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# **DIR30CC\1314**

## **Scaling up capacity to mainstream wetland conservation in Southern Africa**

Zambia and Zimbabwe's wetlands are globally iconic, and nationally indispensable for birds and biodiversity, climate regulation and supporting livelihoods, yet face major challenges in their conservation and management. This project will build capacity for civil society in Zimbabwe and Zambia to apply science and monitoring tools to influence and harness national policy processes, particularly National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, leading up to the Ramsar Convention COP15 in Victoria Falls, to mainstream wetland conservation effectively across sectoral policies and practices.

# DIR30CC\1314

Scaling up capacity to mainstream wetland conservation in Southern Africa

## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
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### CONTACT DETAILS

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### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	BirdLife International Secretariat
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
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Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
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## Section 2 - Title & Summary

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### Q3. Title:

Scaling up capacity to mainstream wetland conservation in Southern Africa

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

-  [BirdLife Cover Letter Darwin Capacity Wetlands Policy SignedFinal](#)
-  22/10/2023
-  16:27:31
-  pdf 258.3 KB

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

No

### Q5. Summary of project

**Please provide a brief non-technical 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.**

Zambia and Zimbabwe's wetlands are globally iconic, and nationally indispensable for birds and biodiversity, climate regulation and supporting livelihoods, yet face major challenges in their conservation and management. This project will build capacity for civil society in Zimbabwe and Zambia to apply science and monitoring tools to influence and harness national policy processes, particularly National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, leading up to the Ramsar Convention COP15 in Victoria Falls, to mainstream wetland conservation effectively across sectoral policies and practices.

## Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### 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	Zimbabwe	Country 2	Zambia
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Country 3 *No Response*

Country 4 *No Response*

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Do you require more fields?

No

## Q7. Project dates

**Start date:**

01 April 2024

**End date:**

31 December 2025

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

1 year, 9 months

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## Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£111,290.00	£88,386.00	£199,676.00

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## Q9. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

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

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

*No Response*

## Section 4 - Project need

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### Q12. 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.

The wetlands of Southern Africa are vital for life. They are globally iconic for their biodiversity: recognised for their value as natural World Heritage Sites and Wetlands of International Importance, and as Critical Sites for thousands of migratory birds on the Africa-Eurasian Flyway. Meanwhile, they are critical for people, including for water and agriculture.

Zimbabwe and Zambia are some of the world's most drought prone countries, as climate change causes temperatures to rise while water demands increase. Unfortunately, despite offering natural solutions to climate change and water insecurity, and having 28% and 41% land respectively protected, wetlands in Zimbabwe and Zambia are under increasing development pressure. Local ecosystem services are inadequately recognised, while misaligned or contradictory national policies either pose direct threats to wetlands or are not implemented, leading to degradation or even degazettement of wetland protected areas.

In their most recent Ramsar National Reports, both countries identify the challenge of harmonising policies into sectors which impact wetlands and their wise use, alongside significant gaps in implementation and oversight of existing policies for wetlands, exacerbated by limited monitoring.

Civil society is a key player in these processes, both as data provider and to support mainstreaming across government. However civil society lacks the specific capabilities or capacity required to strategically engage in policy – from development to implementation and monitoring.

The upcoming Ramsar Convention Conference of Parties (COP15), to be held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in July 2025, will put the spotlight on this region, and provides an important opportunity to demonstrate both the value of mainstreaming wetland conservation in partnership with civil society, and of incorporating monitoring and science-led management into policy and practice.

The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) agreement in December 2022, and the 2024 deadline for countries to update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Finance Plans, also provides a crucial window of opportunity to safeguard and scale-up wetland conservation and protection where such area-based conservation provides critical ecosystem services to people. However, for this to succeed, civil society organisations that monitor and protect key sites – alongside the local communities which rely on them - must engage in the full policy cycle: from development of the new NBSAPs, to identification of opportunities to mainstream wetland and biodiversity targets across policies, to financing, monitoring and oversight of implementation.

BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) and BirdWatch Zambia (BWZ) are respected national non-governmental conservation organisations that have secured important roles as contributors to these policies. However, there is a need to expand the pool of staff with advocacy skills within these NGOs, develop advocacy strategies, and to build capabilities and capacity amongst other civil society stakeholders – with a mechanism for further learning/exchange. Resources are needed to implement these strategies.

For the GBF to be achieved, and Ramsar COP15 to be effective and inclusive, it is vital that a growing group of CSO actors have the capacity to incorporate their data and expertise into these policy processes and the capability to follow these through to implementation.

## **Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions**

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### **Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements**

#### **Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.**

**Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.**

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

## Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

**Using evidence where available, please detail how your capability and capacity project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.**

The project supports a range of interdependent national and global policies. Under the CBD, the project will support the achievement of the GBF through enabling civil society to incorporate their data and expertise into NBSAP development, in particular in relation to area-based conservation, and advocate for tried-and-tested best practice.

Both countries' NBSAPs recognise the vital role that wetlands play in protecting biodiversity, but also the significant threats they face, with failures in monitoring, implementation and integration into key sectors failing to safeguard key sites. The project supports updates to Zimbabwe's 2014 NBSAP, and Zambia's planned update as well as implementation/reporting/monitoring.

As part of its Ramsar commitments, Zambia has developed a Wetlands Policy and Implementation Plan, while BWZ has supported the development of management plans for eight Ramsar sites. Zimbabwe also has a draft Wetland Policy, developed with support from BLZ, but requiring considerable improvement or amendment. This project will enhance the development, implementation and monitoring of those policies, and strengthen synergies with NBSAP updates.

Ramsar COP15, being held in Zimbabwe in July 2025, provides a perfect opportunity to apply the skills and capacity gained through the project, to incorporate a strong civil society voice, highlight best practice, gaps and needs, and support Parties to implement their commitments under the Convention.

As recognised at Ramsar COP14, wetlands are a critical nature-based solution for climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainable development, and this project will also contribute to future updates of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under UNFCCC, as well as National Development Strategies. Such mainstreaming of wetland conservation also supports SDG Target 6.5 to implement integrated water-resources management, 6.6 to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, 15.1 to conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and 15.5 to protect biodiversity and natural habitats.

See also Annex Q13.

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

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### Q14. 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.

The project seeks to engage regional civil society organisations in the update of NBSAPs and other wetland-related policies within Southern Africa, develop their advocacy capacity for protecting key wetland sites, and share these experiences regionally.

The project builds on shared experience developing and implementing wetland conservation over the years, and joint actions to campaign/advocate when critical sites are under threat, as well as a survey of these and other southern African Partners on the challenges.

BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) and BirdWatch Zambia (BWZ) are leading national civil society organisations (CSOs) with extensive networks of Local Conservation Groups, and a strong profile in wetland site conservation and monitoring. They have good relationships with their respective National Parks and Wildlife Authorities and the associated Ministry of Environment and supply key information on birds, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and site-based ecosystem services, including via KBA State-Pressure-Response monitoring and the Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site Assessments (TESSA), to support their governments' implementation of the CBD, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and other policy processes.

This project seeks to support these organisations and their wider CSO networks in their advocacy work to input this data and expertise into the development of new/updated NBSAPs ahead of CBD COP16, and their implementation and monitoring of these targets, in particular to guide spatial planning, restoration and protection/conservation priorities under targets 1 to 3 of the GBF.

It is widely acknowledged that an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework plays an important role in achieving biodiversity outcomes and that a coordinated approach to policies which impact wetlands can mitigate systemic threats to wetlands and potentially release funding.

This project will support the project partners to translate their data and expertise into policy-relevant recommendations and actions in the NBSAP, targeted around area-based conservation and in particular enhancing effective safeguarding and management of protected areas (GBF Target 3) through supporting the development of wetland management plans and increasing legislative protections, as well as mainstreaming the conservation of urban wetlands through the planning process (GBF Target 12).

The project will use a variety of in-person and online training and workshops, alongside remote/online advice/guidance materials, to build skills and understanding of how MEA-related policies are developed, implemented and reported, and how wetland conservation can be supported through the application of conservation tools and policy advocacy.

The beneficiaries will be staff and volunteers of BLZ and BWZ, other CSOs and Local Conservation Groups concerned with wetlands, potentially government staff, and ultimately local people living in around these wetlands. Equally, BirdLife's global policy team will benefit by learning from in-country experience.

BLZ and BWZ will be supported by BirdLife's global and Africa teams to develop and implement advocacy strategies, including the development of briefings/recommendations, supporting coordination with other CSOs and resulting in meetings with and presentations to relevant government agencies.

Partners and CSO representatives will be supported to make presentations to the Ramsar Strategic Plan Working Group and a range of events and communication actions will be organised ahead of CBD COP16/COP17 and/or to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA/SBI). A particular focus will be

on materials and communications at and around the Ramsar COP15 in Victoria Falls (July 2025).

BirdLife International's role as a Ramsar International Organisational Partner (IOP), charged with supporting the work of the Convention by providing expert technical advice and implementation assistance, facilitates unique expertise and access to Ramsar National Focal Points to better integrate and deliver project outputs and engage with implementation.

The project will develop a free, online toolkit and case studies, on engaging with and harnessing policy processes, particularly NBSAPs to deliver effective conservation and management of wetlands.

Building on successful models developed by BirdLife, and applied in other regional offices, including in the Mediterranean basin, this project will establish a region-wide Advocacy Community of Practice to share lessons and resources. BirdLife Zimbabwe and Birdwatch Zambia, who are already active participants in the parent group on Africa Site Casework Taskforce, will lead this effort. The Toolkit will be used for an online webinar hosted by the Community of Practice.

Day-to-day coordination between the project partners will predominantly take place online, supplemented by two in-person project meetings aligned with Ramsar and CBD milestones, and a side event/meetings at Ramsar COP15, all providing opportunities to meet directly with National Focal Points and promote best practice and national civil society integration into key international processes. All other trainings will take place online. Policy analysis and implementation strategies will be supported by global and regional BirdLife offices.

## **Q15. How will you identify participants?**

**How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and/or 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? How have you incorporated GESI considerations in identifying participants?**

BirdLife's local-to-global approach and Partnership structure are grounded in the principle of transparency, fairness and inclusion.

BirdLife Zimbabwe and BirdWatch Zambia were selected as project partners and beneficiaries based on assessment surveys by BirdLife's global policy team and drawing on previous collaboration. National project leads will be responsible for selection of their staff (and volunteers) who will receive training and capacity building, but this will be based on their potential to participate in advocacy – now and in the future.

Project Partners will lead the recruitment of other civil society groups to be trained, drawing from Local Conservation Groups and other already identified stakeholder groups.

While the capacity-building activities focus on Zimbabwe and Zambia, online training and the Community of Practice will be open to all Birdlife Partners interested in policy and wetlands, in particular the 26 Africa Partners.

We will begin with a needs assessment (building on what has already been done) to identify key gaps to target policy capacity building. We will then undertake stakeholder mapping (based on their Relevance, Interest and Influence) and aim to reach out to underrepresented groups and organisations (and thus ensure equitable access to capacity building opportunities). We will encourage diversity by creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for participants from various backgrounds, gender and abilities.

Guidelines on selection of participants will be communicated to project partners and documented, ensuring a fair and transparent process. We will mainstream GESI considerations in all project activities, including in the



selection of participants from the project partners and other organisations, employing BirdLife's Participation Assessment Tool to ensure their fair representation and effective participation throughout the project implementation. For the metrics of type and quality of participation in project activities (for M&E purposes), number of participants will be disaggregated and tracked by gender and social differentiation.

## **Q16. Gender equality and social inclusion**

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

The health of wetland ecosystems is inextricably linked to the health and wellbeing of local communities, with deterioration and loss of ecosystem services, such as water supply, soil fertility, availability of wild foods, and difficulties accessing fuel often fall more heavily on women. Women in Zimbabwe and Zambia play a major role in agriculture, fish processing and sales of produce, in addition to supporting the household. However, they are often underrepresented in decision-making and face barriers to land ownership.

During the early stages of the project, we will explore the demographics of those engaged in policy development. This is not designed to be an academic analysis – but rather based on experience and interviews with staff at BLZ and BWZ and BirdLife's policy team – based on extensive participation in high level policy processes.

The project cannot overturn existing inequalities. However, it will support capacity building of women (and other under-represented groups) within sectoral or geographical groups and women-led groups (such as women's cooperatives) to engage in policy processes at local, district, national and even international levels. It will encourage participation by female staff/volunteers of CSOs identified by the project's stakeholder mapping.

The project will examine participation in the early-stage training activities to identify any significant weaknesses in reaching women and excluded groups. It will use adaptive management to try to address these weaknesses and reflect these in the development of the Toolkit so that women, indigenous peoples, local communities, and young people can be more effectively engaged.

## **Q17. Change expected**

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

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

The premise of the project is that wetland ecosystems in Zimbabwe and Zambia are crucial for biodiversity and economic development – but that they are under increasing pressure even when formally protected and/or listed as globally significant.

The project is built on experience that clear national and international biodiversity and environmental policies that are widely accepted, adequately resourced, integrated across sectors, and with strong implementation and monitoring processes have the power to drive long-term improvements in biodiversity and ecosystem

functioning. These benefits positively impact directly the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of the people living in these ecosystems.

#### Short-term

The project's Outcome is that CSOs are engaged in the update of NBSAPs and have stronger advocacy capabilities to apply their tools for key wetlands sites as well as enhanced national and regional networks and knowledge sharing.

The direct beneficiaries will be 10+ staff and volunteers from BLZ and BWZ and at least 30 representatives from eight other CSOs concerned with wetland conservation/management, and local and national government staff in Zimbabwe and Zambia. Additional beneficiaries will be approximately 30 staff and other representatives from CSOs from across southern Africa or Africa attending the first Community of Practice webinars.

Under Output 1, CSOs will have greater capability and capacity to integrate the importance of threats to and priorities for key wetlands into NBSAPs in Zimbabwe and Zambia, increasing their understanding of how multilateral and national policies, particularly those emanating from the CBD, Ramsar Convention, CMS, UNFCCC, can be influenced and harnessed to drive ecosystem protection on the ground. The capacity building will include improved understanding of what the Conventions and their related instruments mean, the timing of decisions, and how they can be effectively applied at national level.

Capacity building will also focus on the importance of, threats to and priorities for wetlands across the region – and how improved policies, implementation and monitoring can support their wise use and management.

Through Output 2 mechanisms and networks for sharing data and expertise will be established, for both developing and monitoring NBSAPs and for identifying synergies with other policies.

In addition to skills, the project will generate and start to implement strategies so that two national NGOs can best harness the potential of environmental policies for wetland conservation.

It will provide practical opportunities for staff of these and other CSOs to make presentations to and directly engage with these policy processes – increasing confidence and willingness to engage further in the future.

#### Longer-term

The project will produce a Policy Advocacy Toolkit, with widely promoted and publicly available Case Studies for CSOs. Through Output 3 a functioning regional Community of Practice will support future site-level and national advocacy around internationally important wetland sites.

The long-term benefit will be that priority wetland sites in Zimbabwe and Zambia have good or improving management regimes, effective mechanisms to reduce threats and adequate finance, benefiting biodiversity, thousands of people locally and millions of people nationally/regionally, who are connected by critical water catchments within and beyond the project countries.

## **Q18. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential**

**How will the project reach a point where the benefits of strengthened capability and capacity can be sustained post-funding?**

**How will the capability and capacity be retained and remain available to deliver benefits in-country after the project? Is there potential for the new capability and capacity to renew itself or deliver additional capability and capacity, for example by building future environmental leaders beyond the project?**

Improving the capacity of leading civil society organisations in Zambia and Zimbabwe will have lasting benefits in both countries, as well as in supporting the wider region in their policy advocacy efforts. Increased literacy on the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their levers will allow for sustained engagement with these processes, and the continued monitoring and tracking of their implementation successes.





This will be complemented with a wider variety of expertise in other policy mechanisms through the training and work to increase synergies and awareness of wetland policies with other impacting policies. The work on mainstreaming will also generate wider opportunities for these organisations and wetland conservation in general as the lessons are shared and built upon, opening up a new avenue of opportunity to promote wetlands and their multitude of values (Nature Based Solutions), as well as enhancing capabilities to secure additional sources of sustainable funding for the value of wetlands.

The Community of Practice will also establish a forum for current and future environmental leaders in their respective project countries to establish a regional network of cooperation and shared lessons. This project aims to demonstrate best practice which can be applied, built on and replicated throughout the region, ensuring the continual application and improvement of the project practices.

The online Toolkit will remain free and available post project and case studies of Advocacy successes will continue to be promoted.

Southern Africa is a priority region for Birdlife, and this project complements a variety of other initiatives to enhance policy advocacy capacity around wetlands as biodiversity hotspots and nature-based solutions in the region. This will be complemented by the future expansion of Birdlife’s Regional Flyways Initiative to the Africa-Eurasian flyway, with Zambia and Zimbabwe being key players in this work already, with demonstrated scaling up initiatives in other regions.

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

-  [Darwin Initiative Cap Wetlands Annex Upload](#)
-  23/10/2023
-  15:07:37
-  pdf 634.51 KB

## Section 7 - Risk Management

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### Q19. Risk Management

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
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<b>Fiduciary (financial)</b>	Funds distributed to project partners not used for intended purposes or not accounted for.	Mod	Unlikely	Mod	Project partners have the organisational and financial structures in place to effectively manage finances and have managed Darwin and similarly stringent projects. These are further elaborated in subcontracts with partners. Project protocols will be in place and training provided.	Minor
<b>Safeguarding</b>	The ultimate project beneficiaries (local communities / CSO staff and volunteers) will be harmed by policy advocacy efforts	Major	Unlikely	Minor	Project activities will be designed using the Project Partners' and BirdLife's safeguarding policies, whichever is most stringent/appropriate.  The project does not involve on-site work. However, the policies concerned and the resources they relate to do generate tensions and do impact people's access to resources. Therefore, safeguarding training will examine this.	Minor
<b>Delivery Chain</b>	A typical risk with projects involving a training component is loss of the trained staff from the organisation	Mod	Poss	Major	Training will be spread among several staff and members each time and guidelines and material developed. This will be shared including through the regional Community of Practice and the online Toolkit.  A training of trainers approach will be used so that knowledge and skills are not lost from the organisation.	Mod
<b>Risk 4</b>	Safeguarding: Staff safety is put at risk	Mod	Rare	Minor	Project activities will be designed using the Project Partners' and BirdLife's safeguarding policies, whichever is most stringent/ appropriate.  The project does not involve on-site work or extensive travel.	Minor

<b>Risk 5</b>	Civil society stakeholders within the Partner organisations and wider civil society will not engage in training.	Mod	Unlikely	Mod	BLZ and BWZ – and BirdLife's advocacy team have experience working alongside local, national and international NGOs in advocacy actions (e.g. related to campaigns against damaging developments). They are confident that there is demand for training and for lasting tools to use policy tools more effectively.	Mod
<b>Risk 6</b>	National governments will not engage meaningfully with civil society organisations, in spite of training	Major	Unlikely	Major	The design of the training and the development of the engagement strategies are designed with the understanding that government agencies have different priorities that may conflict with the CSO goals or even the biodiversity policies. The techniques are designed to help identify solution-oriented approaches to overcome these barriers.	Mod

## Q20. Project sensitivities





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

No

## Section 8 - Workplan

### Q21. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

-  [BCF-Workplan-Template-2023-24-Zim-Zamb-Wet lands-UPLOAD](#)
-  23/10/2023
-  13:41:34
-  pdf 138.82 KB

## Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

### Q22. 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).**

The BirdLife Project Lead will be responsible for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) and will collaborate closely with the Project Lead, BWZ and BLZ National Leads who, together with the Finance Officer(s) will form the project Steering Group. An online Kick-Off Meeting will outline the M&E responsibilities and processes. A WhatsApp group (or equivalent) will be set up for regular informal communication, on top of email and on-line meetings. Quarterly Steering Group meetings will be held on-line to review the performance and adaptively adjust the implementation if needed.

To monitor project delivery, a detailed workplan will be agreed by the project steering group, integrating the SMART indicators and means of verification outlined in the logframe, but with additional information as to whom is responsible and the timeframe. Particular attention will be paid to monitoring changes in capacity, as well as building opportunities for future learning.

Based on the Project Implementation Timetable and the SMART indicators of success, the core project team will meet monthly to monitor advances, evaluate progress and adjust activities and timeframe.

One focal point for each of the partners will be responsible for providing updates and raising any concerns, although other members of the project team may attend these meetings. These meetings will be the opportunity to raise any challenge or risk that needs addressing and will ensure the project is developing as planned and is able to course-correct any issues that may arise.

<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E (£):</b>	£ [REDACTED]
<b>(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)</b>	
<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E (%):</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)</b>	
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	100

## Section 10 - Indicators of Success

### Q23. 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.**

SMART Indicator

Means of Verification

<b>Outcome</b>	CSOs are engaged in the update of NBSAPs and have stronger advocacy capabilities to apply their tools to implement protections for key wetlands sites and enhanced regional knowledge sharing.	OI-1 [DI-A03] At least 10 (5 in each country) local/national organisations from Zimbabwe and Zambia have improved capability and capacity to engage in policy advocacy for wetland conservation by the end of the project.	OI-1 & 2 Participant lists, disaggregated by gender and affiliation and feedback from CSO participants of training and supported activities (including content, duration).
		OI-2 [DI-A01] 40 people (20 per country) will have completed training/capacity building (estimated to be 10 person-weeks) (40% women). By end of project.	OI-1 & 2 Policy briefs and reports from CSO participation in NBSAP process and other policy engagements.
		OI-3 [DI-A04] 80% of surveyed respondents report that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training. By end of project.	OI-3 Follow up email survey.  Disaggregated by gender and affiliation.

<b>Output 1</b>	CSOs have greater capability and capacity to integrate the importance of, threats to and priorities for key wetlands into NBSAPs and related policies in Zimbabwe and Zambia (and across Africa).	1.1 At least 10 staff/volunteers from two national NGOs, BLZ and BWZ and 15 people from other CSOs gain knowledge of how MEA related policies are developed, implemented and reported on by end of Q4. (40% women)	1.1 Participant lists, disaggregated by gender and affiliation.
		1.2 At least 30 people from civil society (and government agencies) in Zimbabwe and Zambia (and maybe others) attend a workshop on wetland conservation, the application of relevant tools, and policy processes by end of Q4. (40% women)	1.1 Content of trainings and follow up coaching.  1.1 Feedback surveys.
		1.3 [DI-C01] A toolkit and case studies promoting effective management of wetlands through NBSAPs and other policy mechanisms are developed, published and promoted to civil society audiences in Zimbabwe, Zambia and other African countries by Q6.	1.2 Participant list, content of workshop, feedback survey.  1.3 Content of the toolkit, text of case studies, link to online location.  1.3 Publicity/promotion record.  1.3 Downloads/visitor numbers.

<b>Output 2</b>	Mechanisms and networks for sharing data and expertise are established, for developing and monitoring NBSAPs and for implementing synergies with other policies.	<p>2.1 Two national strategies for civil society engagement in NBSAP and related policy processes is developed for Zimbabwe and Zambia. By end of Q3</p> <p>2.2 The engagement strategy is being implemented in Zimbabwe and Zambia. By end of project.</p> <p>2.3 BLZ and BWZ make presentations to at least one government agency each, involved in NBSAP process, and at least one government agency responsible for other sectors (e.g. mining, agriculture...)</p> <p>2.4 [DI-C05] Ramsar Strategic Plan Working Group is informed about challenges and priorities of civil society. (May 2025)</p> <p>2.5 Priorities for wetlands and links to relevant policies are presented by BLZ/BWZ to key stakeholders leading up to RAMSAR COP15 in July 2025.</p>	<p>2.1 SWOT analysis, Stakeholder mapping, notes of deliberations.</p> <p>2.1 Strategy documents</p> <p>2.2 Monitoring report on the strategy.</p> <p>2.3 Records of written and verbal presentations, invitations to participate. Government agency concerned. Specifics of data provided.</p> <p>2.4 Records of written and verbal presentations, invitations to participate. Specifics of data provided.</p> <p>2.5 Records of written and verbal presentations, audience, invitations to participate. Specifics of data provided.</p>
<b>Output 3</b>	A functioning Regional Community of Practice supports site-level and national advocacy around internationally important wetland sites.	<p>3.1 The Terms of Reference are agreed.</p> <p>3.2 30 people sign up for and participate in the Community of Practice (40% women) from at least 10 CSOs. (Membership will depend on decisions about the Terms of Reference – region-wide, Africa-wide etc.)</p> <p>3.3 At least one workshop (using toolbox/case studies) on integrating wetlands into policy is held before end of project. (20 participants from mainly African CSOs.)</p>	<p>3.1 Terms of Reference</p> <p>3.2 Community of practice participants, activities, minutes, webinar recordings.</p> <p>3.3 Workshop content and presenters. Participant list. Feedback survey. Advocacy strategies, briefs, position papers, meeting minutes from partners involved.</p>
<b>Output 4</b>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>



## Activities

**Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.**

Output 1: CSOs have greater capability and capacity to integrate the importance of, threats to and priorities for key wetlands into NBSAPs and related policies in Zimbabwe and Zambia (and across Africa).

1.1 Preliminary policy SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis conducted for Zimbabwe and Zambia.

1.2. Assessment of institutional knowledge and capacity gaps in target institutions (BLZ and BWZ, stakeholder CSOs, government agencies).

1.3 Detailed stakeholder mapping (for wetland policies) using a standardised protocol (e.g. based on their relevance, interest and influence).

1.4 Establish priorities as to how best to integrate KBAs, KBA State-Pressure-Response assessments, Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Assessment (TESSA) and other tools/datasets into policies to support development and delivery of key targets of the GBF and Ramsar.

1.5 Training(s) delivered by BLZ and BWZ to staff and volunteers and other CSOs, including Local Conservation Groups and other stakeholders on the role of MEAs, the process, targets, strategies and actions in the NBSAP and linkages to other policies.

1.6 In-person and/or online workshop(s) delivered to BLZ and BWZ staff and other CSOs, including Site Support Groups, (and potentially, government representatives) on wetlands conservation and the use of tools and datasets to support the development of NBSAP targets and actions as well as NBSAP monitoring and implementation.

1.7 Develop a free, online toolkit and case studies, on engaging with and harnessing policy processes, particularly NBSAPs, but also National Development Strategies and National Adaptation Plans to deliver effective conservation and management of wetlands (applicable to other habitats ).

Output 2: Mechanisms and networks for sharing data and expertise are established, for developing and monitoring NBSAPs and for implementing synergies with other policies.

2.1 Development of an advocacy and engagement strategy based on stakeholder analysis to define influence strategies and identify opportunities to generate wider civil society engagement with the NBSAP targets and actions and identify linkages to other policies.

2.2 Meetings with government stakeholders to present priorities/policy briefs and existing data, and to explain how tools and datasets, can support drafting, implementation and monitoring of NBSAPs/Wetland Policy/NAPs etc.

2.3 Presentation to the Ramsar Strategic Plan Working Group on synergies between NBSAP development and delivery and commitments under the Convention on Wetlands.

2.4 Events and communications organised to demonstrate challenges, progress and opportunities to key stakeholders ahead of CBD COP16/COP17 and/or to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA/SBI) and, in particular, at Ramsar COP15 in Victoria Falls (July 2025).

Output 3: A functioning Regional Community of Practice supports site-level and national advocacy around internationally important wetland sites.

3.1 Establish a Policy Advocacy Community of Practice, led by project partners including development of the remit (regional/pan-African; wetland focused or broader remit), drafting and approval of the Terms of Reference, agreement on sharing platform (BirdLife's HATCH platform or other platform).

3.2 Online workshop to share lessons on site advocacy and integrating wetlands safeguards into NBSAPs and best practice on implementation.

3.3 Promote and share the toolkit, best practice and case studies on advocating for effective management of wetlands ahead and during Ramsar COP15 with civil society and government stakeholders nationally, across southern Africa and Africa-wide (globally if considered relevant).

3.4 Publish case studies and news stories on mainstreaming wetland conservation on BirdLife platforms.

### **Important Assumptions:**

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

Stakeholders are engaged and committed to supporting the delivery of the NBSAPs and establishing synergies with Ramsar COP15.

Capacity needs can be addressed and embedded through workshops, guidance and online materials.

There is sufficient capacity to engage in the Community of Practice.

The project has synergies with wider and longer lasting initiatives that will complement this project and provide finance to support the long-term data gathering needed for effective monitoring of NBSAPs and related policies.

The economic benefits of conserving and/or restoring wetland ecosystems are increasingly accepted by stakeholders beyond the environment ministries.


Government remains open to engagement.

## **Section 11 - Budget and Funding**


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### **Q24. 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.**

 [BLI wetlands Zim-Zam BCF Budget 23-10-23 FIN](#)

[AL](#)

 23/10/2023

 19:09:16

 xlsx 94.43 KB

### **Q25. Alignment with other funding and activities**

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

## Q25a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

New Initiative

### Please provide details:

The project is a new initiative. However, it builds on the long-term engagement by BLZ and BWZ in policy making and in the management of key wetlands. Both organisations are consulted and contribute to documents such as the NBSAPs through formal roles.

The project builds on UK FCDO funded activities in Zimbabwe including the Zimbabwe Accountability and Citizen Engagement (ZIMACE) project which has a far wider remit, but which could potentially support related work.

It builds directly on BLZ experience from the UK Darwin project Community Livelihood and Capacity Support for Zimbabwe's Wetland Biodiversity (26-001) and BirdLife/BirdWatch Zambia's experience from the Darwin project Controlling an Invasive Aquatic Plant for Biodiversity and Livelihoods... at Lukanga Swamp (24-030).

For Zambia, the project benefits from analyses conducted by WWF and others. Zambia has an agreed Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan, offering learning opportunities for Zimbabwe and opportunities for engagement.

BLZ is part of an active group of stakeholders concerned about wetlands – particularly around Harare, providing access to an engaged group of CSOs who could benefit from the project.

Both organisations have extensive networks of Site Support Groups and links to other NGOs who would add value to and benefit from the project.

## Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

Yes

### Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

BirdLife's funding from Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation will complement the project as focused on supporting data collection related to Zimbabwe's NBSAP. It will support the development of evidence for this project, and ensure the longevity as focused on monitoring indicators until 2026.

BLZ and a consortium of wetlands stakeholders have shared a concept with DAI, who are implementing the ZIMACE project. If taken up during the future implementation stages of that long-term initiative, there is potential to build on this project considerably.

GEF funding has been provided to Zambia to better integrate the GBF requirements into its NBSAP as well as proposed financial plan. This provides a good basis for engagement.

One of the purposes of policy advocacy work and this project is to support the generation of resources for government and civil society to implement these policies effectively. By engaging positively in these processes, there is increased opportunity for BirdLife Partners to be integrated into government financed initiatives.

## **Q26. Value for Money**

**Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?**

The project offers value for money, particularly over the longer term, by increasing capacity directly, and by developing capacity building tools that will support stakeholders in wetland conservation to use powerful, but sometimes confusing policy mechanisms and to use practical conservation, monitoring and assessment tools to contribute to these mechanisms and their effective implementation.

The project offers good value for money by expanding the number and range of stakeholders who have the capability and capacity to use policy tools for conservation.

By expanding the pool of committed people with these key skills, the project increases the impact that can be achieved.

The project's impact will be expanded to more people and be available into the future through the development of the Advocacy Toolkit and case studies, and the development of a Community of Practice.

The project will build on existing tools, experience and knowledge, focus on online learning, and leverage other funds to deliver the longer-term benefits. Empowering well-established, nationally led civil society organisations within the countries, who are already well-connected within government and familiar with the individual conservation challenges, enables the efficient and equitable delivery of the project.

## **Q27. 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.**

Both Partners need new laptops and related licenses, peripherals to effectively deliver the project. These items will remain the property of BLZ and BWZ after the end of the project and continue to be used for conservation.

## **Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics**

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### **Q28. Safeguarding**

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

**Please upload the following required policies:**

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

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

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

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

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 alongside a suite of related policies (e.g. Whistleblowing, Grievance mechanism etc.). This policy has been attached to the application. We will work closely with BirdLife's Legal and Risk Management team and Safeguards Officer at project initiation to operationalise the policy within the project team, including with project partners on the ground. This will be through the contracting process, and through training and a guided discussion early on in the project as to BLZ and BWZ policies, existing gaps, and how the policies might be used during the project.

The policy will be shared with project partners at project initiation. Partners will be expected to uphold the policy in their work, following their own safeguarding procedures if these meet the same or higher standards.

## Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

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### Q29. British embassy or high commission engagement


It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies. Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.


 [Letter to UK Embassy Capacity Zimbabwe Africa Letterhead \(1\)](#)


 22/10/2023


 17:15:50

 pdf 153.55 KB

 [Letter to UK High Commission Capacity Zambia AfricaLetterhead](#)

 22/10/2023

 17:15:46

 pdf 153.63 KB

## Section 14 - Project Staff

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### Q30. Project staff

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


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Megan Eldred	<b>Project Leader</b>	15	Checked
Poshendra Satyal	Senior Policy Manager	5	Checked
Ken Mwathe	Head of Policy and Communications, Africa	20	Checked
To be recruited	Global Flyways Policy Officer – To be recruited	20	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Julia Pierini	CEO, National Lead, Policy Expert, BLZ	15	Checked
Togarasei Fakarayi	Important Bird and Biodiversity Manager, BLZ	20	Checked
Daniel Phiri	Director, National Lead, Policy Expert, BWZ	15	Checked
Swithin Kashulwe	Habitat Conservation Officer, BWZ	20	Checked
Mary Malasa	Species Conservation Officer, BWZ	5	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	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.

 [CV Contents and Combined CVs](#)

 23/10/2023

 15:20:31

 pdf 465.17 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

## Section 15 - Project Partners

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### Q31. Project Partners

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

**Lead Partner name:** BirdLife International

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**Website address:** www.birdlife.org

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BirdLife International is the largest international Partnership for nature conservation with over 115 Partners worldwide and is therefore uniquely placed to drive and deliver transformative policy change at national, regional and global scales. BirdLife's mission is to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people toward sustainability in the use of natural resources.

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

The Global Policy Department of BirdLife International, where the project leader is situated, represents the Partnership and negotiates on its behalf in the global policy space. The Policy Department coordinates the Partnership's contributions to prioritised multilateral environment agreement processes - such as UNFCCC, CBD, CITES, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the High Seas Treaty and CMS - and feeds global commitments back to regional offices and national Partners ensuring a local to global approach.

The Department also provides policy advice and capacity-building throughout the Partnership as requested, in particular, on how global policy processes are relevant nationally and how they can be transposed into ambitious regional and national policies that will deliver action on the ground. The Department also coordinates global and regional policy-related fundraising efforts, for example in relation to the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD.

**International/In-country Partner**  International

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** £ 

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

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

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## Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

<b>1. Partner Name:</b>	BirdLife Zimbabwe
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/">https://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/</a>
<b>What value does this Partner bring to the project?</b>  <b>(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b>	<p>BirdLife Zimbabwe was founded in 1951 and became a full member in BirdLife International (BLI) in April 2002. Our fundamental purpose is to promote the survival of bird life in Zimbabwe and elsewhere for its intrinsic value and the enjoyment of future generations. Our strategic objectives are centered on sites, species, systems and society.</p> <p>Despite being a very small team, we have established relationships with government and contribute to key biodiversity policies, providing data and analysis.</p> <p>BirdLife Zimbabwe works with its network of site support groups and in collaboration with other NGOs to campaign for the protection of important sites and to raise awareness of threats. We are also an active participant in the Africa Site Casework on Emerging Threats (ASCET) taskforce.</p> <p>BirdLife Zimbabwe will be both national implementing Partner, sharing expertise, but also a beneficiary of capacity building.</p>
<b>International/In-country Partner</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
<b>Allocated budget:</b>	£ [REDACTED]
<b>Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

<b>2. Partner Name:</b>	BirdWatch Zambia
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://birdwatchzambia.org/">https://birdwatchzambia.org/</a>



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BirdWatch Zambia (BWZ), is a membership-based environmental NGO established in 1969. BWZ is the Zambian Partner of BirdLife International.

BirdWatch Zambia takes necessary action on species, collects data on sites to influence land use and engages people as a way of promoting the linkage between biodiversity conservation and people's livelihoods in rural communities.

BirdWatch Zambia has an established history of engaging in policy matters, specifically through lobbying and advocacy efforts.

**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

As a member of the Zambia National Biodiversity Steering Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, BirdWatch contributes to the domestication of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Furthermore, BirdWatch is a member of the sub-committee on wetlands, which is led by the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA).

This strategic positioning of BirdWatch enables the organisation to positively influence policy formulation in Zambia, epitomised by the organisation's inclusion in the National Delegation of Negotiators for the last CBD COP 15. The organisation also benefits from engagement with Africa Site Casework on Emerging Threats (ASCET) taskforce, a collaborative platform and support system for addressing threats to KBAs.

BirdWatch will be both national implementing Partner, sharing expertise, but also a beneficiary of capacity building.

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**International/In-country Partner**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £ ██████████

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

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

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**3. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

*No Response*

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

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

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**4. 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):

---

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

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**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):

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<b>International/In-country Partner</b>	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
<b>Allocated budget:</b>	£0.00

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

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

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

*No Response*

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

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**International/In-country Partner**  International  
 In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £0.00

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

---


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


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
**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.**

 [Combined Letters of Support BL BLZ BWZ](#)

 23/10/2023

 15:00:31

 pdf 683 KB

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## Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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### Q32. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
30-012	Alex Ngari	A community approach to waterbird resource management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi
IWTEV010	Paul Kariuki Ndong'ang'a	Behaviour change approaches to address belief-based use of vultures
29-013	Salisha Chandra / Fadzai Matsvimbo	An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti
29-009	Susan Waugh	Empowering Cabo Verde communities towards responsible practices in artisanal fisheries
DARCC003	Marion Tafani / Barbara Campos	Build capacity and capability to regulate hunting and protect biodiversity
27-005	Jonathan C Eames	Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five

**Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts (or other financial evidence as indicated in the Finance Guidance)?**

Yes

## Section 17 - Certification

---

### Q30. Certification

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

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

**On behalf of the**

Trustees

**of**

BirdLife International

**I apply for a grant of**

£199,676.00





**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, logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.

- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance) are also enclosed.





Checked

<b>Name</b>	Nina Mikander
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Global Head of Policy
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	 <a href="#">Nina Mikander eSignature</a>  23/10/2023  14:04:52  png 82.66 KB
<b>Date</b>	22 October 2023

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

 <a href="#">BirdLife International 2021 Financial Statements Final</a>  22/10/2023  17:37:38  pdf 1.52 MB	 <a href="#">BirdLife International 2022 Financial Statements Signed</a>  22/10/2023  17:37:29  pdf 1.67 MB
--	---

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

 <a href="#">Safeguarding Policies Combined</a>  22/10/2023  17:43:02  pdf 591 KB
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## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance Guidance”.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked

<b>The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have attached the below documents to my application:</b>	
• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• 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
• My completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Partner’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 27).	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 29, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• A letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 30, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.</b>	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.</b>	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: **Scaling up capacity to mainstream wetland conservation in Southern Africa**

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	CSOs have greater capability and capacity to integrate the importance of, threats to and priorities for key wetlands into NBSAPs and related policies in Zimbabwe and Zambia (and across Africa)..									
1.1	Preliminary policy SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis conducted		X							
1.2	Assessment of institutional knowledge and capacity gaps in target institutions.		X							
1.3	Detailed stakeholder mapping using a standardised protocol (e.g. based on their relevance, interest and influence)			X						
1.4	Establish priorities as to how best to integrate KBAs, State-Pressure-Response, TESSA and other tools/datasets into policies to support development and delivery of key targets of the GBF and Ramsar			X	X					
1.5	Training(s) delivered by BLZ and BWZ to staff and volunteers and other CSOs, including Site Support Groups and other stakeholders on the <b>role of MEAs</b> , the process, targets, strategies and actions in the NBSAP and linkages to other policies.				X	X	X			
1.6	In-person and/or online workshop(s) delivered to BLZ and BWZ staff and other CSOs, including Site Support Groups, (and potentially, government representatives) on <b>wetlands conservation</b> and the use of <b>tools and datasets</b> to support the development of NBSAP targets and actions as well as NBSAP monitoring and implementation.					X	X	X		
1.7	Develop a free, online toolkit and case studies, on engaging with and harnessing policy processes, particularly NBSAPs, but also National Development Strategies and National Adaptation Plans to deliver effective conservation and management of wetlands (applicable to other habitats).			X	X	X	X			
Output 2	Mechanisms and networks for sharing data and expertise are established, for developing and monitoring NBSAPs and for implementing synergies with other policies.									
2.1	Development of an advocacy and engagement strategy based on stakeholder analysis to define influence strategies and identify opportunities to generate wider civil society engagement with the NBSAP targets and actions and identify linkages to other policies.			X	X					
2.2	Meetings with government stakeholders to present priorities/policy briefs and existing data, and to explain how tools and datasets, can support drafting, implementation and monitoring of NBSAPs/Wetland Policy/NAPs etc.				X	X				

Project Title: **Scaling up capacity to mainstream wetland conservation in Southern Africa**

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.3	Presentation to the Ramsar Strategic Plan Working Group on synergies between NBSAP development and delivery and commitments under the Convention on Wetlands.				X					
2.4	Events and communications will be organised to demonstrate challenges, progress and opportunities to key stakeholders ahead of CBD COP16/COP17 and/or to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA/SBI) and at Ramsar COP15 in Victoria Falls (July 2025).			X		X	X			
2.6	Presentation of national opportunities to demonstrate best practice for mainstreaming NBSAP wetlands by the government of CBD COP16 (Oct/Nov 2024) and/or COP17 (2025)					X			X	
Output 3	A functioning regional community of practice supports site-level and national advocacy around internationally important wetland sites.									
3.1	The Terms of Reference are agreed (Southern Africa, Africa wide, global?)			X	X	X				
3.2	Online workshop (organised by the Community of Practice and using the Toolkit) to share lessons on site advocacy and integrating wetlands safeguards into NBSAPs and best practice on implementation						X	X		
3.3	Promote and share the toolkit, best practice and case studies on advocating for effective management of wetlands ahead and during of Ramsar COP15 with civil society and government stakeholders nationally, across southern Africa and Africa-wide (globally if considered relevant).							X	X	
3.4	Publish case studies and news stories on mainstreaming wetland conservation on BirdLife platforms.							X	X	