

Applicant: **Scanlon, John**
Organisation: **Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation**
Funding Sought: **£198,978.00**

DIR29CC\1193

Building Government Capability and Capacity to Facilitate Human-Elephant Coexistence

The EPIF believes that Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) solutions must be African-led, with leading roles fulfilled by African governments and their wildlife authority experts. Currently, these institutions' capability, capacity, and funding are entirely insufficient to deal with the colossal challenges of HEC, the impacts of climate change, and the complexities of land use planning across elephant habitats. The EPIF aims to strengthen this critical capability and capacity shortfall through structured training, mentoring, partnerships, knowledge exchange and network-building across EPI member states.

Section 1 - Contact Details

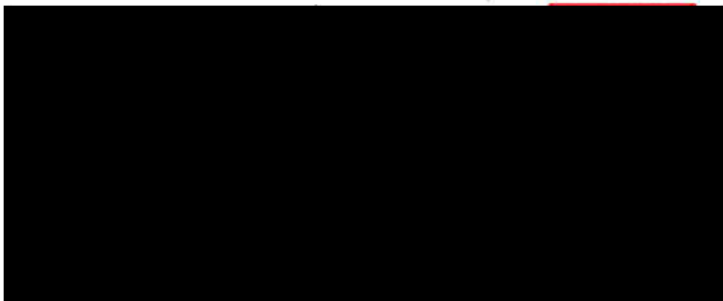
PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name John
Surname Scanlon
Organisation Elephant Protection Initiative
Foundation



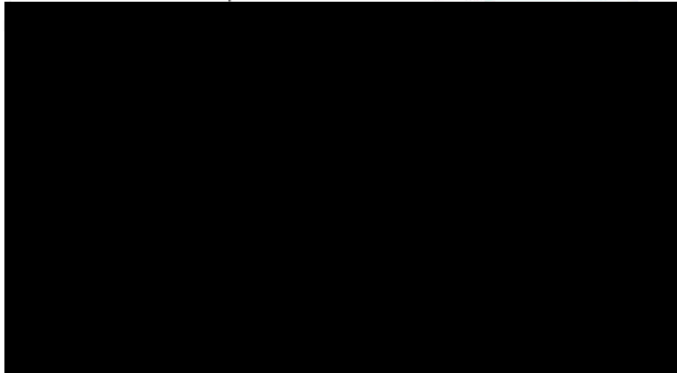
CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mrs
Name Greta Francesca
Surname Iori
Organisation Elephant Protection Initiative
Foundation



GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation



Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Title:


Building Government Capability and Capacity to Facilitate Human-Elephant Coexistence


Q4a. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?


No

Please attach a cover letter.

Please include a response to any previous feedback in your cover letter.

 [20221107 - EPIF - Darwin CF - Cover Letter FINAL](#)

 07/11/2022

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 pdf 128.13 KB

Q5. Summary

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

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The EPIF believes that Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) solutions must be African-led, with leading roles fulfilled by African governments and their wildlife authority experts. Currently, these institutions' capability, capacity, and funding are entirely insufficient to deal with the colossal challenges of HEC, the impacts of climate change, and the complexities of land use planning across elephant habitats. The EPIF aims to strengthen this critical capability and capacity shortfall through structured training, mentoring, partnerships, knowledge exchange and network-building across EPI member states.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible 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 Ethiopia

Country 2 Gabon

Country 3 Angola

Country 4 Malawi

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2023

End date:

31 March 2025

Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 months):

2 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£98,739.00	£100,239.00	£ 198,978.00

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



Q10a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

The respective governments will support salary costs for their focal points. Once the four priority countries have been fully onboarded, the focal points have been trained, and the respective wildlife authorities have sufficient capacity to monitor and deal with HEC, with monthly monitoring data delivered to the EPIF, this project will be expanded to the remaining 17 EPI member states. Matched funding will need to be sourced as a result. The EPIF will engage other institutional donor organisations that have indicated an interest in supporting this work.

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



Q10c. 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?

N/A

Section 4 - Project need

Q11. 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 challenges and opportunities.

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).

It is widely accepted that the rapid and ongoing loss of species and habitats requires concerted and coordinated action globally. Despite hosting some of the world's most important biodiversity and natural capital, when measured across a range of socio-economic metrics, Africa is the world's poorest region, with the largest population growth of any continent. This exponential population increase exerts enormous pressure on basic human needs such as healthcare, education, and access to land, water, and life-sustaining natural resources, which in turn impacts land use, and, frequently due to lack of planning, results in significantly increased fragmentation and degradation of wildlife habitats. Unfortunately, this population increase does not go hand in hand with the required economic growth, employment opportunities, government funding, infrastructure, and capacity to tackle the challenges at hand.

The fragmentation of wildlife habitat is a major threat to global biodiversity and species distribution, first due to the

isolation of protected areas, and second, in the case of elephants, increased patchiness not only results in a decline of the dispersal area but it disrupts movements via corridors and migration routes. Thereby severing connectivity and lowering resilience, especially under conditions of accelerating climate change. Increased fragmentation will also lead to increased edges with farmlands and settlements (the human-elephant interface). Because one is dealing with perimeters of irregularly shaped patches, an increase in fragmentation or patchiness results in an exponential increase in the human-elephant interface, thus, a concurrent increase in human-elephant conflicts.

In the context of sustainable conservation of elephant populations and advancing human-elephant coexistence, it is evident that communities and wildlife authorities mandated to manage, mitigate, and prevent conflict will bear the brunt of this rapidly worsening problem. Alongside the added pressures of climate change, global economic recession, post-COVID complexities and decades of underfunding and under-capacitation at the national, regional, and local levels, neither wildlife authorities nor communities are adequately equipped to deal with this concerted avalanche of obstacles.

The EPIF understands that African governments and their mandated wildlife authorities can turn the tide on HEC by providing the political will that is key for accountability and proactive decision-making to benefit both people and elephants. However, this will only be achieved when adequately supported through targeted training, knowledge exchange, and cross-regional network development to raise the capacity of local experts to manage the complexities of HEC. This includes delivering short-term technical interventions and solutions while also dealing with root causes, frequently steeped in socio-political, cultural, economic and historical realities. Although many conservation organisations, especially NGOs, work across hierarchies, from the community level to influencing global policy, they often work in silos or on specific time-bound projects.

By investing directly in the capability and capacity of governments – that is, focal points and other staff within the authorities responsible for wildlife management (those dealing with human-elephant conflict (HEC) and broader human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and coexistence on a daily basis) - we believe a more sustainable long-term impact may be achieved.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your capability and capacity 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.

This project will support the Convention on Biological Diversity's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) by:

1. Improving capability, capacity and knowledge on conflict issues and mitigation;
2. Feeding into land use planning to reduce pressures on biodiversity;
3. Improving biodiversity by mitigating HEC and improving connectivity; and
4. Providing greater equity in community governance of resources, distribution of benefits from biodiversity and

ecosystem services, and alternative livelihood opportunities.

All four project countries have published NBSAPs, and the project will build upon each country's biodiversity goals. Gabon published their Fifth National Report on Biological Diversity in 2019. In 2020, Angola published their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2025. Ethiopia published their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020 in 2016. Finally, Malawi published their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II 2015-2025 in 2016.

The project will support the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, as it will aid in determining cross-border pathways and informing land use planning to maintain connectivity for migratory species.

This project will additionally support countries in their efforts to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG15 specifically targets 1,2,5,7,9,a,c will seek to be met by this project through the mitigation of HWC, reduction in poaching, enhancement in connectivity and the creation of an enabling environment for wildlife-based economies. Contributions toward SDG12 (Target 2,8,B) will be made by reducing each country's reliance on natural resource extraction through community participation in wildlife management, awareness raising and restoring connectivity. Contributions toward meeting both SDG1 (Target 5,B) and SDG2 (Target 3,4) will be made by the project to safeguarding food production, reducing poverty through income-generating opportunities, and promoting greater equity in the distribution of natural resource benefits.

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

Q13. Methodology

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

- How you have reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- The specific approach you are using, supported by evidence that it will be effective, and justifying why you expect it will be successful in this context.
- How you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- What the main activities will be and where these will 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?

To establish a mechanism to facilitate collaboration with the governments of the four target countries, the EPIF will create a National HEC Focal Point (NHFP) support programme. This programme will be vital for communicating with government authorities and departments on the assessment of HEC, as well as on coordination and implementation of HEC interventions, including establishing national priorities and liaising with on-the-ground partners as well as the local communities to tackle conflict.

The EPIF will help EPI member states identify and appoint an NHFP, thereby addressing gender equality. This person will be the primary point of contact for HEC-related support from the EPIF and coordinate with relevant stakeholders on HEC interventions in that particular country. Providing capacity building, knowledge exchange, and overall technical support will help the NHFP and other relevant departmental staff spearhead discussions and facilitate the flow of HEC-related information, including HEC hotspots and areas most in need of interventions, especially as data on HEC across Africa is largely lacking. Establishing effective communication channels with those on the front line of HEC, and people in regular communication with decision-makers will significantly improve our understanding of local realities and nuances, thereby informing and influencing policy and HEC mitigation, reduction and prevention. It will help put the EPIF in a position to prioritise and maximise resources to address context-specific solutions for the most pressing HEC issues, starting in four priority countries across the continent, but ultimately scaling up to 21 EPI member states. Moreover, the EPIF will facilitate setting up a monitoring system, liaising selected government partners with tech experts and institutions in this space to identify the most suitable ways for each country not only to collect data serving as feedback for the adaptive management systems and global policy but ultimately aiming to track HEC incidents in real-time.

General Objectives (medium term):

1. A National HEC Focal Point is to be appointed by each of the four priority countries, while all EPI member states will need to appoint one in the medium to long term. The NHFP will be appointed from within the existing government institution responsible for wildlife management, to coordinate with relevant government agencies and local partners, lead discussions and facilitate the flow of HEC-related information from the government to the EPIF and back. Build capability and capacity for the NHFPs and other staff to identify problem areas, monitor, analyse and report on incidents, and apply locally relevant solutions to solving HEC.
2. Set up an HEC Focal Point Network (HFPN) for the exchange of information between the four priority countries initially but increasing to include all 21 EPI member states in the long term.
3. Using the HFPN, facilitate regional collaboration and knowledge sharing on best practices across the regions and eventually the continent at large.
4. NHFPs will take the lead in bringing national HEC issues to the EPIF HEC team's attention, provide advice and expertise to solve pressing HEC issues in specific target areas, and influence local, regional, and global policy on tackling HEC.

Activities (medium term):

1. In collaboration with respective governments in each of the four priority countries, identify well-placed, enthusiastic and motivated NHFPs, and seek their formal nomination.
2. In collaboration with the appropriate government institution (primarily wildlife authorities), identify NHFP needs in each EPI member state and develop a support package that will help build lasting technical capacity, training, confidence and a sound understanding of managing HEC. Training of the NHFP and a selected number of relevant staff will be done by specialist consultants on locally relevant and agreed capacity needs.
3. In collaboration with partners, equip the NHFP with the necessary tools to enhance the quality and quantity of HEC information available to them, and thus to the EPI HEC Team. This may include purchasing required equipment, providing training and facilitating partnerships aligned to strengthen capacity.
4. Facilitate discussions with potential partners to help NHFPs explore and identify the most effective monitoring systems for HEC, either through the digital technology that is available or alternative systems. Specialist consultants will deliver training to the NHFP and other staff.
5. Invest in skills development for NHFPs, enabling basic reporting, management and monitoring of HEC, and best practice sharing and capacity building for management of HEC by the wildlife authorities.
6. Provide the NHFPs with basic equipment to apply simple and cheap locally relevant solutions to mitigate HEC.

Q14. How will you identify participants?

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

The EPI Foundation (EPIF) is the secretariat to the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI), an African-led inter-governmental initiative of 21 member states. More than forty NGO partners have publicly declared their support. The EPIF is a UK-registered charity mandated to support the initiative and assist implementation by member states.

The EPIF works directly with governments in partnership with NGOs, IGOs and the private sector. Whilst the EPIF is a recently established legal entity, it benefits from the operational and financial historical record of the previous EPI co-Secretariat, Stop Ivory. Instructed by the EPI member states, in September 2018, the EPI Foundation was formed to be the sole Secretariat. The EPIF has been providing technical and financial support to EPI countries working directly with government Ministries and Wildlife Authorities. The EPIF's activities include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting ongoing and effective wildlife product stockpile management;
- Supporting the development and updating of National Elephant Action Plans (NEAPs) as a means to implement the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP); and
- Supporting the deployment of measures to manage existing human-wildlife conflict and to avoid the conditions that could lead to future conflicts.

NHFPs will be identified through a transparent and collaborative process with each of the four priority countries. The EPIF will seek for each country to formally nominate an NHFP that is currently working within the institution responsible for wildlife management. This will ensure that the selected NHFP is the most suitable to benefit from the knowledge-sharing processes of the project and have strong communication and interpersonal skills. Because this is a collaborative effort between governments and the EPIF, the EPIF will pursue a gender-equal selection process. Ideally, the selected person will

already have built relationships with relevant in-country stakeholders within the HEC space.

Q15. 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. Please summarise how your capability and capacity project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

In this project, the definition of gender equality is adopted from the IUCN Gender Analysis Guide (2021), which states that "gender equality is the state in which all people, regardless of their gender, have equal rights, freedoms, conditions and opportunities. It does not mean that people – for example, women and men – become the same, but rather that they have equal life chances and are valued equally" (page viii).

Gender equality will be addressed when facilitating the appointment of National HEC Focal Points (NHFPs). In the IUCN Issues Brief, 'Gender and climate change', published in 2015, women only make up 29% of the National Focal Points of the Global Environment Facility. Moreover, women, especially in rural settings, are at the frontlines of working on the land, supporting, and raising families in addition to providing basic human needs for their children and broader circles, such as through fetching water, selling at the daily markets and in executing countless daily chores outside, they are the most vulnerable when it comes to protecting their fields, properties, children and their own lives against marauding elephants.

As a result of the improved capacity of the wildlife authorities to identify and inventory conflict hotspots and address the problem holistically, which includes root causes, women will benefit most from this expanded and deepened understanding of how to solve local HEC situations. The planned training on HEC will specifically focus on feminist ecology in practice and encourage selected country government partners to nominate women NHFPs. The project has been designed per SDG5 and the International Development (Gender Equality) Act.

Q16. Change expected

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

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

Improving the capability and capacity of wildlife authority staff in each of the priority countries to identify HEC hotspots and find locally relevant solutions to mitigate and reduce conflict will not only ease the negativity and resentment felt towards conservation and sharing landscapes with elephants, thereby reducing the retaliatory killing of elephants, but will also secure crops and improve income from agriculture while concurrently reducing human deaths and injuries from interactions with elephants.

In the short to medium term, strengthening capability and capacity will result in HEC interventions tailored to local circumstances, mitigating crop and livestock damage, thereby sustainably improving household food security. It is crucial to involve and listen to the local communities at every step of the process because they bear the brunt of every existing conflict. Eventually, this should help foster harmonious coexistence between people and elephants in shared habitats.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of hard data on HEC, it is next to impossible to provide an estimate of the number of households that will benefit from this project for each of the four priority countries at this stage. We may assume that in the medium to long term, this involves a vast number of households.

HEC mitigation will improve livelihood options that do not depend on the unsustainable use of natural resources, while improved security and women empowerment will lead to improved well-being for all community members. As a result, there will be a further reduction in poaching, stabilized biodiversity and improved cohabitation between people and wildlife in the medium to long term.

In the long term, communities in the affected areas (HEC hotspots) will benefit from increased financial resilience with greater income from salvaged farm produce and reduced poverty, resulting in improved living conditions, with both people and wildlife cohabiting in a mutually beneficial manner. Community attitudes will transform as tolerance to sharing spaces with elephants is restored through environmental justice that recognises a dual approach to solving conflict - that is, both people and wildlife solutions, through the active management and mitigation of HEC incidents and training of those mandated to deal with it on a daily basis.

The overarching impact is that local communities remain the principal guardians and benefactors of wildlife thriving in shared landscapes and that the training better supports local, national and regional understanding of how to reduce HEC while stabilising elephant and other wildlife populations in and around the conflict areas.

Q17. Exit Strategy

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

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 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?

The National HEC Focal Points serve as the vehicle to build impact and capacity amongst selected staff of the authorities responsible for wildlife management in all of the EPI priority countries and later in all 21 EPI member states.

In the case that the NHFP is replaced or leaves the wildlife authority position, the capability and capacity to cope with wildlife conflict remain an integral part of the relevant department, whereby processes to nominate a replacement within 30 days will be a part of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) and partnership agreements. Investing in the training of government staff, rather than through a project at the site level, for example, provides stronger foundations for knowledge to be maintained within the organisation. Moreover, policy and strategy changes with regards to HEC, as well as community engagement in its management, will flow through the hierarchical structure, while the same applies to most of the decisions that need to be made and the feedback reports from monitoring data. Training staff and constantly sharing knowledge, upskilling, regular meetings and discussions will build capacity in a larger group of people within the relevant wildlife department and authorities.

Through the HEC Focal Point Network, information on tools, techniques, regionally specific best practices, as well as relevant policies and strategies will be shared regularly, implying that knowledge on HEC and its locally relevant solutions will circulate within the wider group of NHFPs, and in the longer term throughout the entire African continent. Furthermore, regular documentation of problem areas, hotspots, solutions applied and the results, will provide future staff and policymakers with a solid basis to continue the work.

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

Q18. Risk Management

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

Projects should also draft their initial risk register, using the [Risk Assessment template](#), 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
<p>Fiduciary (financial)</p> <p>Global markets are suffering one of their most volatile periods in recent times and look set to collapse within the project timeline. This would significantly impact local and international currencies, directly affecting purchasing power in-country.</p>	Moderate	Likely	Major	Equipment and other project needs impacted by supply chain and currency volatility will be scoped earlier on. This will allow for informed and efficient purchases to be made where needed. Other payments (consultants, services, etc.) will be made in global currencies rather than local currencies.	Moderate
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Working with local communities, often in rural settings, at the coalface of human-elephant and human-wildlife conflict more broadly can create undue power imbalances. It is essential that the project incorporates bottom-up thinking that speaks to what local communities truly need and want, not what is imposed on them.</p>	Major	Possible	Major	The project methodology has been conceptualised to account for this risk, especially ensuring that a one-size-fits-all approach is not adopted across the four target countries. Rather, time and resources will be invested in determining locally-relevant actions.	Minor
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Funding of government departments directly can be a high-risk activity and the project's emphasis on NHFPs affords room for funds to be directed towards low- or even no-impact streams. This is due the level of influence ultimately vested in one individual.</p>	Minor	Possible	Moderate	As Lead Partner, the EPIF will institute significant financial and project management processes (such as a procurement and expenditure policy). These have been successfully implemented in other projects across the 21 EPI member countries and the four priority countries in particular.	Minor
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>External risks due to increased insecurity, prolonged extreme climate conditions or politics unfavorable to the project may be experienced.</p>	moderate	Possible	Major	These are mostly strategic risks that can only be dealt with by a temporary focus on the other priority countries and simply hoping for improvement.	Moderate
<p>Risk 5</p> <p>Appointment of a suitable and above all motivated NHFP, supported by management of the respective wildlife authority, is a prerequisite to success of the project. This not only requires management to take the impact of HEC seriously, but also the willingness to appoint a suitable staff member to this position.</p>	Minor	Unlikely	Moderate	EPIF will travel to each target country to be part of this process, evaluating potential candidates as well as management to steer this process in the right direction.	Minor

Risk 6	Major	Likely	Major	Project duration may be too short to overcome these obstacles, but with patience, sound conflict management and persuasion, seeds can be sown for medium term success.	Moderate
<p>Long-term coexistence of people and elephants may only be feasible with supportive spatial planning at the macro level and participatory land-use planning at the lowest level. This requires an enabling political environment, both at the federal and lower levels as well as between different hierarchical levels of the political system.</p>					





Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q19. 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.

[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.

-  [20221107 Implementation Timetable_Final.docx](#)
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-  pdf 32.59 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q20. 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 improved delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see Finance Guidance).

Both the EPIF HEC Team Manager and the Technical Advisor are responsible for the project's M&E and will travel to the priority countries when required.

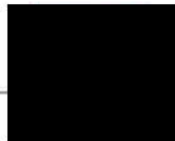
During the course of the first year of the project, monitoring will use simple output indicators, frequently traffic light indicators, such as whether a particular training has been completed or not, how many staff attended, if the monitoring system is up and running, and how many staff are capable of operating it. Additionally, if equipment is provided, the confirmation of equipment distribution and the use of the equipment one year later will be simple metrics for evaluation.

Once all four NHFPs are in place and adequately trained, a modest start of the HEC Focal Point Network can be made, monitoring the number of mostly online meetings per unit time and the number of exchange trips, including reports and analysis of overarching national HEC realities.

During the second year of the project, assuming the monitoring systems are operational, and all training has been finalised, a formal inventory of problem areas and HEC hotspots will be carried out for each priority country, taking note of types of conflicts, social drivers, frequencies and any other relevant data. This information provides the baseline for further monitoring.

From there on, NHFPs will transfer monitoring data to the EPIF HEC Team every month. The data will be analysed for types, frequencies and trends and shared more broadly with EPIF member states.

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



Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E

Number of days planned for M&E

120

Section 10 - Indicators of Success

Q21. Indicators of success

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

See the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance for advice on selecting 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 Improved capacity within each of the four wildlife authorities to identify HEC problem areas, monitor the types and frequencies of conflict, and address these with locally relevant solutions.	Total number of incidents per unit time per unit area	Monthly HEC monitoring data
	Number of human fatalities per unit time per unit area	
	Number of retaliatory killings of elephants per unit time per unit area	
	% of people in the target area willing to coexist with elephants	
	Acreage of crops raided per unit time per unit area	
All of the above in relation to baseline set priorities		

Output 1 Capable and capacitated NHFPs and other staff members in place with the authorities responsible for wildlife management in each of the four target countries	Number of training sessions/target country	Consultant reports
	Number of staff attending/target country	NHFP reports Site visits
Output 2 Monitoring systems in place and operated by capable staff with the authorities responsible for wildlife management in each of the four priority countries.	Inventory of HEC problem areas available for each target country	Reports
	First monitoring reports available	
Output 3 HEC Focal Point Network (HFPN) in place	Number of online meetings per unit time	Reports
	Number of HFPN reports circulated	
Output 4 HEC monitoring data is available at regular intervals and relevant local solutions are being implemented in each priority country	Number of monitoring reports per unit time	Monitoring reports
	Trends in different types of HEC for each target country	Site visits

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.

1.1. In collaboration with respective governments in each of the four priority countries, identify well-placed, enthusiastic and motivated NHFPs, and seek their formal nomination and responsibilities.

1.2. In collaboration with the appropriate government institution (primarily wildlife authorities), identify NHFP needs in each EPI member state and develop a support package that will help build lasting technical capacity, confidence and a sound understanding of managing HEC.

1.3. Training of the NHFP and other staff by specialist consultants.

1.4. In collaboration with partners, equip the NHFP with the necessary tools to enhance the quality and quantity of HEC information available to them, and, thus, to the EPI HEC Team.

2.1. Facilitate discussions and potential partners to help NHFPs explore and identify the most effective monitoring systems for HEC through available digital technology or alternative existing systems. Specialist consultants will deliver the training for the NHFP and other staff.

2.2. Invest in skills development for NHFPs, enabling basic reporting, management and monitoring of HEC, and best practice sharing and capacity building for management of HEC by the authorities responsible for wildlife management.

3.1. Set up a HEC Focal Point Network, initially starting with the four priority countries, but in time expanding this to encompass all 21 EPI member states.

4.1 Provide basic equipment to each target country to enable them and the affected communities to mitigate local HEC problems.

Important Assumptions:

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

1. Suitable and motivated NHFPs and other staff available in each country.
2. Management of the respective authorities responsible for wildlife management is cooperative.
3. No political obstacles.
4. Suitable consultants can be found to conduct the training.
5. The budget is sufficient to carry out all activities.
6. Transport is available with the authorities responsible for wildlife management.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q22. 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 under £100,000 and over £100,000. 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.

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

Please upload the Lead Partner's accounts (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance) at the certification page at the end of the application form.

Q23. Funding

Q23a. 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:

Increasing human population growth, global markets and overconsumption in developed nations results in rapid industrialisation, growing expansion and/or displacement of settlements and farms, demand for more land, and without adequate spatial planning, always leads to fragmentation of wildlife and predominantly elephant habitat, the largest terrestrial species that requires vast and healthy habitats to thrive. This has been a gradual process, mostly neglected, but not surprisingly has now reached alarming levels. Due to HEC primarily affecting the poorest segments of society, coupled with the rapidly increasing impacts of climate change, it cannot be ignored anymore. However, because of the above, this project does not build on existing work and is, therefore, a new and pioneering initiative, which will bring to the forefront the importance of tackling land use issues from the root causes, while also providing short-term locally relevant technical solutions to mitigate all types of conflict, but especially that inflicting harm on people and elephants.

Q23b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q24. 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.

Capital expenditure amounts to roughly 9% of the total budget and concerns some laptops for the monitoring system and basic equipment for the focal points to deal with HEC in hotspots identified (torches, solar-powered spotlights, wheelbarrows and shovels to remove dung, cement and bricks to build safe grain stores, fireworks, etc. The laptops will remain with the respective wildlife authorities for the full duration of the project and are intended to be left with the respective authorities once the project has finished.

Q25. Value for Money

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

Our intention to build government capability and capacity to facilitate Human Elephant Coexistence is good value for money as it not only implements most if not all of this grant's mandates, it also focuses on raising the skills and capacity of local experts, leaders and decision-makers, creating a strong foundation for influence and partnership well into the future. Our project will contribute to the extensive investments made by the UK government in supporting elephant conservation, including interventions to strengthen law enforcement, end the illegal ivory trade, support communities and fund projects directly dealing with research of this unique species. This project is exceptional in its potential to make an impact and be cost-effective, as it directly upskills decision-makers and experts mandated to reduce the retaliatory killings of elephants (through a better understanding of context-specific HEC interventions, mentoring, knowledge sharing, practical elements of strengthening skill base as well as network-building), while any reduction of HEC will also reduce poverty by lowering costs and negative impacts for communities on the front line of elephant habitats. By investing in local leaders and supporting skills development, which can be passed on through "training of the trainers" modalities, the need to "parachute in" experts from abroad will gradually be reduced and ultimately create less need for external support and will

achieve the mandate of international and environmental development.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q26. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

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

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

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
---	---------

We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
---	---------

We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
---	---------

We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
---	---------

We share our safeguarding policy with all partners	Checked
---	---------

We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
---	---------

We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked
--	---------

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. If any of the responses are "no", please indicate how it is being addressed.

Policies are shared and reviewed annually to ensure they're appropriate and current. The safeguarding policy includes a process and register for reporting concerns, ensuring confidentiality and follow-up, in line with legal and statutory obligations.

A whistle-blower policy protects from reprisals and includes processes for dealing with concerns raised.

The Code of Conduct sets out behaviour expectations and actions in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards.

Project partners must share copies of their policies and sign EPIF policies to ensure they have been distributed and read and the consequences of breaches are understood.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q27. 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.

No

If no, why not?

The EPIF has been working with these four member states for several years, and the local representation is well aware of our activities. Once the project starts they will be contacted again.

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q28. 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?
Greta Iori	Project Leader	17	Checked
Dr Hugo Jachmann	Technical Director	17	Checked
Harry Thorold	Financial Controller	17	Checked
Victoria Tuck	Operations and Programmes Coordinator	17	Checked


Do you require more fields?


No


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.

 [2022 CV List](#)

 07/11/2022

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 pdf 365.42 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q29. Project Partners

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

Lead Partner name: Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation (EPIF)

Website address: <https://www.elephantprotectioninitiative.org>

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

EPIF is the secretariat of the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI), a unique pan-African alliance covering the majority of Africa's remaining elephants. It seeks the harmonious coexistence of people and elephants with herds able to travel across their range, thereby protecting a diverse range of animals and plants, and supporting local livelihoods.

Since Malawi, Gabon, Ethiopia and Angola joined the EPI, the EPIF has worked closely and effectively with their governments. For all four countries, and in close collaboration with the local authorities, a National Elephant Action Plan was developed, and an ivory stockpile management system was set up among others.

EPIF will lead this project, with responsibilities including:

- Oversee project management, financial management and reporting, monitoring & evaluation;
- coordination and communication between implementing partners;
- provision of technical input;
- ensure outcomes and lessons-learned are shared widely with relevant stakeholders;
- co-financing.

The project lead and technical director have over 35 years of combined experience in biodiversity conservation, wildlife law enforcement, project and protected area management throughout Africa.

International/In-country Partner International

Allocated budget (proportion or value): XXXXXXXXXX

Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes

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

If no, please provide details

A cover letter has already been provided on behalf of the Lead Partner.

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: National Institute for Biodiversity and Conservation Areas (INBAC), Ministry of Environment, Angola

Website address: <https://www.facebook.com/minamb.inbac/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? INBAC is the competent authority in Angola for wildlife management. In 2016, with the support of the EPIF (formerly Stop Ivory), INBAC developed the Angola National Elephant Action Plan.

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

INBAC will be responsible for in-country implementation and project management, including logistics and will liaise regularly with the EPIF through Zoom, emails and face-to-face meetings during visits by EPIF staff.

INBAC are in need capacity building, in the form of NHFPs, to deal with the issue of quickly deteriorating HEC events. If these HEC issues are not resolved, elephants will be lost and eventually people will lose out as well.

International/In-country Partner In-country

Allocated budget: [REDACTED]

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

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

If no, please provide details With the climate CoP ongoing, CITES CoP starting soon and the CBD CoP next month, all management staff of the respective wildlife authorities are currently travelling and therefore not available to provide us with letters of support. These will be submitted after the holiday season.

2. Partner Name: Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA)

Website address: <http://www.ewca.gov.et/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? EWCA is the competent authority in Ethiopia for wildlife management.

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

EWCA will be responsible for in-country implementation and project management, including logistics and will liaise regularly with the EPIF through Zoom, emails and face-to-face meetings during visits by EPIF staff.

EWCA are in need capacity building, in the form of NHFPs, to deal with the issue of quickly deteriorating HEC events. If these HEC issues are not resolved, elephants will be lost and eventually people will lose out as well.

International/In-country Partner In-country

Allocated budget: £37,700.00

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

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

If no, please provide details With the climate CoP ongoing, CITES CoP starting soon and the CBD CoP next month, all management staff of the respective wildlife authorities are currently travelling and therefore not available to provide us with letters of support. These will be submitted after the holiday season.

3. Partner Name: Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

Website address: <http://wildlife.lilongwewildlife.org/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? Since Malawi joined the EPI in 2015, the EPI Secretariat has worked closely and effectively with the Government. This includes for a DEFRA IWT project, and INL project, working with DNPW and in-country partners. An MOU exists between DNPW and the former EPI Secretariat, which has continued under the current Secretariat.

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

With support from the EPIF, the DNPW will be responsible for in-country implementation and project management, including logistics and will liaise regularly with the EPIF through Zoom, emails and face-to-face meetings during visits by EPIF staff.

The DNPW are in need capacity building, in the form of NHFPs, to deal with the issue of quickly deteriorating HEC events. If these HEC issues are not resolved, elephants will be lost and eventually people will be lost as well.


International/In-country Partner In-country

Allocated budget: [REDACTED]

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

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

If no, please provide details With the climate CoP ongoing, CITES CoP starting soon and the CBD CoP next month, all management staff of the respective wildlife authorities are currently travelling and therefore not available to provide us with letters of support. These will be submitted after the holiday season.

4. Partner Name:	Agence National des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN)
Website address:	https://www.facebook.com/PARCSGABON/
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	With support from the EPIF, the ANPN will be responsible for in-country implementation and project management, including logistics and will liaise regularly with the EPIF through Zoom, emails and face-to-face meetings during visits by EPIF staff.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The ANPN are in need capacity building, in the form of NHFPs, to deal with the issue of quickly deteriorating HEC events. If these HEC issues are not resolved, elephants will be lost and eventually people will lose out as well.
International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If no, please provide details	With the climate CoP ongoing, CITES CoP starting soon and the CBD CoP next month, all management staff of the respective wildlife authorities are currently travelling and therefore not available to provide us with letters of support. These will be submitted after the holiday season.

5. 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	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

6. Partner Name: *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

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) 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 combined PDF of all letters of support.

No Response

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q30. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
359	John Stephenson	Securing Africa's ivory: developing gold-standard stockpile management systems
324	John Stephenson	Developing investigation and prosecution capacity to save Angola's elephants
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts (or other financial evidence - see Finance 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

Company

of

The Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation

I apply for a grant of

£198,978.00

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

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

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence - see Finance Guidance) are also enclosed.

Checked

Name


Greta Francesca Iori

Position in the organisation


Director of Program Development

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [GFI Signature](#)

 07/11/2022

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Date


07 November 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts or other financial evidence (see Finance Guidance)


 [EPIF 2021 Companies House Accounts \(1\)](#)

 07/11/2022


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 pdf 1.09 MB


 [EPIF 2020 Companies House Accounts \(1\)](#)


 07/11/2022

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 pdf 655.06 KB

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

 [20191218 The EPI Foundation - Safeguarding Policy Signed by JS](#)

 07/11/2022

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 pdf 126.54 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Management Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application:	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My budget (which meets the requirements above)	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 28, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 29, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received 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 26.	Checked
• I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.	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 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 checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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

Project Title: Building Government Capability and Capacity to Facilitate Human-Elephant Coexistence

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)						
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Output 1	Capable and capacitated NHFPs in place												
1.1	Nominate NHFPs	6	X	X									
1.2	Develop support package	3			X								
1.3	Training	3				X							
1.4	Provide tools	3							X				
Output 2	Monitoring systems operated by highly skilled staff												
2.1	Set-up monitoring systems	6				X			X				
2.2	Training (skill development)	6							X	X			
Output 3	HFPN operative												
3.1	Set up a HEC Focal Point Network	12							X	X	X	X	X
Output 4	Locally relevant solutions to HEC applied												
4.1	Provide basic equipment to solve conflict situations	9								X	X	X	X