



DARFW048 Ref 4439



Submit by 2359 GMT on Thursday 4 January 2018

Application for Darwin Fellowship Programme Round 24

Before completing this form, please read both the Fair Processing Notice on pages 9 and 10 of this form and the [Guidance](#). Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

1. Name and address of Lead Organisation

(NB: Notification of results will be by email and addressed to the Project Leader listed in Section 5)

Name of Lead Organisation & Address:	Centre for Middle Eastern Plants [Redacted]
Project Leader Name:	Dr Alan Forrest
E-mail:	[Redacted]
Phone:	[Redacted]

2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow

(include email and telephone details where available)

Name:	Salma Talhouk
Address:	[Redacted]
E-mail:	[Redacted]
Phone:	[Redacted]

3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: 01.07.2018 Duration of project: 12 months End date: 30.06.2019	
Darwin funding requested	[Redacted]

4. Summary of proposed Fellowship i.e. Outcome and expected Outputs and Impact

The fellowship will elaborate the concept of Ancillary Botanic Gardens (ABGs), a proposed new category of botanic gardens, through a series of discussions with UK experts and developing case studies in Lebanon and LDC countries in the Middle East region.

The proposed fellow will gain additional skills and knowledge to develop ABGs in Lebanon and beyond, meeting a range of conservation, education and societal challenges. Outputs will include a series of guidelines for the establishment of ABGs, and a report detailing how ABGs and associated networks of can help to meet the targets of a range of global conventions.

5. Principals in the Project

Please give the details of the individuals from the Lead Organisation (and other institutions if relevant) who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Fellow. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more individuals.

Details	Project Leader	Other expert	Other expert
Surname	Forrest	Miller	Neale
Forename(s)	Alan	Anthony	Sophie
Post held	Biodiversity Research & Conservation	Research Associate	Head of Biodiversity Programmes
Institution (if different to Lead)			
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the Lead Organisation.

(Large institutions please note this should describe your unit or department)

The mission statement of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is “to explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future”. It has an international reputation as a centre for excellence in plant taxonomy and biodiversity science based on its rich herbarium, living collections, library and archives, and expert staff. Darwin Projects have been completed in Bhutan, Chile, Congo, Iraq, Laos, Nepal, Peru, Turkey, and Vietnam.

The Centre for Middle Eastern Plants (CMEP: www.cmep.org.uk) aims to enhance the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh’s scope of work across Arabia and SW Asia in biodiversity conservation, building upon a long history of research in the region. It is active in the development of and advice to regional botanic gardens. CMEP has worked in Lebanon with several partners and is the only institute globally with regional expertise in the plants and habitats of SW Asia and Arabia.

7. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Darwin Fellow’s employing organisation.

(Large institutions please note this should describe your unit or department)

The Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (LDEM) – part of the American University Beirut - is interdisciplinary in nature with applications across the Middle East. The department promotes a holistic view of landscape and the environment. It offers an undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture and a Master program in Ecosystem Management. The program crosses traditional boundaries by applying an interdisciplinary approach and multiple resource knowledge to ecosystem studies, while also emphasizing human-nature interactions.

The Nature Conservation Center (AUB-NCC) is the only academic center in the region that collects, identifies, and catalogues species, creates databases, and investigates the nutritional, medicinal, and traditional applications of local species. NCC is an authority on community outreach and development including a digital platform for community driven documentation of natural and cultural heritage (“Daskara”), an adaptive citizen science framework, a community driven reforestation program, and the region’s first integrative health program.

8. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and their link to a Darwin project (if applicable), including the project reference number, his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement.

If the Fellow has no link to a Darwin project please discuss their involvement in implementing the biodiversity conventions, treaties and agreements supported by the Darwin Initiative.

The proposed fellow is a Professor in the LDEM Department. She is the founding Director of AUB Nature Conservation Center, and has served as a chair of the LDEM Department. She is the founding Chair of AUB Arboretum and Botanic Garden Committee, which focuses on the transformation of the University campus into a botanic garden. She has contributed to national policy by leading the drafting of Lebanon's 'Access and Benefit Sharing Draft Law' and 'Biosafety Draft Law'. The Lebanese ministry of Education has adopted her extracurricular nature school guide, and the Lebanese Presidential Palace has used material and information from her publication 'Trees of Lebanon'.

Her academic activities follow global trends in plant conservation and sustainable use, and include the following:

- interdisciplinary research projects in bio-prospection and eco-health;
- investigation of genetic and floristic diversity using molecular fingerprinting and floristics;
- use of action research and participatory mapping to develop a framework that engages people in nature 'mapping';
- investigation into the relationship between people and nature in cities and towns through urban ecology, extensive green roofs, sustainable green walls, and through qualitative research.

9. Provide a concept note for the Darwin Fellowship. This should include:

9a. A clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship

There is a clear remit for botanic gardens as Centers of Expertise about plant and habitat diversity, but they also have developing roles ensuring that plant diversity is conserved, sustainably used and benefits the livelihoods of those that depend on plants in various ways – either directly or indirectly.

The Middle East and SW Asia – CMEP area of expertise – has never and does not currently feature a large number of botanic gardens comparable to those developed elsewhere. In fact, large areas of this region have no botanic gardens at all. Their supporting roles are therefore inadequate. While globally botanic gardens form an international network and routinely collaborate with each other, locally this is rarely the case. In countries where no large gardens exist, alternative roles and partnerships can be considered.

One such theory – that of Ancillary Botanic Gardens (ABGs) - seeks to enable a wide range of sites to gain recognition for the plants they grow and the contribution they can make to conservation, education, livelihoods and wellbeing. Developed in Lebanon and applied at AUB with the transformation of the campus as an ABG, the concept is currently being elaborated to accommodate interests expressed by other universities, municipalities, private businesses, and landowners. It will be expanded to address the roles of botanic gardens in LDC countries regionally (eg. Afghanistan, Syria, Occupied Territories, Tajikistan).

The aim of this Fellowship is to establish the range of potential site typologies and what they could contribute to a wider network of ABGs, under a range of scenarios and localities. The outcome includes a framework that defines and guides how such sites are recognized, collaborate, and provide functions that together can achieve major contributions to plant and habitat conservation, education, capacity development and livelihood benefits that are not currently being addressed or met.

9b. The role of the Lead Organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts).

The Centre for Middle Eastern Plants has expertise in developing Botanic Gardens regionally, and an acute awareness of how Botanic Garden planning proceeds. This includes involvement with a range of sites in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iraq (Kurdistan), Oman, Jordan, Turkey and Soqatra (Yemen). As a botanic garden, it holds both scientific and horticultural expertise applicable to the development of botanic gardens and the roles a modern garden can play. This fellowship will specifically address defining the roles of Ancillary Botanic Gardens – and networks of sites – and what benefits they can achieve and bring to society.

CMEP will host and support the proposed fellow, arrange all logistics, and provide expert opinion and discussion on the potential and achievable roles of ABG networks. It will arrange access to expertise in a range of relevant disciplines including but not limited to education and outreach, citizen science and para-taxonomy, landscape architecture, sustainable development, food security and archaeology. It will provide contacts with a range of stakeholders in several countries that will be used as case studies, collate data on specific sites, and input directly into detailed planning as to how networks of ABGs could be managed and benefit stakeholders individually and together.

CMEP will assist the [proposed fellow to establish a mechanism for registering ABGs, and of coordinating collaboration and data gathering for specific outcomes not achievable independently (eg. distribution data, conservation, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, education and capacity development). This will be achieved by organizing a range of discussions and workshops with experienced Botanic Garden staff and those with experience of working with Botanic Gardens and their development regionally and globally, both at RBGE, other botanic gardens, and with Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

9c. Where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards biodiversity conservation and, where relevant, poverty alleviation

i.e. what the expected Outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative.

The fellowship intends to elaborate a novel approach that builds on local knowledge and engages communities in local planning. By developing an action plan and framework and to move forward with the concept of Ancillary Botanic Gardens, the fellowship will open opportunities for grassroots involvement in plant conservation and plant valuation. The latter is important, as it will contribute directly to lateral local knowledge sharing of plants that traditionally contribute to food security through diet diversification, and to agrobiodiversity through cultivation and display of local cultivars.

This bottom up approach reduces inequality as it promotes the contribution of individuals, men and women, currently excluded from botanic gardens due to taxonomic illiteracy and formal scientific training. Ancillary Botanic Gardens can serve as local foci for community driven conservation actions and public messages. The implemented ABGs are expected to have real and lasting impact in their communities because they are locally conceived, planned, and managed. As such, they are established in response to local interest. Furthermore, this low cost approach to botanic garden establishment will support local economies, as ABGs become part of local ecotourism activities highlighting local natural heritage.

The establishment of ABGs and the subsequent formation of a network of communities will be moderated by the American University of Beirut that has an established record in community based conservation and planning. A feature of this fellowship will be the specific development of a report documenting how such sites and networks can achieve specific targets of CBD, GSPC, UNFCCC, ABS, ITPGR by coordination site-based information, including *in situ* conservation of plant species at particular sites, distribution data, through *ex situ* collections, and through partnerships with international conservation collections (eg. other botanic gardens such as RBGE, Millennium Seed Bank and regional initiatives).

10. Legacy. Provide information on how the Darwin Fellow will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship on return to his/her home country. Will a strategy be developed during the Fellowship to ensure this is achieved?

The proposed fellow will develop the conceptual background to ABGs, and design a mechanism for the establishment, registration and contributions of individual sites, and ensure that these guidelines are implemented. This will happen first in Lebanon, where the concept has been developed and where several diverse sites are already either established or have expressed an interest to become part of a wider ABG network. Workshops will be hosted at AUB to bring site stakeholders together to further develop objectives, outcomes and associated protocols.

Following this development and implementation, examination of sites in LDC countries and how a network of ABGs could be established there will be undertaken. This will involve examining the specific issues most relevant in those countries, and the requirements to achieve the uptake and benefits for conservation, education, communities and society in general.

The ABG concept and establishment guidelines for ABGs and ABG networks will be published, and promoted in Lebanon to add to the existing developing network of sites. Contacts developed during the project will determine the extent to which this can be achieved in a range of other countries, and reports submitted and disseminated to relevant stakeholders in those countries.

11. How will the Fellowship assist the Fellow's organisation and/or local communities and/or home country in working towards the objectives (or implementation) of the Conventions, Treaties and Agreements supported by the Darwin Initiative?

Please refer to specific Articles or cross cutting themes as appropriate.

As detailed in section 9c above, a specific report detailing the potential contribution to a range of international convention targets will be produced. We expect each site, and network of sites, to be able to detail such contributions especially regarding GCPC, CBD and associated Aichi Targets.

A key feature of the ABG concept is that they are initiated, planned and developed by local communities. For each site, part of the registration and establishment procedures will include assessing the features of each site and therefore assessing whether rare, threatened or valuable species and habitats are present and contribute to conservation measures (eg. GCPC Target 8). Local knowledge on the use and management of plant resources, and a variety of education and awareness possibilities, will be reported upon (CBD Article 8j; Aichi Target 18 GSPC Targets 13 and 14). Critically, knowledge and application of convention targets can be achieved through a distributed network of sites contributing both locally and nationally.

12. What collaboration has there been with the Darwin Fellow to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Fellowship?

Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Fellow within his/her own country.

The proposed fellow has been collaborating with CMEP for several years to develop and promote the ABG concept through joint publication and presentations at professional conferences. Most recently, the proposed fellow gave a presentation at a symposium hosted by CMEP at the BGC1 2017 Congress in Geneva, where she integrated with the global botanic garden community. It was this experience that prompted the idea to gather a range of experiences and information from this community and integrate it into the ABG concept, and submit a Darwin Fellowship application.

This collaboration is based upon a working relationship going back more than ten years, through the Arabian Plant Specialist Group, Plant Life of SW Asia conferences, and interaction with her team on various conservation initiatives and studies.

During the fellowship, this partnership will be consolidated through the drafting and finalization of an MOU between the two institutions. The fellowship will also constitute the basis for formalizing and mainstreaming the Ancillary Botanic Garden concept and for building a network of interested partners. The fellowship will also be used as an opportunity to start preparing a joint Ancillary Botanic Garden proposal including identified partners and sites.

13. Where will the Darwin Fellow be based?

Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location).

The proposed fellow will visit RBGE (UK) twice for a period of one month on each occasion.

The first visit will be in August 2018, and will involve a wide range of meetings and discussions with experts in a wide range of fields in order to gather relevant information to develop the concept of ABGs and how they can be put into practice to achieve the required benefits. This trip will also establish contacts with a range of stakeholders in several LDC countries.

The proposed fellow will then return to AUB, Lebanon, where (a) workshops and discussions with ABG site stakeholders will further develop the concept, and (b) development of potential sites and networks in other countries will proceed. The proposed fellow will be assisted by her professional colleagues during this time, as well as by CMEP staff remotely.

The second visit to RBGE will be in June 2019, when all information gathered, concepts and protocols developed, will be brought together into final reports, publications and other relevant knowledge products. Finalization of recommendations for ABGs in other countries will be completed at this time.

14. Provide a programme of work, including key milestones, through the duration of the Fellowship

For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the months in which an activity will be carried out. The work plan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity	Duration	2018/19									2019/2020					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Visit to Centre for Middle Eastern Plants, Edinburgh, UK: Discussions with a range of experts in the global botanic garden community and beyond	1 month															
Consultation workshops with Lebanon ABG site stakeholders	3 months															
Discussion with LDC country site stakeholders	6 months															
Reports on ABG network potential in LDC countries	5 months															
Travel to selected LDC country for discussions and site visits	1 month															
Finalization of ABG concept publication	6 months															
Visit to Centre of Middle Eastern Plants, Edinburgh, UK: Finalization of ABG establishment and registration guidelines	1 month															
Preparation of final report	2 months															

15. Costs

Using UK Government Financial Years i.e. April 2018 – March 2019 etc., please set out your budget for the Fellowship

	Unit cost	No of months		Total	Total
		2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Fellow's Subsistence contribution					
Arrival allowance					
London based					
UK (outside London)					
Overseas					
Lead organisation's costs					
UK					
Overseas					
Total Fellow and Host costs					
Travel costs to Fellowship location (up to £2,000)					
Return airfare	Details: Beirut-Edinburgh-Beirut				
Travel to/from airports	Details: transfer costs				
Visas, insurance, medical cover etc.	Details: visa, insurance				
Additional travel costs (up to £500 local travel <i>OR</i> £1,500 for international travel)					
Purpose of additional travel	Details: travel to selected country (tbc) to undertake specific discussions with ABG sites.				
Airfares/train fares	Details: return airfare to selected country				
Travel to/from airports/stations	Details: transfer costs				
Subsistence costs (inc number of days and rates)*					
Visas etc.	Details: for selected country (tbc)				
Total travel costs					
Fees and training costs					
Academic fees	Details:				
English language training costs**	Details:				
Total fees					

*for advice on rates please call the Darwin Application Unit 0131 440 5181

**these costs are ring-fenced and should be surrendered if not used.

16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts

RBGE will provide in-kind salaries and overheads related to CMEP staff Dr Alan Forrest, Dr Sophie Neale, Tony Miller, and ensure that expert staff and professional contacts are available for discussions with the proposed fellow. Office space and all facilities will be available. AUB will provide flexibility in the working schedule of the proposed fellow to undertake this fellowship, and will provide in-kind salaries, overheads and office space and facilities while she is in Lebanon. Venues for workshops with ABG site stakeholders will also be provided.

FCO Notification

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise details of the Darwin Fellowship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Fellow’s home country.



Please comment on whether you require a visa to undertake this Fellowship. If you require a visa, do you foresee any difficulty in being granted a visa?

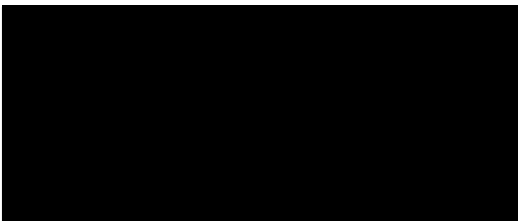
The proposed fellow has a dual Lebanese and USA citizenship and holds a US passport. She has visited the UK on several occasions previously and returned to Lebanon on each occasion, and has travelled widely in various countries. Therefore, no difficulties are envisaged in obtaining a UK visa.

Certification

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.

I enclose one page CVs for project principals and letters of support as requested in the Guidance.

Name (block capitals)	ALAN FORREST
Position in the organisation	BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION CENTRE FOR MIDDLE EASTERN PLANTS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

Signed 

Date: 4 JANUARY 2018

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship?	YES
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March?	YES
Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	YES
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable. Please do not type your name)	YES
Have you included a 1 page CV for the proposed Fellow and the experts listed in Section 5?	YES
Have you provided the relevant letters of support?	YES
Have you read the Guidance ?	YES
Have you read and can you meet the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	YES
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	YES

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Thursday 4 January 2018 to Darwin-Applications@LTSI.co.uk using the name of the proposed Fellow as the subject of your email. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (e.g. whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc.).

Data Protection Act 1998 - Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete your application, the grant acceptance and the supplier forms.

Defra will use your personal data primarily for the purpose of processing your application for Darwin Initiative funding. By submitting an application, applicants have agreed to any disclosure of the information supplied (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which Defra considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Funds (as detailed in the paragraphs below).

A completed application form signifies agreement to place certain details of successful applications (i.e. name, title, total grant value, project summary, lead organisation and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative websites listed below. A completed application form also signifies agreement to send data on the project proposals during the application process to British Embassies and High Commissions outside the UK, including those outside the European Economic Area.

<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk>;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative>;

Application form data will also be processed by Defra contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative administration, monitoring and evaluation (working within relevant data protection rules).

Defra may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. The Grantee shall assist and co-operate with the Department (at the Grantee's expense) to enable the Department to comply with its disclosure obligations under these enactments.

We may use information, including personal data, to test computer systems to ensure that they work effectively and efficiently and to develop new systems in order to improve efficiency and the service that we provide to you and other persons. Any use of information for testing or developing computerised systems will be conducted in a secure manner in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to safeguard the privacy of the information that you have supplied.

Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, is on the Defra section of Gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, please telephone the Defra helpline 08459 33 55 77 and ask to speak to the Data Protection Officer for a copy of the Information Charter.