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Scaling evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance models in Uganda and Tanzania

This project will advance scalable, evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance (ICF) models through testing in Uganda and Tanzania but with global applicability, by providing access to community-managed small loans which incentivise engagement in biodiversity conservation. Current barriers to scaling will be addressed by strengthening inclusive and equitable governance mechanisms; improving linkages between borrowed capital and biodiversity / social impacts; using financial technology innovation to reduce management costs of microcredit management; mapping opportunities to reduce dependence on grant-based financing mechanisms.

Section 1 - Contact Details

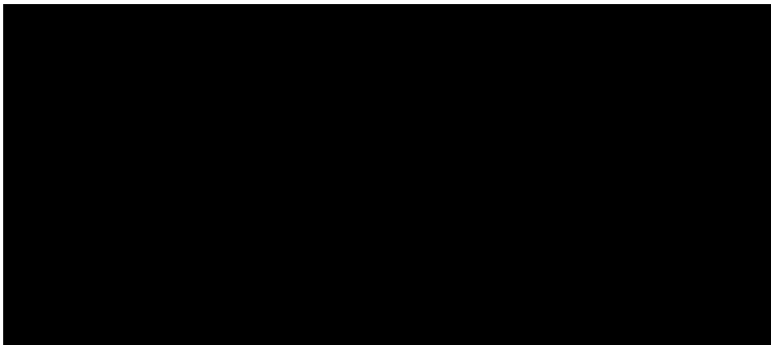
PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Kiran
Surname	Mohanan



GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Fauna & Flora International



Section 2 - Project Summary, Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Q3. Project Title

Scaling evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance models in Uganda and Tanzania

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Please select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Shoreline or Supralittoral coastal systems

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 2

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Conservation Action 3

No Response

Threat 1

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 2

Climate change & severe weather

Threat 3

No Response

Q5. Summary of project

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

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This project will advance scalable, evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance (ICF) models through testing in Uganda and Tanzania but with global applicability, by providing access to community-managed small loans which incentivise engagement in biodiversity conservation. Current barriers to scaling will be addressed by strengthening inclusive and equitable governance mechanisms; improving linkages between borrowed capital and biodiversity / social impacts; using financial technology innovation to reduce management costs of microcredit management; mapping opportunities to reduce dependence on grant-based financing mechanisms.

Section 3 - Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Project Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1 Uganda

Country 2 Tanzania

Country 3 *No Response*

Country 4 *No Response*

Do you require more fields?

- Yes
- No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2022

End date:

29 March 2024

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

2 years

Q8. Budget Summary

Darwin Funding Request	2022/23	2023/24	Total request
(Apr - Mar) £	£121,808.00	£77,909.00	199,717.00


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



Q10a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

- Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

FFI contribution: from Arcadia Foundation of £5,109 (confirmed) towards staff time for Project lead to support technical delivery as ICF is an innovative sustainable financing mechanism, and the learning from the project is relevant to other FFI landscape funded by Arcadia. GreenFi Systems in-kind contribution towards staff time (Product Owner):  (confirmed)

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

NA

Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the evidence of the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. What is the need, challenge or opportunity? For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

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

Economic incentives are provided to rural community members to actively participate in CBNRM institution's initiatives for restoring and sustainably using natural resources. However, there is also an urgent need for rural communities to adapt to increasingly rapid climate change (1), and to restore the local ecosystem health their livelihood depends on. Adaptation and restoration require additional investments, beyond the means of resource-poor communities. 80% of community members in the project area are unbanked as they present too high credit risk for private investment (2). This presents a significant barrier for grassroots conservation finance approaches to natural solutions to climate change.

Inclusive Conservation Finance (ICF) models were piloted using Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) and Mkuba Ecocredit in Uganda and Zanzibar in 2018 providing affordable credit to communities committed to conservation. Results are promising: 257 community members engaged in natural resource management and 74 biodiversity-friendly enterprises were supported with affordable credit, clearly generating biodiversity and social impacts. (3, 4).

The following barriers pose practical challenges for the current ICF pilots to scale:

Weak Governance in current Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and ICF groups: Climate impacts disproportionately affect marginalised members of many communities including women and youths(5). However, they are not currently fully integrated into CBNRM and ICF groups. In Uganda, participation of women in the PFOA is low as 30%. In Zanzibar, as the new generation do not see economic benefits in conservation efforts and are not encouraged to join by elder members in leadership positions. They instead take up poaching (skin fishing) and other unsustainable resource use for quick economic gains.

High cost of monitoring the biodiversity and social impact of the capital borrowed: Previous years' conservation agreements should be amended based on community feedback, ensuring the funds borrowed are invested in biodiversity-friendly enterprises and supply chains.

Capacity constraints of CBNRM institutions to manage the ICF operations: Current loan operations are paper-based with high day-to-day transaction costs, preventing CBNRM and ICF scale up. There is call from ICF members to ensure transparent management of funds by group leaders, which will be easier to track with a digitalised record keeping system.

Vulnerability to external shocks: ICF groups are driven by community participation and during external shocks like Covid-19, operations were affected due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings: digital platforms as an emergency alternative would make ICF groups more resilient.

High dependency on grant funding for technical and financial resources for scale up: Reduction of the reliance on grant funding to set up new VSLA groups and capitalise on ICF is needed when scaling up.

Need for more evidence on biodiversity impacts: climate finance often struggles to reach locally-led grassroots initiatives (6). ICF could be a mechanism to address this gap, reducing dependence on grants, but models must be scalable and backed by scientific evidence.

(references attached in Section 15 project partners)

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

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

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn

international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

Uganda: NBSAP II (2015-2025):

Through strengthening the governance of ICF and CBNRM Institutions (Output 1) and finalising conservation agreements and appropriate linkages with local CBNRM institutions (Output 2), the project will contribute towards reducing and managing negative impacts while enhancing positive impacts on biodiversity (NBSAP II Objective 3) and promoting the sustainable use and equitable sharing of costs and benefits of biodiversity (NBSAP II Objective 4).

Through the development of innovative Fin-tech digital application for conservation (Output 3), mapping actors in the private sector and financial service ecosystem, and exploring appropriate partnerships for scale up (Output 4), this project will be helping to promote innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms to support NBSAP implementation (NBSAP II Objective 7).

Tanzania: CBD and Aichi Targets:

Outputs 1, 2, and 4 will contribute to a number of CBD articles and Aichi Biodiversity targets in Tanzania. In particular, CBD articles 8 (integrating conservation and sustainable use of marine resources to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity) and 11 (supporting formation of transparent governance structures and empower communities to understand their rights and responsibilities), and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 (implementing management measures for sustainable management of important fisheries, vulnerable species, and aquatic plants, enhancing ecological connectivity), 10 (reducing the impacts of destructive practices on coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove) and 11 (improving PECCA management through work with communities, authorities, and ensuring integrated management between socially and ecologically connected areas).

SDG:

In both Uganda and Tanzania, project outputs will contribute towards SDGs 1 (ending poverty), 5 (achieve gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 15 (restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems), and in Tanzania SDG 14 too (conserve and sustainably use marine resources for sustainable development).

Section 5 - Method, Innovation, Capability & Capacity

Q13. Methodology

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

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project?
- The need for this work and a justification of your proposed approach.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- What will be the main activities and where will these take place?
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

Strengthening governance of ICF and CBNRM Institutions in preparation of scale up: with an emphasis on improving women's participation, governance and equity. A participatory assessment of each group will be undertaken with members (adapting IIED's Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity methodology), facilitating them to assess their own progress and challenges and identify actions to strengthen the group. This will be supplemented with information from previous assessments carried out at each site, including a Participatory Impact Assessment in Pemba (7) and assessments of the VSLAs in Uganda (3).

Finalising conservation agreements and appropriate linkages with local CBNRM institutions: Village meetings and key informant discussion to gather feedback from CBNRM and ICF leaders and its members to evaluate performance of the

conservation commitments currently in place. Based on the feedback received, follow up community consultations to make necessary changes to the current conservation commitments enhancing its effectiveness. To improve coordination between CBNRM and ICF institutions, meeting between their leaders and members will be convened. An audit committee comprising CBNRM and ICF leadership will be formed to monitor capital borrowed is in biodiversity-friendly enterprises.

Developing innovative Fin-tech digital application for conservation: Human-centric design approach (9) will be used to develop a mobile phone application. A specialist in this domain will visit the communities and understand their needs and develop locally appropriate technology. FFI and Mwambao's community engagement specialists will be involved ensuring the testing the application and training community members for uptake. FFI Gender and Governance specialist will assess potential Social harms of new technology and advice mitigation strategies. Training will be provided to group leaders and member to enhance accountability of loan operations, Better socialisation of digital data for example, through print outs of key screens distributed to groups.

Actors in private sector and financial service ecosystem mapped and appropriate partnerships for scale up explored: Participatory Market System Development approach (8) will be adopted, drawing on secondary data from literature already available on financial inclusion in East Africa. Based on the mapping exercise, meetings will be organised with the key actors identified to understand their priorities, and if aligned to biodiversity and social outcomes, appropriate partnerships will be designed.

Increasing the evidence-base for ICF for future scale up and investments strategies: Participatory Impact Assessment approach will be used with an academic researcher (most likely from Cambridge University) conducting a rigorous project evaluation, and outputs will be submitted for academic publication. Lessons learnt from the project will be presented at global knowledge-sharing platforms. Consultation with project partners to design a future scale up and financing strategy based on financial modelling.

Project management:

FFI will coordinate with partners, maintaining oversight of expenditure and progress, ensuring appropriate technical expertise is applied. A project inception meeting with all partners, quarterly meeting with partner representatives to review progress and adapt management, coordinated in-country visit, clear project monitoring plans including mid-term and final review. In Uganda, FFI will be lead implementer, and in Zanzibar, MCCC will lead, except Output 3 (digital tool development), led by GreenFi.

Q14. Innovation

Please specifically outline how your approach or project is innovative, noting the opportunity to describe the methodology is next.

Is it the application of existing evidence/technology/approach in a distinctly different sector, the development of new technologies/approach in an existing area, or is it a totally disruptive approach?

ICF is an innovative financial instrument in conservation: Inclusive financial models have been used extensively in the development sector, but are comparatively novel in the conservation sector. Whilst there has been some limited piloting of ICF in this context, application has been constrained by the absence of a viable model for scaling up, which this project seeks to address. Current ICF models are dependent on grant funding, and reliant on NGO technical support for scale up. Partnerships with the private sector and financial service intermediaries will be explored to diversify from grant funding, and a community-based training approach will be tested to develop capacity of community members as to set up new ICF groups.

As ICF is a novel approach in conservation, this project aims to gather the required evidence of its direct biodiversity and social impacts.

Introducing Innovative fin-tech digital application: The project will adapt existing mobile technology already developed by partner GreenFi to track social impact and loan performance, to also track biodiversity impact using smartphones. Such real-time tracking of impacts enhances monitoring of borrowed capital use by the community in biodiversity-friendly enterprises and improves transparency and accountability of the community leaders managing the ICF groups, all

important for the model to scale up. A human-centric design approach will be adopted to ensure the new technology is appropriate to the local context. ICF leaders and community members will be trained to adopt the new application, which will ease the time needed to manage ICF operations.

Q15. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

The project will strengthen grassroots natural resource governance by working with Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) institutions: Private Forest Land Owner Associations (PFOA) in Uganda; Shehia (ward) Fisheries Committees (SFC) in Zanzibar.

The project will enhance capacity and capability of both CBNRM Institutions and ICF groups for scale-up:

Improving Governance of CBNRM and ICF: by improving gender and youth participation, and by improving transparency of ICF operations, the project help to strengthen CBNRM and ICF as robust community-based institutions which support locally-led scale-up strategy and more importantly strengthen biodiversity conservation initiatives at the grassroots. One of the main objectives of this project is to develop the capacity of CBNRM institutions to manage the current and new ICF groups as the ICF model scale up. Developing the new mobile phone-based application, and training community members and their leaders to be able to use this new technology are steps in this direction.

Community-based ICF trainer: the project aims to train members in the community to be trainers to set up new ICF groups. This will ensure the capacity is built at the local level, which is less reliant on NGO partners and lower costs for setting up new groups, enabling scale up on the model lesser investments.

Training programs to improve financial literacy will help community members to be able to adopt the new mobile-based application.

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

Q16. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

We recognise that men and women have different roles and responsibilities, and thus have different knowledge, needs, and priorities regarding natural resources. We aim to contribute to gender equality through implementing gender-sensitive projects that promote equitable access to project information and resources, participation, and opportunities to benefit.

In Zanzibar we have promoted a 30% quota for female representation on SFC management committees and ensure that each SFC has at least some (e.g. 2 or 3) female office-bearers. The current representation of women on our 6 focus SFCs is 20-25%. In Uganda, where lack of access to land has inhibited their participation in project activities, women's membership of PFOAs has increased in the first year of our project and efforts have focused on women's participation in VSLAs. In both sites, women are underrepresented in leadership in all community institutions.

We will continue to improve our understanding of gender dynamics in both sites through project implementation, including ensuring that all data and analysis is 'gendered' (including the governance and other assessments) and taking steps to ensure that women are consulted and enabled to engage through targeting, scheduling and facilitating single-sex events as appropriate. We will assess the barriers women face in engaging fully in community institutions and take steps to address those we can, including through our ongoing/complementary projects. We recognise that women have less access to technology and will work with women, and men, to ensure that the transition to mobile-technology records does not disproportionately impact women's access to shared data and ability to hold others to account, for example by group access, digital literacy training, and parallel paper records.

Q17. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

In Zanzibar, Tanzania, the key project stakeholders are the community members of Eco-credit group and SFC, their leaders, government actors (Department of Fisheries; Department of Marine Conservation, under Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries), and private sector actors including financial intermediaries (local banks, microfinance institutions). A multi-stakeholder workshop is planned to bring these actors together to discuss key threats to biodiversity, subsequent risks to business, and the importance of ICF in addressing these threats. This platform will be facilitated by partner MCCC in the local language, supporting the free sharing of ideas. During community consultations, by-laws and the clauses of local management plans will be communicated in a practical guidance format (orally and written). Dedicated sessions on topics cross-cutting several groups (e.g., mangrove restoration planning, defining groups' voluntary patrol strategy) will be organised.

In Uganda, PFOA and VSLA group members, Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Forestry Authority, and private financial sector actors are the key stakeholders. Awareness-raising and training will be finalised during project inception. The primary dissemination method for awareness-raising will be radio talk shows, including call-ins, to encourage an open dialogue and provide the opportunity to communicate the importance of biodiversity and community wellbeing. This will be supplemented by specific and tailored group training sessions with targeted communities on the use of borrowed capital on biodiversity-friendly enterprises. The messages will be delivered through PFOA members and trusted community representatives (e.g., pastors). FFI will seek to raise awareness about the unique biodiversity value of these corridors in Uganda more broadly, primarily through social media, websites and newsletters.

Free and transparent access will be provided for public data, to ensure GDPR compliance and privacy protection. Project outcomes and learning will be shared through scientific papers and presentations, whilst the community's financial (loan records) and socio-economic data will be confidential.

Q18. Change expected

Detail the nature of the outputs you expect from the project (for example report, practical demonstration, know-how, new process, product or service design) and how these will help you to target the identified need, challenge or opportunity in terms of biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them.

You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

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.

To contribute to the long-term impact of innovative economic instruments generating incentives for local communities for biodiversity conservation, strengthening community-based natural resource governance that enhances ecosystem productivity and services, to boost household economy and well-being, reducing poverty at the grassroots level.

This project will achieve five key changes,

1: Strengthening governance and equity of at least 20 ICF groups and at least 4 CBNRM institutions in Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Uganda.

2: Finalising ICF group members' conservation commitments to deliver biodiversity impact and formally agree on the linkages with local CBNRM institutions through a participatory process.

3: Introducing innovative digital record-keeping tools to accurately and transparently manage loan operations and monitor/report on participation in conservation action.

4: Facilitating partnerships to reduce the current high dependency on grant funding for the ICF model to scale up.

5: Communicating the potential for the ICF model to contribute to biodiversity and social impacts are widely communicated, and designing a scale-up strategy.

These five project outputs are underpinned by structural improvements of the current ICF model to improve its scalability. By the end of the project, we will establish a scalable, evidence-based ICF model that reduces poverty and generates direct economic incentives for >500 community members in Uganda and Zanzibar, Tanzania, to engage in conservation actions in 2,000 hectares of forest/coastal areas.

Most community-based finance systems address financial and social issues but not environmental or climate (adaptation and mitigation) issues. The models developed here add both biodiversity and a climate change adaptation component. It has been recognised that new financial models work best if they build on existing systems. Both the Ugandan and Tanzanian models build on the 25-year-old VSLA (savings groups) model, which now has more than 20 million members worldwide in over 73 countries. The models also build on extensive community-level expertise present in most communities in the region of the pilot model.

In the short term,

More than 200 community members (at least 45% women) can access loans to pursue biodiversity-friendly enterprises and barriers to affordable credits lifted for more than 500 community members (at least 45% women).

ICF members will be empowered and at least a 15% increase in ICF group members attending CBNRM institution meetings and can influence decision-making

By 2024, at least 70% of ICF group members will be engaged in conservation action in 2,000-hectare forest and seascape.

More than 60% of ICF and CBNRM groups are trained and able to use innovative digital record-keeping tools.

Capacity at the community level is enhanced with at least three community members per target village trained in setting up new ICF group using a community-based training of trainer approach.

These short-term changes will lead to longer-term impacts by attracting sustainable finance to the landscapes, to scale up from current 20 ICF pilots to 200 ICF pilots, economically benefiting at least 5,000 community members, reducing poverty, and generating incentives to conserve at least 10,000-hectare forest and coastal areas in Uganda and Zanzibar (Tanzania).

Q19. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change, including how your outcome can be scaled. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

This should directly relate to your overall project's Theory of Change which must be uploaded alongside your logframe at Q24. See the separate [Theory of Change Guidance](#) and [Section 2.3.2 of the Darwin Initiative Innovation Supplementary Guidance](#) for further information on your Theory of Change.

The local community needs economic incentives to engage in CBNRM conservation efforts. ICF is an innovative financing instrument to generate these incentives, providing affordable capital for communities to invest in biodiversity-friendly enterprises. Weak governance of ICF, especially poor participation of women and youth, unclear conservation commitments, high transaction costs of current loan operations, and high dependence on grant funding are barriers for the current ICF pilots to scale impacts.

If we invest to improve equity and governance system of these ICF models (Output 1), clarify its conservation commitments (Output 2), generate evidence of biodiversity and social impact (Output 5), improve management of ICF operations through

an innovative fin-tech application (Output 3), and also reduce dependence on grant funding by adopting community-based trainers' approach and facilitating linkage with private financial intermediaries (Output 4), a scalable evidence-based ICF model will be established, generating local incentives for CBNRM.

These financial instruments will attract sustainable financing in the long term to scale-up local incentives for biodiversity conservation that strengthen community-based natural resource governance to enhance ecosystem productivity and services, that boost household economy and well-being reducing poverty at the grassroots level.

Q20. Exit strategy

How will the benefits or outcome be sustained post-funding? Will the innovation be mainstreamed into “business as usual” to continue to deliver the benefits? How will the required capability and capacity remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled? Are there any barriers to scaling and if so, how will these be addressed?

The basic savings group model is inherently sustainable and many groups have lasted decades and, in some cases, saved significant assets.

Developing capacity in grassroots: through community-based trainers' approach, there will be capacity at the community level to maintain the ICF structures and set up new ICF models for scale-up. This reduces the dependence on external support and funding. Strengthening governance and improving management practices (through a new digital app) will support sustaining impacts beyond the project period.

Partnership with private sector actors is intended to provide information on appropriate non-grant finance available for ICF models to create a pathway for community micro-credit structures to become self-sustaining and/or enable sustainable scaling-up.

Exit strategy for long-term use of mobile technology: Normal mobile phone ownership in Tanzania is above 75% and in Uganda about 49% while smartphone ownership is in about 15%. Significant growth in smartphone usage, enabled by a reduction in price (African-made smartphones are now available at a unit price of \$130) and an increase in network coverage, is expected. After the project, it is anticipated that groups will have sufficient assets to replace phones and also pay for the subscription fees (\$2 USD/ year) for the ongoing use of the app if they find it useful and choose to do so. Groups can, however, stop using the app and revert to a paper-based recording system. It is hoped that costs of providing the technology per user will reduce and may be provided free in time.

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q21. 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 Risk, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
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<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>The risk that funds used for the intended purposes; do not achieve value for money; and/or are not properly accounted for. The realisation of fiduciary risk can be due to a variety of factors, including lack of capacity, competency, or knowledge; bureaucratic inefficiency; and/or active corruption</p>	Major	Rare	Moderate	<p>Adopting FFI's financial management systems, accounting of all financial resources.</p> <p>Receipts for all expenses collected, randomly cross-checked with vendors and benchmarked with other suppliers.</p> <p>All project spending signed off by at least two staff - Project Manager, Grant officer or Finance Manager.</p> <p>Zero-tolerance to bribery, complying with Bribery Act (2010).</p>	Minor
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Preventing and responding to harm caused by sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment or bullying. Minimise the likelihood and impact of these actions towards both the local communities (project beneficiaries), and also staff of FFI and partners.</p>	Major	Rare	Minor	<p>Share FFI safeguarding policy with downstream partners.</p> <p>Adopting clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made.</p>	Minor
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Changes in context can threaten the ability to deliver, especially due to Covid-19 pandemic</p>	Moderate	Possible	Major	<p>In event of international travel restrictions, project evaluation will be conducted by researchers in-country.</p> <p>If restrictions occur, workplans will be adapted based on existing experience in project operations during pandemic e.g., meetings organised with representatives instead of whole community.</p> <p>Project activities are planned in line with government guidance on Covid-19.</p>	Moderate

<p>Risk 4</p> <p>Digital application requires troubleshooting reducing uptake of new technology in communities.</p>	Possible	Major	Major	Tech-Specialist GreenFi respond to troubleshooting needs.	Moderate
<p>Risk of unequal access to tools due to either capacity or physical access disadvantaging marginalised community members.</p>				Current paper-based record keeping system continued until the new digital technology is stable.	
				Social harms assessment and mitigation strategies developed and executed.	
				Identifying at-risk groups, providing targeted assistance.	
				Better socialisation of digital data by hand outs of key screens to groups.	
<p>Risk 5</p> <p>Borrowed capital invested in unsustainable use of biodiversity.</p>	Possible	Major	Major	Consultation with CBNRM institutions, developing governance mechanisms and audit procedures at community level to ensure capital borrowed is invested in biodiversity-friendly enterprises.	Moderate
				Digital application (piloted under this project), tracking, in real-time, the use of borrowed capital will increase peer-monitoring at community level and help project partners to monitor impacts.	
<p>Risk 6</p> <p>Borrowed capital results in unintended negative social impacts such as debt traps.</p>	Possible	Major	Major	A provision in loan agreements for flexibility in loan repayments, including extending the repayment period or instead compensating by contributing additional labour hours towards CBNRM's conservation efforts.	Moderate

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q22. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project and upload this below as a PDF.

Implementation Timetable Template

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



Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q23. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

FFI has an established system for monitoring and evaluating project progress. The design and review of indicators and monitoring systems are an integral part of our project cycle management. At project level, all project activities are monitored on an ongoing basis by project staff, and internal reports are made to line management through activity, quarterly and annual reporting processes. Progress and impact will be assessed through ongoing monitoring against indicators and milestones, and regular project evaluation. FFI has responsibility for overall project M&E which will be conducted in a participatory fashion, involving project partners, beneficiary community members and their leaders.

The project team will hold quarterly meetings to review progress against the work plan and output indicators, with partners and FFI technical advisors. Activities will be reviewed and monitored during monthly Workplan meetings between the FFI Project lead, partners (GreenFi and MCCC) and FFI technical lead in Uganda. This regular analysis and dissemination of M&E information will inform adaptive management of the project to identify challenges, issues and successes early and enable the project team to adapt approaches and management to ensure the project achieves intended outcomes.

A gender and governance specialist will be involved at the beginning and throughout the project to ensure gender and equity considerations are incorporated throughout the M&E.

Key project indicators related to conservation and biodiversity protection targets are:

Governance Indicator: Improvement in women and youth participation in ICF groups and CBNRM institutions assessed by membership survey reports, Membership records, Participatory Impact Assessment report and meeting notes and attendance records.

Conservation commitments: ICF group members' conservation commitments to deliver biodiversity impact and linkages with local CBNRM institutions are formally agreed verified by records of revised conservation commitments and activity undertaken, documents of the partnership agreement between CBNRM institution and ICF groups.

Indicator for uptake of new technology: Adoption of the innovative digital application by the local community and its contribution to improving loan operations will be evaluated by user satisfaction surveys and community focal group

discussions.

Evaluating reduction in dependency on grant funding for scale-up will be based on cost-saving analysis of adopting community-based trainers approach, and interest of private sector will assessment from meeting reports.

Generating an evidence base on the impact of ICF on biodiversity conservation and social outcomes is a key focus of this project. An external project evaluation will be conducted by an academic researcher, mostly likely from the University of Cambridge. Participatory Impact Assessment and end-user survey will be conducted to collect primary qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate the impact of the project and digital app on the lives of local communities. Lesson shared can be assessed by conference participation records and academic journals confirming the scientific paper submission. A detailed scale-up design document, including VUNA assessment report will evaluate the progress towards scalability and future investment strategy.

Total project budget for M&E (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	██████████
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	██████████
Number of days planned for M&E	162

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q24. Logical Framework

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

[Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.



Impact:

Innovative economic instruments for biodiversity conservation are strengthening community-based natural resource governance, enhancing ecosystem productivity and services, and boosting household economy and well-being, reducing poverty at the grassroots.

Outcome:

Scalable, evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance (ICF) models reduce poverty and generate direct economic incentives for >500 community members to engage in conservation actions in 2,000 hectares of forest/coastal areas.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Governance and equity of at least 20 ICF groups and at least 4 CBNRM institutions in Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Uganda is improved before scale-up.

Output 2:

ICF group members' conservation commitments to deliver biodiversity impact and linkages with local CBNRM institutions are formally agreed through a participatory process

Output 3:

Innovative digital record keeping tools adopted by at least 20 ICF groups and at least 4 CBNRM institutions in Uganda and Zanzibar (Tanzania) to accurately and transparently manage eco-credit processes and monitor/report on participation in conservation action.

Output 4:

Market system approach adopted, and systemic barriers identified and addressed reducing the current high dependency on grant funding for the ICF model to scale up

Output 5:

Potential for ICF model to contribute to biodiversity and social impacts is widely communicated, and scale-up strategy designed

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the activity level.

No

Activities

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

- 1.1 Governance assessments of the current ICF pilots, including gender and age dimensions.
- 1.2 Identifying governance gaps in the ICF community groups, including the participation of women.
- 1.3 Training to address the gaps identified.
- 1.4 Monitoring the functioning of management committees
- 1.5 Monitoring the functioning of ICF groups
- 2.1 Community consultations to develop monitoring and audit mechanisms to ensure capital borrowed is invested in biodiversity-friendly enterprises.
- 2.2 Focus group discussions and interviews to understand key drivers to switch from unsustainable resource use to sustainable use.
- 2.3 Community consultations to clarify the relationship between ICF groups and CBNRM institutions and their role in monitoring compliance activities.
- 2.4 Awareness-raising strategy for sustainable use of biodiversity designed and implemented.
- 3.1 Community consultation to enhance functionalities of the current GreenFi app, in particular, an innovative feature for biodiversity monitoring.

- 3.2 Designing tool, monitor, and report on ecological compliance.
- 3.3 Trainings for using the mobile application both at trainer level but also at ICF group member level.
- 3.4 Testing this new mobile-based application and dashboard with Mkuba groups in Zanzibar and introducing and testing into VSLA groups in Uganda.
- 3.5 Designing of an “equitable technology” protocol, to reduce risks to project inequity associated with the introduction of new tools and technologies.
- 3.6 Community meetings to raise awareness and financial literacy training on the new application.
- 4.1 Mapping of the current financial service ecosystem using market system approach in Uganda and Tanzania.
- 4.2 Exploring appropriate partnerships with actors in the ecosystem to facilitate the scale-up with less dependence on grant funding.
- 4.4 Design training module for “Training of trainers”
- 4.5 Training at least 3 community members per village to set up ICF groups (Community-based trainers' approach)
- 4.6 Carry out a stakeholder workshop for identified actors in Zanzibar (Tanzania)
- 5.1 Project evaluation and analysis of data generated to interrogate the biodiversity impact of ICF and its scalability.
- 5.2 Developing academic paper based on the project learning
- 5.3 Sharing lessons learnt globally at Global Landscape conferences.
- 5.4 Consultation with project partners to design a future scale up and financing strategy.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q25. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Note that there are different templates for projects requesting under £100,000 and over £100,000. Please refer to the Finance Guidance for more information.

- [Budget template for projects under £100k](#)
- [Budget template for projects over £100k](#)

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

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

Please note the next section is about the financial aspects of your project, rather than technical elements.



Q26. Funding

Q26a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)? Please give details.

- Development of existing work

Please give details.

In Uganda, this work builds on FFI's previous and current work to establish VSLAs as a means by which to incentivise and create financial resources for conservation activities. This work has historically been funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and had received funding under Darwin's Covid-19 Rapid Response (CV19RR26). VSLAs were set up, and revolving funds were provided to groups performing savings and loan operations well. Results have been promising, with 74 community members accessing eco-credit for biodiversity-friendly enterprises, interest payment generating sustainable finance to cover chimpanzee patrol cost (3). The aim of this current proposed project is to prepare the VSLA groups/ICF group for scale-up across the landscape by enhancing its sustainability and scalability.

In Tanzania, Eco-credit groups were piloted under Darwin Initiative (24-008), and currently, 22 groups have been formed in the project sites, providing loans to community members committed to local co-management rules for sustainable use within the Pemba Channel Conservation area. By strengthening Governance, youth participation, digitalisation, and potential partnership with the private sector, the barriers for scale-up will be addressed by this proposed project.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

- Yes

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

In Zanzibar, FFI and partner MCCC are under contract negotiation for a project to be funded by the Blue Action Fund (BAF) to strengthen marine governance in Pemba Channel Conservation Area. The Eco-credit was identified as an important instrument to generate economic incentives for communities to adopt management rules. This proposed project will help refine the Eco-credit model and the lessons learned from this project will be valuable for other sites that will be targeted with the BAF funding. FFI aims to replicate this ICF model in coastal Kenya and beyond East Africa, hence the evidence of these instruments generating biodiversity impacts is critical for the scaling up. Testing of the innovative fin-tech application and its wider use will help reduce its operating and maintenance cost, which will bring down the service fee for the communities this project targets.

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.

The project has provision for providing smartphones to community members to ensure the development of the fin-tech app is smooth and marginalised community members have access to the technology. In the long-term, after the app is successfully developed and the community sees the advantage of digital record-keeping, we believe that the ICF group will invest in new smartphones themselves, and the phones supported by the project will be used for future training purposes, and that some phones, after community consultation, will be distributed to the most marginalised ICF group members.

Q28. Value for Money

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

The project ensures the best value for money by:

Developing the capacity of local CBNRM institutions to manage ICF models, with a governance strengthening and a community-based trainer approach adopted by the project, dependence on grant funding is reduced long-term.

The innovative fin-tech app developed is suited to the local context in both landscape (in Uganda) and sea-scape (in Zanzibar, Tanzania). This ensures the investment made in developing this digital technology supports wider replicability in East Africa and beyond.

The project is designed to build sustainability of its interventions, e.g., by building local capacities and adopting market systems approaches to encourage private sector partnerships and investments, reducing dependency on grant funding in the long term.

Projected costs have been reviewed to ensure that project funds are used in the most cost-effective manner possible, and this will be monitored throughout implementation. All procurement will comply with FFI's procurement policy or donor regulations, whichever is more stringent, to avoid conflict of interest and ensure value for money (with any purchases upwards of ██████ requiring quotations to be documented). Procurement decisions may be made according to quality and safety as well as cost.

Section 12 - Outputs, Open Access, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q29. Safeguarding

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

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

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

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

The responsibility to abide by safeguarding, anti-harassment, and equal opportunities policy and procedures is shared downstream with consultants and partners as contractual obligations in consultancy contracts and sub-grant agreements. For communities, socio-economic data on livelihoods will be collected to design safeguard and grievance mechanisms to ensure "no harm" and net-positive impacts. A broad range of stakeholders already identified will be consulted during the course of the project and adaptive changes will be made if there are any concerns.

Q30. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance.

FFI seeks to ensure our activities do not disadvantage poor, vulnerable or marginalised, natural resource-dependent women and men, and wherever possible to conserve biodiversity in ways that enhance human wellbeing and social equity. FFI has committed to respect human rights, promote their protection and realisation within our conservation programmes, and support the governance systems that can secure those rights.

Community stakeholder engagement will include comprehensive documentation to evidence how the concerns, knowledge, rights, and needs, particularly of vulnerable people, are addressed. We will support appropriate law enforcement agencies to manage conflict and apply legitimate regulations fairly. We will implement a locally appropriate, accessible, and transparent grievance mechanism for ICF operations.

FFI has a suite of policies and procedures concerning core values and ethical behaviour, including safeguarding, anti-harassment and whistleblowing, as well as an employee handbook. As appropriate, these will be shared downstream to consultants and partners as contractual obligations in subgrant and consultancy contracts.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q31. FCDO notifications

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

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them. If you have not, please say why not.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or a 1 page job description, further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the Finance Guidance.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 Page CV or job description attached?
Kiran Mohanan	Project Leader	10	Checked
Programme Officer	Contract and grant management	8	Checked
Rogers Niwamanya	Technical lead (Uganda)	11	Checked
Tumwa Silver	Project Officer (Uganda)	32	Checked

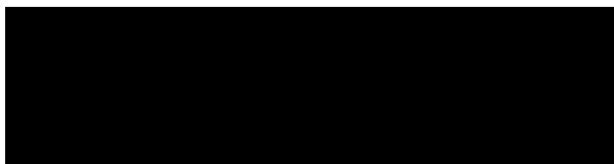
Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 Page CV or job description attached?
Stella Ajilong	Finance and Operations Manager (Uganda)	5	Checked
Tanguy Nicolas	Technical Advisor, Marine	3	Checked
Helen Anthem	Gender Advisor	2	Checked
Rob Small	Governance Advisor	2	Checked
Catherine Lawson	Regional project oversight	2	Checked
Lorna Slade	Project oversight (Zanzibar, Tanzania)	3	Checked
Juma Mohamed	Technical lead (Zanzibar, Tanzania)	10	Checked
<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.

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



Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes


Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project partners

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

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

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

Lead Partner name:	Fauna & Flora International
Website address:	https://www.fauna-flora.org/
Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project?	<p>Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has facilitated in-depth discussions with partners about the design and implementation of the project, ensuring that we build upon experience and address lessons learned during our pilot project.</p> <p>FFI will coordinate all project management and implementation and provide technical advice on areas such as inclusive finance models, governance, gender, financial modeling.</p> <p>FFI has coordinated projects in Uganda and Tanzania over the years and has built good relationships with partners and other key stakeholders. In order to enable effective delivery based on local needs, FFI will convene an inception meeting as well as ongoing steering group meetings with all partners, reviewing progress against the project's theory of change, and monitoring data. We will establish MoUs and sub-grant agreements with all partners to ensure administration and accounting comply with the Darwin Initiative's requirements. We will also lead any further fundraising in coordination with partners to secure additional co-financing.</p> <p>FFI's technical expertise in inclusive conservation finance, gender and governance, private sector partnerships, and extensive experience of successfully managing Darwin Initiative funding, both in Uganda and Zanzibar (Tanzania) will be valuable.</p>
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	
Allocated budget:	
International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> International
Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you provided a cover letter?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Do you have partners involved in the project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: GreenFi Systems Ltd

Website address: <https://www.greenfi.io/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? GreenFi Systems is a social enterprise that provides the training and tools for NGOs and the private sector to extend financial inclusion to farming and fishing communities while helping them to build resilience to climate change. GreenFi has extensive experience in Africa (Kenya, Zanzibar (Tanzania), Uganda) and has won a variety of prizes including the United Nations Development Program & Morgan Stanley UFI Prize for Climate Change Finance Innovation, the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, a ClimateKIC award, a SwissRe ReSource prize and a Mastercard Zambezi Innovation Prize.

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): In this project, GreenFi will leverage its technical expertise in fin-tech development by leading on the development of innovative digital applications tracking biodiversity performance of ICF models (Output 3). In Zanzibar, GreenFi has already designed and tested an application that tracks the social performance of borrowed capital. Through this project, partnering with FFI and MCCC, the current mobile-based application will be innovated to start tracking biodiversity performance of the eco-credit and introduced to communities in Zanzibar and Uganda as well.

Allocated budget: ██████████

International/In-country Partner International

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

2. Partner Name: MCCC Ltd (renamed from Mwambao Coastal Community Network in 2020)

Website address: <https://mwambao.or.tz/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Based in Zanzibar since 2010, MCCC (Mwambao) has successfully established a network of coastal communities across Tanzania to share knowledge, and improve coastal resource management. A not-for-profit business registered in Zanzibar, MCCC (Mwambao) partnered with Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)-Smartfish and FFI in 2014, leading on the ground implementation of a pilot co-management project in PECCA MCA in Pemba: a building block of this initiative. During this period Mwambao successfully supported two communities to establish reef closures for octopus, which helped forge strong relationships with the pilot and neighbouring communities, as well as the Department of Fisheries Development (DFD).

MCCC with expertise in community engagement for marine resource management and extensive understanding of the local context, with a predominantly Zanzibari team. MCCC has already partnered with FFI and GreenFi in piloting the ICF model and is keen to ensure biodiversity impacts.

Allocated budget:

██████████

International/In-country Partner

In-country

Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?

Yes

If no, please provide details

No Response

3. Partner Name: Private Forest Owner Associations (PFOA)

Website address: n/a

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Private Forest Owners Associations are registered as community-based organisations under local district by-laws and have each been issued a Certificate of Registration under the Local Government Act (1997). PFOAs have emerged and proven to be viable community-based organisations in environmental stewardship. The two PFOAs that will collaborate on, and benefit from, this work are registered in Hoima and Masindi District Councils, namely Kidoma-Bulimya, and Kasenene, each having an average of 200 members at present. FFI has been working with these PFOAs since 2014 to improve forest conservation and to encourage community-supported chimpanzee conservation.

The current ICF pilots are nested within PFOAs, operating as its enterprise arm providing incentive for community members to engage in conservation. During the project, the management capacity of PFOA will be significantly developed, with leaders and their members receiving training to use the new digital application. PFOA role will be to oversee ICF operations, monitoring of the use of borrowed capital ensuring they are invested in biodiversity-friendly enterprises.

Allocated budget: 0

International/In-country Partner In-country

Represented on the Project Board No

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

If no, please provide details *No Response*

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):

Allocated budget: 0

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

If no, please provide details *No Response*

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):

Allocated budget: 0

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

If no, please provide details *No Response*

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Allocated budget: 0

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

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

If no, please provide details *No Response*

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

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.



Section 16 - Lead Partner Track Record

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

Please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples) and go to Q10.

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
28-002	Sara Calcada	Pioneering sustainable grazing for plants and livelihoods in Cape Verde
28-014	Ngwe Lwin	Gibbon Conservation through Coffee-based Agroforestry in Myanmar
28-020	Josh Kempinski	Safeguarding globally important forests by improving livelihoods and governance
28-027	Pablo Sinovas	Collaborative Protected Area Management & Sustainable Livelihoods in Virachey NP
27-010	Alison Gunn	Community-led stewardship and conservation of the Ometepe Island Biosphere Reserve
27-017	Cath Lawson	Community-led approaches to reforestation benefitting chimpanzees and livelihoods in Uganda

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Fauna & Flora International

I apply for a grant of

£199,717.00

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

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

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

Checked

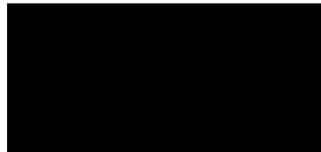
Name

Paul Hotham

Position in the organisation

Acting Senior Conservation Director, Regional Programmes

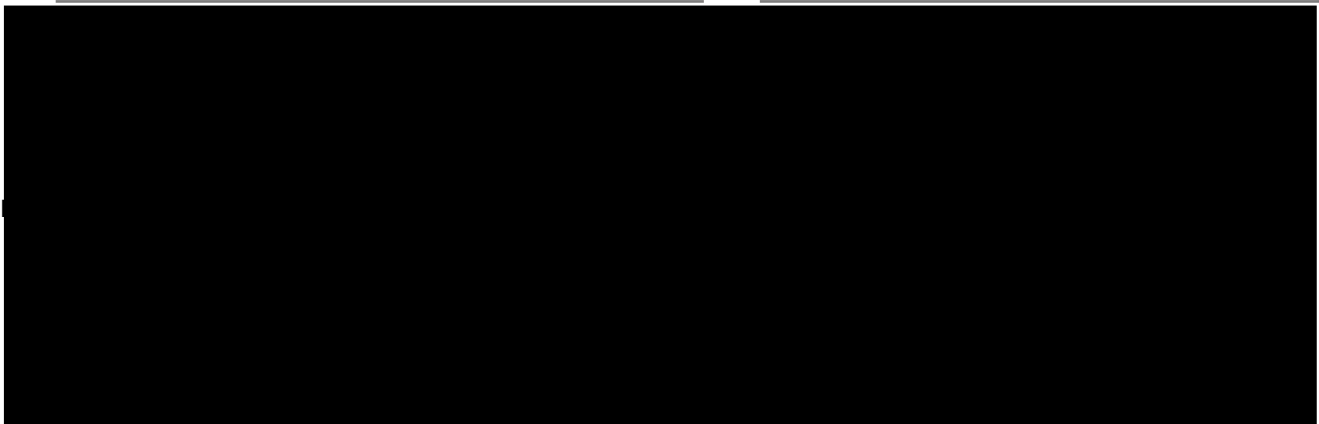
Signature (please upload e-signature)



Date

06 December 2021

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.



Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

I have read the Guidance, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants", "Supplementary Guidance for Darwin Initiative Innovation", "Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Theory of Change Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application:	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my 1 page Theory of Change as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my budget (which meets the requirements above) 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not. 	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates. Checked

I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website. Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). 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 organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and 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 General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Project Title: **Scaling evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance models in Uganda and Tanzania**

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Innovative economic instruments for biodiversity conservation are strengthening community-based natural resource governance, enhancing ecosystem productivity and services, and boosting household economy and well-being, reducing poverty at the grassroots. (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words)</p> <p>Scalable, evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance (ICF) models reduce poverty and generate direct economic incentives for ≥ 500 community members to engage in conservation actions in 2,000 hectares of forest/coastal areas.</p>	<p>0.1 By End of Project (EoP), target ICF models achieve scalability index score of “moderate” or higher on the VUNA Scalability Assessment Frameworks¹, indicating enhanced potential for scalability with minimum investment (2021 baseline = “low”).</p> <p>(¹ Anandajayasekeram, Ponniah. 2016. Scaling Up and Scalability: Concepts, Frameworks and Assessment. Vuna Research Report. Pretoria: Vuna.)</p> <p>0.2 By EoP, ≥ 200 community members (at least 45% women) use loans to pursue biodiversity-friendly enterprises (2021 gender baseline: women: 30% Uganda, 40% Zanzibar).</p> <p>0.3 By EoP, barriers to access affordable credits lifted for ≥ 500 community members (at least 45% women) enabling sustainable livelihood opportunities (2021 gender baseline = women: 30% Uganda, 40% Zanzibar).</p> <p>0.4 By EoP, community-led conservation activities, incentivised by eco-credit loans, are occurring in $\geq 2,000$ hectares of forest/coastal habitat.</p>	<p>0.1 Scalability Assessment reports.</p> <p>0.2 loan records of ICF groups.</p> <p>0.3 Loan records of ICF groups; community focus group discussions.</p> <p>0.4 ICF group member feedback survey.</p> <p>0.5 community patrol records; spatial data on reforestation activities; documented conservation commitments</p>	<p>CBNRM leadership and ICF group leaders continue to remain interested in ICF models and scale up.</p> <p>Wider socio-political and national policies remain supportive for the model to scale up.</p> <p>Members of ICF group continue to repay loan and groups function transparently and equitably.</p> <p>Economic incentive generated by ICF model continue to remain as a motivation for community to engage in conservation.</p> <p>Members of ICF groups abide by conservation commitments.</p> <p>Socio-political environment permits holding community meetings; and the Covid-19 pandemic does not restrict face-to-face meetings.</p>

Project Title: **Scaling evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance models in Uganda and Tanzania**

<p>Outputs: 1. Governance and equity of at least 20 ICF groups and at least 4 CBNRM institutions in Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Uganda is improved before scale up.</p>	<p>1.1 By EoP, women and youth make up >60% of ICF group / CBNRM institution membership (2021 baseline = Women: 30% Uganda, 40% Zanzibar; Youth: baseline to be established in Y 1)</p> <p>1.2 By EOP, 15% increase in ICF group members attending CBNRM institution meetings and reporting being able to influence decision-making, against Y1 baseline</p> <p>1.3 By EOP, 70% of men and 70% of women in each of the ICF groups / CBNRM institutions perceive an improvement in the governance practices of the PFOAs (Uganda) and SFC (Zanzibar)</p>	<p>1.1 ICF membership survey reports.</p> <p>1.2 Membership records.</p> <p>1.3 Participatory Impact Assessment report.</p> <p>1.4 Meeting notes and attendance records</p>	<p>Governing bodies and members of the CBNRM institutions remain receptive to required organisational reforms to enhance equity and good governance.</p>
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<p>2. ICF group members' conservation commitments to deliver biodiversity impact and linkages with local CBNRM institutions are formally agreed through a participatory process</p>	<p>1.1 By end of Q2 Y2, mutually-agreed, clear and updated conservation commitments are in place in all the ICF groups supported by the project.</p> <p>1.2 By EoP, at least 70% of ICF group members engaged in conservation action (2021 baseline to be established in Y1)</p> <p>1.3 By EoP, partnership agreements between CBNRM institution and ICF groups, including appropriate governance system in place in at least 20 ICF and at least 4 CBNRM institutions targeted by the project.</p>	<p>2.1 Records of revised conservation commitments co-developed with community consultation.</p> <p>2.2 Conservation activity records of CBNRM</p> <p>2.3 Partnership agreements</p>	<p>Community continues to remain interested in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>There is interest in both the CBNRM institution and ICF in strengthening the partnership.</p>
<p>3. Innovative digital record keeping tools adopted by at least 20 ICF groups and at least 4 CBNRM institutions in Uganda and Zanzibar (Tanzania) to accurately and transparently manage eco-credit processes and monitor/report on participation in conservation action.</p>	<p>3.1 By EoP, mobile phone app refined through field test and ready for roll-out (2021 baseline = app is functional but not tailored to project context)</p> <p>3.2 By EoP, monitoring systems for eco-compliance are created and operational, embedded in the digital tool</p> <p>3.3 By EoP, $\geq 60\%$ of ICF and CBNRM groups are using digital record keeping tools (2021 baseline = 0)</p>	<p>3.1 Updated version of mobile app.</p> <p>3.2 Monitoring systems</p> <p>3.3 Records delivered by digital record-keeping tools.</p> <p>3.4 Community focal group discussions; user satisfaction surveys</p>	<p>CBNRM and ICF leaderships remain open to change and are interested in adopting digital record keeping tools.</p>

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	<p>3.4 By EoP, >60% of ICF and CBNRM group leaders report improved management of loan operations</p> <p>3.5 By EOP, >60% of group members (disaggregated by gender, age) are able to understand digital records</p>	<p>3.5 Community focal group discussions; user satisfaction surveys</p>	
<p>4. Market system approach adopted, and systemic barriers identified and addressed reducing the current high dependency on grant funding for the ICF model to scale up</p>	<p>4.1 By EoP, at least 25% reduction in cost (financial) of setting up new ICF groups using the community-based trainer approach (2021 baseline to be established in year1)</p> <p>4.2 By EOP, partnership with at ≥ 5 actors in the private sector and/or financial service ecosystem mapped, and ≥ 2 private actors showing interest in collaboration (2021 baseline = 0)</p>	<p>4.1 Cost analysis</p> <p>4.2 Report of financial ecosystem mapping; Private sector meeting reports.</p>	<p>Interest and capacity in target communities to join the “Training of trainers” sessions.</p> <p>ICF groups are happy to be trained by a community member instead of FFI or partners.</p> <p>There is interest by private sector and financial intermediaries in inclusive conservation finance.</p> <p>Current National Financial Inclusion policies provide an enabling condition for ICF-financial intermediary partnerships.</p>
<p>5. Potential for ICF model to contribute to biodiversity and social impacts is widely communicated, and scale-up strategy designed</p>	<p>5.1 By EOP, 1 academic paper submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal</p> <p>5.2 By EOP, project findings presented at ≥ 1 global conference.</p> <p>5.3 By EOP, future scale up and investment plan for ICF designed for the Uganda and Zanzibar (Tanzania) landscapes</p>	<p>5.1 Journal confirmation</p> <p>5.2 Conference announcement, presentation slides.</p> <p>5.3 Scale-up strategy document</p>	<p>Community willingness to share their experience of the project.</p>

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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1:

Activities:

- 1.1 Governance assessments of the current ICF pilots, including gender and age dimensions.
- 1.2 Identifying governance gaps in the ICF community groups, including the participation of women.
- 1.3 Trainings to address the gaps identified.
- 1.4 Monitoring the functioning of management committees
- 1.5 Monitoring the functioning of ICF groups

Output 2:

Activities:

- 2.1 Community consultations to develop monitoring and audit mechanisms to ensure capital borrowed is invested in biodiversity-friendly enterprises.
- 2.2 Focus group discussions and interviews to understand key drivers to switch from unsustainable resource use to sustainable use.
- 2.3 Community consultations to clarify relationship between ICF groups and CBNRM institutions and their role in monitoring compliance activities.
- 2.4 Awareness raising strategy for sustainable use of biodiversity designed and implemented.

Output 3:

Activities:

- 3.1 Community consultation to enhance functionalities of the current Greenfi app, in particular, innovative feature for biodiversity monitoring.
- 3.2 Designing tool, monitor and report on ecological compliance.
- 3.3 Trainings for using the mobile application both at trainer level but also at ICF group member level.
- 3.4 Testing this new mobile based application and dashboard with Mkuba groups in Zanzibar and introducing and testing into VSLA groups in Uganda.
- 3.5 Designing of an "equitable technology" protocol, to reduce risks to project inequity associated with introduction of new tools and technologies.

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3.6 Community meetings to raise awareness and financial literacy training on the new application.

Output 4:

Activities:

- 4.1 Mapping of the current financial service ecosystem using market system approach in Uganda and Tanzania.
- 4.2 Exploring appropriate partnership with actors in the ecosystem to facilitate the scale up with less dependence on grant funding.
- 4.3 Design training module for “Training of trainers”
- 4.4 Training at least 3 community members per village to set up ICF groups (Community-based trainers' approach)
- 4.5 Carry out a stakeholder workshop for identified actors in Zanzibar (Tanzania)

Output 5:

Activities:

- 5.1 Project evaluation and analysis of data generated to interrogate the biodiversity impact of ICF and its scalability.
- 5.2 Developing academic paper based on the project learning
- 5.3 Sharing lesson learnt globally at Global Landscape conferences.
- 5.4 Consultation with project partners to design a future scale up and financing strategy.