).

The general profile of hunters is well known in the islands, with the great majority targeting mammals (native or introduced), and opportunistic killing of birds; and a specialized group focusing on endemic pigeons (8). Hunting is never the main or only subsistence activity, and it is driven mostly by income generation, but has clear impacts on the native fauna (8,9).

In recent consultations for the review of STP Parks Management Plans (2021-2025), communities raised unregulated hunting as a concern, both regarding decreasing abundance of quarry species, and the associated loss of income. In previous work with hunters, the large majority had the perception that the number of prey species (particularly birds) decreased in the last decades, while the number of hunters increased (4,8). Hunters have in the past been receptive to national hunting regulations, and some have engaged with conservation and research activities.

In early 2016, the São Tomé Hunting Law was enacted (10), and stated that hunting licenses are required. It is illegal to hunt threatened species or hunt in protected areas. However, this law has not been clearly communicated to the appropriate officials nor the public, remaining poorly known and unenforced. Prior to that, the law was not informed by country specific data, lacking a review of the species that can and cannot be hunted and a specific hunting plan for introduced mammals; developed collaboratively with hunters, communities, and other stakeholders, to promote methods of implementation.

There is a lack of knowledge amongst hunters and the general public on the dual conservation issue of preserving endemic birds and managing the introduced mammals.

This project aims to support the societal change needed to divert from bird hunting and killing and effectively manage mammal hunting. For that purpose, it aims to build the baseline capacity and capability of the main actors to regulate hunting towards the conservation of STP's extraordinary biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods. In particular, (i) to capacitate hunters, local leaders and government officials in essential principles of hunting management and species conservation, including hunting regulations; (ii) to develop a participative roadmap for hunting in STP; from an assessment of needs with hunters, local communities, civil society, authorities, private sector, and other stakeholders, and (iii) to identify and promote alternative livelihoods for hunters (e.g. biodiversity monitoring, ecotourism).

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q11. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q11a. 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)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q11b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

The project will contribute to the revision of the legal and regulatory framework for biodiversity conservation by promoting science-based policies and regulation, through the review of the national hunting law. It will also improve effective implementation of national policies through capability and capacity building activities for government and regional entities to enforce hunting law and promote biodiversity safeguards in policies. This project will also guide interventions in the Protected Areas and their surrounding forests, as recommended in the new iteration of STP Natural Parks (2021-2025).

It will also contribute to the strategic axis and fundamental objectives of the NBSAP iteration 2015-2020, which defines hunting as “any action aimed at pursuing, capturing or killing a wild animal, as well as the collection of eggs and the destruction of nests of birds and reptiles”, and aims at monitoring activities related to the hunting of endemic animal species and strengthening the legal framework for supervision of fishing and hunting. In particular, the project will inform the NBSAP objective to ‘acquire basic knowledge necessary for the sustainable use of resources of wild fauna, and to enable the management of hunting activities, as well as the valuation of its products’.

The project will also serve the objective of the respective agreements listed above, by contributing to biodiversity protection in an endemism hotspot (CBD), providing research material (biological samples) for study of invasive mammals’ impact on native species (ABS), providing life on land, and sustainable source of livelihood for local populations (SDGs).

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

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project?
- Justification of your proposed approach, and how you will undertake the work (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.).
- What practical elements will be included to embed new capabilities?

Project objectives build on the current joint effort between BirdLife and local authorities to improve the legal framework for protection of biodiversity and develop a national law enforcement strategy for protected areas and surrounding forests. The 2016 hunting law did not incorporate updated scientific data for the country, namely regarding management of introduced species, and there is no capacity to implement it. BirdLife has been active in the country for more than 10 years and signed a co-management agreement with STP government in 2018, in the framework of the EU funded ECOFAC6 project, offering strong influence and a network of international and local partners, gradually increasing capacity.

The concept of the project is supported by previous research on hunting and social ecological work with hunters on the island, which identified the main types of hunting and profiles (8,9). Hunters have been generally willing to participate and previously identified education as an important factor to reduce bird hunting (4). Opportunistic hunting of birds for food is also widespread amongst forest dwellers, farmers, and children, and requires increased awareness of the conservation importance and value of specific species.

To ensure the required baseline capacity and capability to review and implement any hunting regulations, the project will train key groups (governmental agents, hunters, community leaders) in the biology and ecology of the target species as well as in hunting management and conservation, looking at the dual impacts on native and introduced species. It will also outreach to communities, civil society and private sector, collecting social data to mainstream into the national framework

for hunting. All the activities will take place in-country, except for remote meetings with international partners, conceptual work, and reporting. The project supervision, scientific and technical lead will be based in the UK, with a counterpart in Sao Tome. Local partners will work closely with the BirdLife office in Sao Tome to ensure the implementation of the activities.

The project will be governed following the BirdLife International procedures, well-established in Sao Tome and Principe.

The project will build on a team of local and international partners to develop the capacity building materials and deliver the training sessions. BirdLife has extensive experience in capacity building and works in this project with a network of international experts in species ecology and management, and in introduced species (CE3c/University of Lisbon, CIBIO-InBIO/University of Porto, SPEA). The Forest Directorate will be an integral part of this group ensuring communication and ownership of the materials and activities. This group will meet regularly during the implementation of the project and will provide adaptive guidance. Communication training and facilitation of groups will be largely interactive and visual/hands-on, tailored to individual capacities, to securely embed the new capabilities.

Based on existing knowledge of hunters and hunting in Sao Tome, a group of 15 hunters or community leaders will be engaged, enabled and empowered, through capacity building activities, to become "agents of change". After initial training, these participants will co-lead the next component, the outreach activities to communities and wider audiences, stimulating a consultation process and supporting the dissemination of the conservation message. Previous work by project leader with hunters and with the "train the trainers" approach in STP, but also with innovative and interactive capacity building activities (e.g., role play, games, hands on experiences and field visits/work), provide a solid base for this methodology. BirdLife has been working with former hunters and community promoters to promote environmental awareness in STP, in the framework of the ECOFAC6 project, and this method has been demonstrated to improve ownership and dissemination.

Capacity building will be complemented with consultations with different target groups, looking to understand the perceptions and motivations towards conservation of native species and implementation of hunting regulations. Semi-structured surveys and focus groups will be used to assess hunters' needs, potential alternatives to hunting and actively promote engagement with current initiatives of community engagement in the Park's protection and ecotourism, such as the "Obo Guardians" (in charge of monitoring biodiversity and threats in the Protected Areas and surrounding forests), working under the oversight of the Platform for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism (PTRS). Micro-grants will serve to support alternative professional development of participating hunters, facilitating access to needed skills or tools. A transparent process for application, review and attribution of these micro grants will be developed by the project team. The final component of the project will compile and analyse all the information collected to produce a road map to inform hunting regulation in the country the sustainability of dependent livelihoods.

Q13. How will you identify participants?

How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and organisations) to benefit from the capability and capacity building activities? What makes these the most suitable participants? How will you ensure that the selection process is fair and transparent?

Some of the key participants for the "train the trainers" activity have already been identified through previous activities of BirdLife and partners in STP (eg. 4,8). Some ex-hunters have been recruited by Sustainable and Responsible Tourism Platform (PTRS) in Sao Tomé (cohort of Obo Guardians), and 20 promoters (EU/ECOFAC6 project), elected by communities, were identified to promote awareness raising campaigns and trainings in STP Natural Parks neighbouring communities. A snowball approach is then suggested to identify more agents of change which are familiar with hunting and the hunters' community. The project team will select the final group of agents of change from a stratified sample to cover the different country districts, based on leadership profiles and demonstrated interest in participating.

Community consultation and awareness will focus on the periphery of Obo Natural Park, and communities will be selected based on the known number of resident hunters and/or hunting in its vicinities. This selection will build on current knowledge and recommendations of the agents of change. Participation in the community sessions will be open, and dissemination to be done by direct invitation of community leaders and key contacts, Previous work already identified most hunters in STP. Agents of change will lead contact with hunters across the island to disseminate the opportunity and collect interest in participating. The project team will select the final number of participants to represent the country's geography and hunting profiles (type of preferred prey, rural/urban, sport/subsistence).

Institutional agents will be identified by the Forests Directorate, among the responsible institutions for biodiversity conservation and environment management in STP, namely the Forests and Biodiversity, the Environment Directorates; and the recently created Environmental Police Unit (UPAB). Participants will be representative of the institutions and have relevant technical roles.

CSOs, private sector and other stakeholders will be involved through an open call.

Q14. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain your understanding of gender equality within the context of your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

While the project directly targets hunters, who in STP are mostly adult males or young boys. The awareness sessions will be open to the public. It will include most community members and specifically engage women for them to benefit from conservation management principles and improve their knowledge on quarry species ecology and conservation. Indeed, women are often the first cook and consumers of hunted meat and therefore have a major role to play in awareness raising, promoting good practices and limiting the use of prohibited species for family consumption.

To ensure that our project benefits women effectively, agents of change should include at least 1/4 of women, who in turn shall insure inclusivity in the consultation and training of target groups, in a way that respects the norms, values and customs of targeted communities, to amplify positive impact. Communication materials and training contents shall include specific examples and visual representations relevant to women's role in the awareness raising effort, as actors of the change of practices in their community and will be reviewed and tested with the agents of change before diffusion.

Q15. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to in-country capability and capacity will deliver for both biodiversity and poverty reduction. You should identify what will change (the Outcome) and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

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

Hunting regulation in Sao Tome and Principe is outdated, compromising the conservation of threatened endemic species, but also implying a differential access of the poorest to natural resources.

This project aims to promote long term changes in the effective protection of species threatened by hunting, but also the informed implementation of sustainable livelihoods for hunters in the country.

In that context, the expected long-term impacts are:

- The country adopts a legal framework for hunting that is updated and actionable
- There is a reduction of the threat posed by hunting to the endemic and native species.
- Food and economic security for hunting-related livelihoods is ensured through the regulated management of hunting activity and implementation of sustainable alternatives.

To contribute to the long-term impacts, the project will build, in the short term the capacity and capability of the key actors in the hunting framework:

1. Aiming to promote ownership and efficient communication with the wider audiences, a focus group of 15 leaders will benefit from the tools and skills to further engage with other conservation and poverty reduction initiatives in the short term
2. The project will reach at least 300 people, representative from the 40 communities of the buffer area, to understand

their choices and concerns regarding hunting of introduced and endemic species. These people will be informed and capacitated in basic biology and ecology of quarry species, but also principles of management and conservation, so they can be engaged and benefit from developing an operational hunting framework. In addition, an estimated 15,000 persons (50% women) live in the direct periphery of the Obô Natural Parks and will be engaged through dissemination of communication materials on this theme. In the same context, the project will consult and capacitate at least 30 other relevant actors, including representatives of NGOs and the private sector (including land concessions around the Park).

3. Involve the key audience, by selecting 50 hunters to participate in a consultation about their choices and concerns, but also to learn more about species biology/ecology and principles of conservation/management, so as to improve capability and improve in-country capacity. This training will provide them with knowledge and tools to sustain hunting choices and benefit from active regulation in the future, as well as potential alternatives to the activity. Complementarily, at least 30 key institutional actors in the hunting framework will also be consulted and capacitated, to benefit from essential skills and tools to effectively implement any regulation. The exchange of knowledge and perceptions between the two groups will be stimulated.

4. A participatory assessment of 50 hunters' needs and viable alternatives to hunting of endemic species is developed, so to guide its promotion and support still during the project. By analysing the results from consultations and building from previous/ongoing research, the project will culminate with a road map for hunting regulation that will benefit endemic species but also safeguard the needs of communities and subsistence hunters, feeding into the review of national regulation.

Q16. Exit Strategy

How will the built capability and capacity be maintained in-country? How will the new capability and capacity be replicated to strengthen additional future environmental leaders beyond the project? How will be the benefits be scaled? Are there any barriers to scaling and if so, how will these be addressed? How will the materials developed during the project be made more widely accessible during and after the project?

BirdLife has been active in STP for over 10 years, with delegation office formally registered in 2019. Although BirdLife's default approach is to work through local partners, there are currently no local partners with the capacity to take the lead on biodiversity conservation in the country. The key component of BirdLife strategic plan for 2021-2030 is to build local capacity, and within that the capacity of a local partner who can incrementally assume greater responsibility for leadership, management, and ownership of the strategy.

The promoted project is therefore totally aligned with BirdLife's strategy. More specifically, it responds to Strategic Objective 1, Action 15 "Translate scientific knowledge into science-based guidance to support decision-making, management & dissemination [...]", SO2 A23 "Support revision of biodiversity conservation legal and regulatory framework [...] e.g., hunting law", and SO7 "Biodiversity conservation awareness raised at local, regional and global levels". It equally responds to the urgent need for action, based on the threats of "hunting" and "lack of knowledge", highlighted in the Action Plan for conservation of Critically Endangered birds in Sao Tomé, first developed in 2014, and participatively reviewed in 2021 (release expected in early 2022).

Thus, project implementation will be embedded into the wider programmatic work, including its exit strategy. This means that the project's promoted approach will outlive its implementation period.

In fact, by training agents of change, we ensure replication nation-wide and create potential links and shared resources with other initiatives. The capacity of government technicians will be built to durably enforce the law. Government institutions, civil society, and hunters are expected to work together to improve park and forest management with regards to introduced species control. Communication campaign will serve to amplify the impact and raise awareness. The increased knowledge of endemic and introduced species will increase ownership and ensure sustainability of project outcomes.

Príncipe Island is the primary target for replication and will benefit directly from the participation of stakeholders in certain activities, e.g., capacity building and experience sharing. The Regional government and the Fundação Príncipe already clearly expressed their interest.

As the only international conservation organization directly working on biodiversity conservation in the country, BirdLife is in a strong position to capitalise on significant opportunities for partnering and securing funding, and for delivering biodiversity and social outcomes.

Guided by a roadmap and under the lead of the DFB, BirdLife will work for the endorsement of the project outcome, for the institutions to apply the products in future interventions, to identify and prioritize funding opportunities and further mainstream implementation of the updated hunting framework. For instance, BirdLife is currently supporting the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development, line ministry for Forest and Biodiversity, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to develop a GEF-funded project "Improving biodiversity mainstreaming in the agro-forestry and fishery sectors in São Tomé and Príncipe" which 1st component is aiming at "enabling policy, institutional and fiscal frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity". This project should start in 2023 and BirdLife will encourage lessons learnt integration into proposed activities.

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

Q17. Risk Management

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

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary While there are few risks of misuse of funding, due to the vast experience of BirdLife in this kind of project in STP; there could be a low uptake or application of capacity building sessions resulting in wasted money and effort that do not achieve expected outcome.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	To ensure take up and efficiency/long-term sustainability of capacity building sessions, we'll ensure attentive selection of agents of change, which will condition the transmission and appropriation of the message. In addition, experience of the project leader in administration of large funds will ensure audit quality of project finance management.	Minor
Safeguarding The agents of change could be at risk of harassment and conflict with the target groups (hunters), especially if the target group perceive their intervention as a threat to their livelihood.	Minor	Rare	Minor	Agents of change include ex or current hunters, as well as community leaders, respected by the target group. Communication training will include ethics and awareness raising methods that are not coercive but generate open discussion to propose changes of practices and regulations in a participative manner.	Minor

Delivery Chain Bird hunters could lose a relevant contribution to their livelihood and protein/food source if their target species become prohibited to hunt (or their numbers decrease).	Moderate	Possible	Major	Prohibitive measures taken to protect endemic species will be balanced with promotion of professional development activities for alternative livelihoods sources for hunters.	Moderate
Risk 4 Climate Change Climate change can modify species niche, population, distribution and habitat, therefore limiting the applicability of the law	Minor	Rare	Minor	Hunting law and regulations shall explicitly mention climate change and the associated need to regularly review authorized/prohibited species list, species specific hunting seasons, and introduced species control parameters (quotas, etc.).	Minor
Risk 5 Lack of engagement from governmental organisations Efficiency of law enforcement could be limited by low engagement and appropriation by government technicians responsible for hunting regulation	Moderate	Possible	Major	All project activities will be participative, inclusive and will engage authorities since the conception of beginning to the end of the project, to ensure appropriation and long-term engagement of the authorities. Advocacy to decree the hunting roadmap will ensure its endorsement by government.	Minor
Risk 6 Community fatigue and lack of interest from target group A lot of activities are ongoing in STP given its small size and target groups may not see the interests/benefit from the regulation of hunting as it is generally not their only source of income	Minor	Possible	Moderate	BirdLife has a vast experience and network in STP, as well as capacity for communication product design targeted to focus groups. A combination of public campaign to scale up awareness raising at island level and innovative training methods with agents of change (e.g. theatre, games, etc.) will ensure success.	Minor

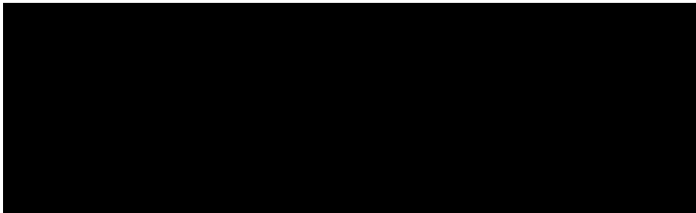
Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q18. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities, linking them to your Outputs. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project ready for upload on Flexi-Grant.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out.



Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q19. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Financial Guidance](#)).

The project coordinator will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a detailed workplan for the project team, using a traffic light system for the monitoring of activities and outputs. Based in the Project Implementation Timetable, and the SMART indicators of success below, the core project team will meet on a bi-weekly basis to monitor advances, evaluate progress and adjust activities and timeframe. One focal point for each of the partners is responsible for providing updates and any concerns, and priorities will be set for the next period. Those meetings will be the opportunity to raise any challenge or risk that needs timely addressing. A technical steering committee meeting will take place every two months to review the performance and workplan and adaptively adjust the implementation if needed.

In Sao Tome and Principe, the project officer will be responsible for providing or channelling updates and inputs from local partners to the project monitoring table on a bi-weekly basis. Also, to raise any early warnings about project implementation on the ground. The project coordinator will dedicate two days per visit in country to monitor activities and impacts.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)



Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)

Number of days planned for M&E

18

Section 10 - Indicators of Success

Q20. Indicators of success

Please outline the Outcome and Outputs of the project and how will you show that they have been achieved by using SMART indicators and milestones.

See the [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#), and internet resources, for advice on SMART indicators and milestones.

Please note that the number of participants in training is not an output, please consider how to measure the success of the training rather than participation in training.

In the table below please outline your Outcome and between 1-4 Outputs. Each statement should have between 2-3 SMART indicators and end target (figure/state/quality) including how you would evidence achievement – i.e. “Means of Verification”.

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
Outcome Effective protection of endemic species is achieved due to an updated and actionable hunting framework, supported by informed implementation of professional alternatives for bird hunters	STP reviews and adopts hunting regulations that follow evidence-based guidelines	Decree/law available
	The populations of endemic birds threatened by hunting are stable or increasing	Bi-annual reports from PNOT biodiversity & threats monitoring protocol; IUCN redlists
	Food and economic security for hunting-dependent livelihoods is improved	Number of hunters involved with conservation activities and/or alternative income generation activities
Output 1 Output 1. A group of agents of change is capable in species biology/ecology and principles of conservation/management and actively engaged with the target groups	By the end of the project, at least 15 agents of change (former hunters, community leaders) are engaged and trained for leading in conservation principles and species management	Acts of meetings; lists of presence; individual contracts Activity reports; lists of presence; communication products created
	40 hours trainings have been delivered on conservation, hunting management, communication & engagement techniques	
Output 2 Output 2. Country awareness in species biology/ecology and principles of conservation management is improved	At least 300 people (hunters, communities, NGOs, government) are consulted and informed about hunting and species ecology & conservation in STP	Acts of meetings; activity reports; lists of presence Number of views and followers on social media and online press;
	General public awareness increases about conservation issues regarding hunting	
Output 3 Output 3. Improved capacity and capability of hunters and institutions to regulate hunting	At least 50 hunters are engaged, consulted, and trained in species ecology and principles of conservation & management	Acts of meetings; activity reports; lists of presence Number of hunting licenses requested
	At least 30 institutional agents are engaged, consulted and trained in species ecology and principles of conservation & management	
	20 hours trainings have been delivered on conservation, hunting & management	

Output 4

Output 4. A participatory road map for the review of the hunting regulation is developed

An assessment of at least 50 hunters' needs and viable alternatives to hunting of endemic species is produced

A participatory plan for the implementation of hunting regulations is produced

Needs assessment report; act of meetings; lists of presence

Number of hunters involved with conservation activities and/or alternative income generation activities

Hunting road map produced and distributed

Hunting law and regulations updated and implemented

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.

Activities

1.1 Engagement of local agents/leaders of change

1.2 Preparation/production of materials

1.3 Training - ecology and conservation

1.4 Training - hunting/ management

1.5 Training - communication techniques

2.1 Development and dissemination of targeted communication products

2.2 Local agents to engage participants and collect interest

2.3 Consultation/awareness meetings with local communities in the Park buffer area

2.4 Consultation/awareness meetings with NGOs, private sector and other audiences

3.1 Engagement of local hunters and institutional agents

3.2 Training - ecology and conservation

3.3 Training - hunting/ management

4.1 Needs and alternatives assessment - hunters

4.3 Data analysis – consultations

4.4 Report production and dissemination

4.5 Validation meetings

Important Assumptions:

Please describe up to 6 key assumptions that, if held true, will enable you to deliver your Outputs and Outcome.

To build National capacity and capability, the project needs to have participation from the key target groups. The project is therefore based on the following assumptions:

The identification and engagement of 15 leaders is possible

There is participation from hunters

There is participation from key institutional actors

There is participation from communities

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q21. Budget

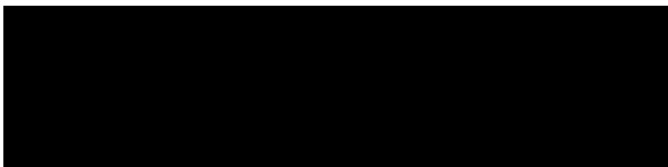
Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

- [Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.



Q22. Funding

Q22a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

New Initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new initiative, but the concept builds on previous research on hunting and current work with the Forests and Parks management focusing on the protection of threatened endemic birds and research on impacts of invasive species. The

proposal is built upon science, supported by, inter alia the following work:

- A PhD thesis by the project leader (2015) "Endemic pigeons of São Tomé: developing science-based conservation and sustainable use of African pigeons",
- The Action Plans elaboration and updates (last updated in 2021) for the Critically Endangered Birds of STP (including the Dwarf Olive Ibis and the Principe Thrush) (implemented by Birdlife and other project partners)
- Study of environmental impact of invasive mammal species and associated zoonotic risks, led by CIBIO-Inbio in partnership with BirdLife International in Sao Tomé, which started in 2021.

It is also important to mention the creation and training in 2020 by PTRS of a team of Obô Guardians, with BirdLife International support, which role is to monitor biodiversity and threats in STP Parks and buffer zone, as well as raising awareness about biodiversity protection in neighbouring communities, to support the monitoring work of environment institutions (DFB, PNOST).

Q22b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

A complementary PhD project was developed and being currently advertised by CIBIO-Inbio: "How do deforestation and invasive species alter food webs in tropical rainforests? Insights from diet DNA metabarcoding on Sao Tomé and Principe islands". This project will assess the role that native and introduced fauna have in controlling invasive pests in Sao Tome and Principe. Here, rats, palm civets, mona monkeys and other introduced species have profoundly changed a native ecosystem historically poor on terrestrial mammals. However, the relationships between native and introduced species, and the effects that such relationships may have on biodiversity and local economies, are poorly understood.

The project is a collaboration between Dr Davide Dominoni (Glasgow), Dr Andreanna Welch (Durham), and with a team of researchers in Portugal (Dr Luke L. Powell, Dr Martim Melo and Dr Ricardo F de Lima) with strong roots in the study of tropical biodiversity in STP, and also represented in the capacity and capability project team. The results of this project will inform and contribute to content for the awareness raising and management plan for invasive species in STP.

Q23. Capital items

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

Laptops (one for each local partner), one camera and one portable projector will be purchased by the project. This equipment will be retained by the partners for implementation of further projects and activities.

Q24. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

The project will fund aspects which have been typically underfunded and will ensure essential baselines are created in the country for an adjusted and effective hunting regulation. The project is largely country based, with a relevant co financing from other ongoing and aligned initiatives and projects, which will all build into results towards larger impacts on conservation of biodiversity and livelihood development.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q25. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they

work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

An updated Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct, in line with UK Charity Commission guidelines, was adopted by BirdLife International's Global Council in December 2020. This policy has been attached to the application. We will work closely with BirdLife's Legal and Risk Management team at project initiation to operationalise the policy within the project team, including with project partners on the ground.

The policy will be shared with project partners at project initiation. Partners will be expected to uphold the policy in their work and have their own safeguarding procedures in place. BirdLife funding contracts

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q26. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

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

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q27. Project staff

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

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Mariana Carvalho	Project Leader	50	Checked
Marion Tafani	Project Officer	50	Checked
Roger Pires	Finance and Administration Support	10	Checked
Kariuki Ndang'ang'a	Project Supervision	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sol Espinosa	Micro finance officer	10	Checked
Antonio Camuenha	Field Assistant	100	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

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

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



Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q28. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

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

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

Lead partner name:	BirdLife International
Website address:	www.birdlife.org
Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project?	BirdLife International is one of the world's largest networks of independent national conservation organisations that come together as a global partnership to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	BirdLife's network of organisations currently covers more than 115 countries and territories and overall coordination is provided by the global BirdLife Secretariat based in Cambridge, UK, together with the various regional offices and affiliates. BirdLife International has been active in São Tomé and Príncipe for over 10 years, collaborating with the titular natural park management authorities, government institutions and communities promoting research, conservation of threatened birds and local empowerment. In 2017, through the EU-funded ECOFAC6 Regional Programme, BirdLife International was awarded a four and a half year grant for the protection of the Natural Parks on the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe.
International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> International
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	
Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

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

Have you provided a cover letter? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Forest and Biodiversity Directorate (DFB) including the Sao Tomé Obô Natural Park (PNOST) Department

Website address: Direcção das Florestas e da Biodiversidade de STP | Facebook

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

The management of STP's forests is led by the Forest & Biodiversity Directorate (DFB, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development). In accordance with Law no. 5/2001 –Forestry Law in force, the DFB is responsible for the establishment of the directives for the conservation and sustainable use of forest, including timber and non-timber resources i.e. the elaboration and implementation of forestry sector policies in the country

The Forest and Biodiversity Directorate (DBF) is the main partner of implementation and the responsible for feeding results into the legal framework in the country. One focal point for DBF will be assigned to the project team and integral part of project implementation. The inputs and ownership by DBF are key to ensure the success of the project.

Complementarily, it is also beneficiary of the capacity and capability activities, through forest guards and technical boards. DBF will coordinate the delivery of capacity and capability activities, being responsible to select participants and organize the sessions.

International/In-country Partner In-country

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

2. Partner Name: cE3c | Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes Research Unit of the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisboa


Website address: <https://ciencias.ulisboa.pt/en/ce3c-centre-for-ecology-evolution-and-environmental-changes>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes (cE3c) is a large R&D unit based at the Science Faculty of Lisbon University. As part of its 15 main research objectives, four are directly related to the project: (4) Increase knowledge of Agro-Forestry Systems to enhance resource use efficiency and human well-being; (5) Investigate the causes, processes and responses of Biological Invasions in the context of climate and land-use change; (4) Promote effective communication with target groups and involve local populations and decision makers in improving ecosystem health and monitoring;(15) Effectively contribute to the development of strategies, policies and solutions consistent with the principles of sustainable development by increased participation in national and international commissions, networks and interest groups in the Centre's topics).

With extensive knowledge and research produced on the islands of STP, namely through the work of Dr. Ricardo Lima, this partner has contributed in the last decade to science based conservation action in the country. This partner will be integral part of the development of technical contents and implementation of the capacity and capability sessions. It will participate in the steering committee and the project monitoring, and the review of the hunting road map produced.

International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> International
Allocated budget:	
Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

3. Partner Name:

CIBIO – Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources - InBIO Associate Laboratory

Website address:

<https://cibio.up.pt>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

CIBIO-InBIO has a long-term relationship with São Tomé and Príncipe, with research focusing mainly on reconstructing the origins of its unique endemic birds, on the impact of human-land changes in the distribution of endemics, and on the potential for human activities leading to the introduction of foreign pathogens. At the same time, CIBIO-InBIO researchers regularly provide technical support for the design and implementation of conservation strategies –both next to the government (Department of the Environment; Natural Parks) and national and international NGOs (including BirdLife International).

The project has synergies with a recent research package led by CIBIO-InBIO in STP, in the framework of the partnership with BirdLife International, assessing the environmental impact of invasive mammal species and associated risks of zoonosis. It will build on CIBIO-InBIO expertise and recent findings on the invasive mammal research package, to provide training contents and materials for the agents of change as well as for the target public and larger scale awareness raising campaigns.

This partner will be integral part of the development of technical contents and implementation of the capacity and capability sessions. It will participate in the steering committee and the project monitoring, and the review of the hunting road map produced.

International/In-country Partner

International

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

Plataforma de Turismo Responsável e Sustentável | Facebook

Website address:

<https://www.facebook.com/plataformadeturismoresponsavelesustentavel>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

PTRS is a national platform that brings together various national, public, and private tour operators, cooperatives, local communities, and NGOs, launched in 2014, to promote responsible and sustainable tourism in Sao Tomé and Principe (STP). The PTRS initiatives are based on a Sustainability Charter, the Platform's commitment to good social, economic, and environmental practices.

PTRS strategic role was reinforced in 2020 through a MoU with the Government of STP for the management of ecotourism in protected areas, and another MoU with BirdLife International, to ensure continuous technical and financial support to reach these objectives. One success of the PTRS, with BirdLife support, was the creation in 2020 of a civil society group, the 'Obô Guardians', in charge of monitoring biodiversity and threats, and raising awareness of forests users in the Park and surrounding forests.

In this project, PTRS will provide support through the Obô Guardians team to (i) identify agents of changes, (ii) organize and participate in the training of the agents of changes, (iii) guaranty participation of Obô Guardians in engagement activities with target group, (iv) ensure participation of Obô Guardians in training activities to ensure successful implementation of hunting regulations.

International/In-country Partner

In-country

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

Sao Tomé and Principe University (USTP)

Website address:

<https://www.facebook.com/USTP.Universidade/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

USTP's mission and purposes as a centre for the creation, dissemination and promotion of culture, science and technology, articulating study and research, in order to enhance human development as a strategic factor for the sustainable development of the country

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

In November 2021, USTP and BirdLife International entered a MoU with the common goals to improve scientific knowledge in the fields of biodiversity, nature conservation and the management of protected areas, with special emphasis on understanding them. To promote the use of scientific knowledge to establish and suggest appropriate conservation priorities and management tools, in collaboration with technical and decision-making (political) services linked to agriculture, forestry, biodiversity conservation and protected areas authorities, among other relevant parties, at local, regional and national levels.

International/In-country Partner

In-country

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

If no, please provide details Given the time constraints, we didn't get the formal support letter from USTP. However, we have added the signed MoU between BirdLife International and USTP to this application.

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? *No Response*

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

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

No Response

Please provide a cover letter and a combined PDF of all letters of support.



Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q29. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
27-005	Jonathan C Eames	Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five
24-030	Paul Kariuki Ndang'ang'a	Controlling an invasive aquatic plant for improved biodiversity and livelihoods
24-019	Ken Mwathe	Developing a Community Based Ecotourism Model at Lake Natron, Tanzania
23-016	Dr. Nonie Coultard	Yerba mate: a market-driven model for conserving Paraguay's Atlantic Forest
23-017	Elaine Marshall	Building resilient landscapes and livelihoods in Burkina Faso's shea parklands.
23-010	Coline Ganz	Piloting a model for protected area (buffer) zone management, Cambodia

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts (or other financial evidence - see Financial Guidance)?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q30. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

BirdLife International

I apply for a grant of


£199,503.00

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 project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence - see Financial Guidance) are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Julius Arinaitwe
Position in the organisation	Director of Partnership, Communities & Capacity Development
Signature (please upload e-signature)	
Date	06 December 2021

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.



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



Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Supplementary Guidance for Capability & Capacity Projects", "Risk Management Guidance", and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
(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 included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 27, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 28, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 25.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Financial Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).