

DIR30IN\1068

Community cricket farming for conservation.

Lack of economic opportunity amongst the rural poor remains the main driver of biodiversity loss at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS), Cambodia. The project will test the feasibility and scalability of household cricket farming as a novel approach to reduce monetary poverty and promote education, thereby reducing biodiversity loss. The project will establish 50 household commercial cricket farms in villages surrounding SPWS, and participating households will sign conservation contracts committing to not logging, hunting, and encroaching in SPWS.

DIR30IN\1068

Community cricket farming for conservation.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	James
Surname	Lyon
Organisation	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
Website (Work)	www.risingphoenix.ltd
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OTHER DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Jonathan
Surname	Eames
Organisation	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
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GMS ORGANISATION


Type	Community interest company (CIC)
Name	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
Phone (Work)	+ [REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]


Section 2 - Project Summary, Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats


Q3. Title


Community cricket farming for conservation.

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 Cover letter Rising Phoenix](#)

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

No

Q5. 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

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 2

Palustrine wetlands

Biome 3

Tropical-subtropical forests

Conservation Action 1

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Conservation Action 2Species Management

Conservation Action 3Land / Water Management

Threat 1Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 2Human intrusions & disturbance (recreation, war)

Threat 3Climate change & severe weather

Q6. Summary of project

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

Lack of economic opportunity amongst the rural poor remains the main driver of biodiversity loss at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS), Cambodia. The project will test the feasibility and scalability of household cricket farming as a novel approach to reduce monetary poverty and promote education, thereby reducing biodiversity loss. The project will establish 50 household commercial cricket farms in villages surrounding SPWS, and participating households will sign conservation contracts committing to not logging, hunting, and encroaching in SPWS.

Section 3 - Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

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

Country 1 Cambodia

Country 2 No Response

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:
01 April 2024

End date:
31 March 2026

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

Q9. Budget Summary

Darwin Funding Request	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
(Apr - Mar) £	£140,855.00	£58,950.00	199,805.00

Q10. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

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

Q11. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Unsecured match funding represents [REDACTED] of the total matched funding amount (£ [REDACTED] out of £ [REDACTED]). This unsecured matched funding is in the final 15 months of the project. We do not consider [REDACTED] a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding. In the unlikely event that we do not secure further donor funding to cover this.

Q12. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

Yes

Please give details:

Rising Phoenix currently holds two grants from U.K Government Funding, which support Rising Phoenix work at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.

DR30-021: Increasing climate resilience for communities and wildlife in Siem-Pang, Cambodia.
This project sets building community irrigation ponds and restoring natural wetlands will increase climate resilience, enhanced livelihoods for communities, and reduced hunting and disturbance pressures for globally threatened wildlife.

IWT119: Reduced illegal wildlife trade and strengthened rural communities
This project aims to reduce poverty and illegal wildlife poaching and trade through a scalable programme in sustainable livelihoods (IBIS rice), increased gender-neutral career opportunities and strengthened law enforcement.

Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of **biodiversity and its relationship with multi-dimensional poverty**.

For example, what are the causes of biodiversity loss, preventing conservation, and/or keeping people in multi-dimensional poverty that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify the need for your project? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document).

The poverty rate in Cambodia has decreased from 47.8% in 2007 to 18% percent in 2019-20. However, a significant portion of the population remains near poor and at high risk of falling back into poverty following a shock. Under nutrition amongst children remains an issue. Cambodia is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Limited access for the poor to education and health services and low levels of investment in public infrastructure further perpetuate food insecurity and undernutrition (WFP 2023). Stung Treng Province in which Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) is located, is one of the two poorest provinces (ADB 2014). The World Bank poverty assessment of 2022 identified the following characteristics of poverty in Cambodia:

1. Poverty is overwhelmingly rural
2. Poor households tend to have less educated heads of households or only a female head of households, with many children
3. Households are more likely to be poor if they main livelihood is agriculture.
4. Rural people are less likely to complete education.

These points realistically summarise the situation in communities in Siem Pang District which surround SPWS. From 2000 to 2020, Stung Treng province lost 28% of its forest cover (250,000 ha) and was the fifth highest province for tree loss (Global Forest Watch, 2021).

Two aspects of multidimensional poverty, monetary and education contribute to food insecurity and lead to households clearing forest, logging and hunting. Little forest remains outside SPWS. SPWS is a globally irreplaceable site supporting seven Critically Endangered bird mammal and reptile species (BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, 2012, Loveridge et al. 2018).

The establishment of a successful organic and wildlife friendly rice programme by Rising Phoenix is reducing the drivers of deforestation (logging encroachment and hunting) (Loveridge et al, 2018). A direct example of which is white-shouldered Ibis nest failure caused by tarantula spider collection (Eang et al, 2021). However, for continued and increased impact and to promote diversification, new alternative livelihood approaches need to be identified.

Commercial cricket farming will be piloted at two villages supplementing household cash income increasing food security in the event of reducing rice crop yields as predicted by climate change. Overall enhancing food security, reducing child malnutrition, increasing income, and climate resilience, for 250 rural people (50% female) living around SPWS. Each participating household will be eligible to send one child to English class, providing increased future employment options.

The five Critically Endangered bird species will also benefit, including the White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* which SPWS supports 50% of the global population. Nesting success of this species is threatened by tarantula spider collection from SPWS. Cricket farming will provide an alternative to this unsustainable practice. Continued species monitoring and the development of a white-shouldered ibis species action plan will further contribute to the conservation of this species at SPWS.

Already established district and village and stakeholder forums will permit knowledge and sharing of best

practice allowing for future scaling of cricket farming at up to 13 further villages around SPWS and ultimately elsewhere in Cambodia.

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. 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)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q14b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

This project will contribute to Cambodia's national policies relating to biodiversity conservation, fair use of natural resources and climate change mitigation, including the climate change action plan for disaster management and action for disaster risk reduction in agriculture. It will support all four of Cambodia's strategic NBSAP objectives, and 10 themes as follows; Contribute to conservation within Protected Areas (Theme 1); increase knowledge and conservation action for threatened species (Theme 2), Increase adaptation and mitigation strategies protecting biodiversity and agriculture from climate change impacts (Theme 8) ensure more sustainable wildlife resource and agriculture management (Themes 12 & 13), Improve access and benefit sharing, resource mobilisation, community participation, awareness and research co-ordination, and improve quality of life and poverty alleviation (Themes 15,18,19,20 & 22).

The INDC recognises 'that efforts in addressing climate change in Cambodia cannot be separated from economic development and poverty alleviation, such as promoting and improving the adaptive capacity of community, through community-based adaptation actions and restoring the natural ecology system to respond to climate change'. The establishment of climate resilient cricket farming will allow poverty alleviation, while allowing farmers to increase their climate resilience.

This project will help meet Cambodia's international biodiversity and development commitments. Cambodia is a signatory to the CBD and this project supports all seven of the work themes contained in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework. The project will support all five Aichi Strategic Goals and help Cambodia meet Targets 1, 5, 7,11,12,19 and Target 20, and will contribute to 9 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Section 5 - Method, Innovation, Capability & Capacity

Q15. Methodology

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

- how you have reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.

- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- what the **main activities** will be and where these will take place.
- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Based on a 20-year collective experience working at SPWS, our methods are science based, innovative, utilizing adaptive management approaches. We have built strong relationships with local communities based on mutual respect and inclusiveness.

Established and led by a Cambodian woman, Agri House has developed an end-to-end value chain for quality crickets. They have designed and engineered a semi-automatic cricket farm which is climate resilient and targeted at poor marginalised farmers. To date they have established 50 household farms, which includes a pilot at Rising Phoenix office in Siem Pang. The project seeks to determine if cricket farming for conservation is feasible and scalable for remote rural communities surrounding a protected area.

Participating households will sign a conservation contract under which they commit to not hunt, log or encroach within SPWS. Compliant members will have access to market and obtain discounted feed for their crickets. This mechanism has been proven to reduce the drivers or biodiversity loss under the IBIS Rice programme (Clements et al, 2022).

Siem Pang District is the largest produce of IBIS rice in Cambodia, and Rising Phoenix in collaboration with Sansom Mlup Prey have recruited over 1,000 household members. Rising Phoenix has established the protocols and systems to ensure contract compliance, which will significantly reduce costs under this new project.

Project activities have been developed in consultation with key stakeholders since July 2023. Full details of the project including safeguarding policies, will be shared with stakeholders at the inception meeting.

Output 1: A feasibility study will be completed testing if cricket farming presents a viable and scalable alternative livelihood with conservation gains. The feasibility study will investigate accreditation, branding, organic feed development and include a business plan. Buyers of cricket protein powder have already been identified in Japan, which can ensure a premium price for household producers.

Output 2: 50 cricket breeding units will be established in two villages providing additional income for 250 rural people (50% female). Selected households will sign a conservation contracts with Rising Phoenix and a sales agreement with Agri House. Training and mentoring will be provided throughout the project. Compliant households will sell their product to Agri House and be eligible to purchase discounted feed.

Output 3: The drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) will be reduced compared to the project baseline. The conservation contracts will be monitored using established procedures and long-term biodiversity indicators. An assessment of tarantula harvesting within SPWS will be completed, and a pilot of tarantula farming will be established by Angkor Wildlife Aquarium, and a case study will be published.

The project management and technical and financial reporting will be the responsibility of Rising Phoenix with input from key stakeholders.

A full risk assessment has been undertaken and risk register drafted and is available on request and a copies of three Rising Phoenix policies are attached.

A M&E framework with appropriate baselines will be established at the project start, and used with the project log frame, for adaptive management and to inform reporting and evaluation.

Q16. Innovation

Please specifically outline how your approach or project is innovative.

Is it the application of a proven approach in a distinctly different geography/issue/stakeholder (novel to the area), or in a different sector (novel to the sector), or an unproven approach in any sector (novel to the world)?

The potential of cricket farming as a sustainable solution to meet the protein requirements of the growing human population has been established, through high feed conversion ratios and the emittance of low levels of greenhouse gases in their farming (Arnold Van Huis, 2013, FAO, 2013).

Insect consumption has been a regular part of peoples' diet in South-East Asia for generations, and commercial cricket farming has emerged in the last 30 years (Reverberi, 2020). Thailand is the South-East Asia leading producer, although Cambodia produces crickets for direct consumption or for informal export to Thailand. The cricket market has changed in recent years with emerging increased demand from American, European and Japanese markets for cricket flour used in processed foods and supplements (Reverberi, 2020).

The project approach is novel in this sector and as an approach to reducing the drivers of biodiversity loss. This project seeks to explore whether rural household cricket farming can be a driver of conservation at a globally irreplaceable protected area, utilizing the conservation contract (an already established mechanism) as an incentive.

The geography is also novel. The project site is remote, 550 km from the processing plant in Phnom Penh. This will require innovation in off-site cricket storage and transportation.

Q17. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting any Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

2 Staff at Rising Phoenix and 2 staff at Agri House will develop skills in feasibility study and business plan development.

At least 100 rural people (50% female) will gain the capacity in the new transferable skill of commercial cricket farming and increased financial literacy for a novel income generating activity that will promote food security and help reduce household vulnerability to climate change by providing a cash income.

50 households (250 rural people, 50% female) will gain a greater understanding of the protected areas laws of Cambodia as they relate to Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and through behavioural change as a result of signing conservation contracts enjoy the livelihood benefits.

Four Rising Phoenix staff (50% female) will acquire the transferable skills as trainers in cricket farming, permitting mentoring of participating rural people, ensuring farms and finances are effectively managed. These trainers will become trainers of trainers in the subsequent implementation phase.

One member of staff at Angkor Wildlife Aquarium will develop capacity in tarantula farming, skills which can be later transferred to households with an economic benefit.


Up to 50 children (50% female) from participating households will receive free English language training,


increasing literacy and future employment opportunities in tourism as ecotourism is developed at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.


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

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 Additional supporting evidenc](#)

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

Q18. Gender equality and social inclusion

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

Rising Phoenix Co Ltd is a gender neutral meritocracy that recognizes within rural Cambodia that gender roles are traditionally assigned. Rising Phoenix has adjusted these traditional roles without applying stigma by ensuring males and females train together and promoting staff on the basis of ability. This project will enable us to promote our core values to give opportunity to aspiring village women and empower them.

In Siem Pang district men are more likely to be migrant laborers, spending more time away from the homestead than women. In general, men are also more likely to gamble and drink than women, using scarce household cash and risking family food security. Typically, women hold a greater responsibility of care for children and manage household finances. Although project participation will be open to all, given prevailing social norms in order to maximise economic benefits at the household level, the contract holders will be female. This will maximise the funds available for delivering household food security and the chances of success for each participating household. Increased household income and food security will result in equitable benefits all members of the household.

There is also a risk of exclusion due to language since Siem Pang is a majority Lao speaking district and some villagers speak only Lao, although the majority speak Khmer, whilst others are bilingual. To prevent exclusion on the basis of language the project will use bilingual staff.

Possible exclusion because of financial illiteracy will be overcome by providing target training to participating contract holders. The project will recruit two female staff to provide mentoring to female contract holders and all project participants. This will demonstrate that women can hold professional jobs in the community and act as role models.

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction, and links between them, that this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who exactly will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the lifetime 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.

Short-term

The feasibility study will establish the viability of household cricket farming as a novel and replicable income generating enterprise, scalable across the district and at other key biodiversity areas in Cambodia delivering reduced levels of multi-dimensional poverty and increased conservation.

The creation of 50 cricket farms will provide a new source of income for 50 households (250 rural people) at two villages in Siem Pang District. Cricket farming will provide a regular income source (one cycle takes approximately 40 days) as compared to rice farming which has one harvest per year.

A 100 rural people, two from each household (50% female) will learn a new transferable skills in cricket farming and increased financial literacy for an novel income generating activity that will promote food security and help reduce household vulnerability to climate change because cash income can be used to purchase food in the event of a poor rice harvest.

Up to 50 children (50% female) from participating households will receive free English language training, increasing literacy and future employment opportunities.

A reduction in the drivers of biodiversity loss at SPWS (hunting, logging, land encroachment) will be achieved in the short term through the signing of 50 new household conservation contracts. Compliance to these contracts will be monitored by a dedicated team of Rising Phoenix staff and enforcement rangers. Changes in forest cover will be monitored via an annual forest cover change report. Households abiding by their conservation contracts will gain access to the market via Agri House who guarantee to purchase the cricket harvest and provide discounted cricket feed. Households that violate the conservation contract will not be able to sell their cricket crop for a premium price and will be denied market access.

By targeting households in villages known to collect tarantula spiders, we expect a reduction in the level spider collection and an increase in nesting success of the Critically Endangered white-shouldered ibis.

Long term

With its economic viability established, the opportunity to participate in cricket farming will finance permitting be extended within two years to the 16 villages in Siem Pang district where Rising Phoenix currently work with 1,000 households to deliver organic and wildlife friendly rice farming. This would deliver greater food security, reduced vulnerability to climate change to 5,000 rural people. Demonstrating scalability and impact.

Within five years the scheme could be extended to five other key biodiversity areas, again delivering scalability and impact.

With the further expansion of cricket farming there will be increased reduction in levels of encroachment, logging and hunting and we can expect further recovery in populations of five Critically Endangered species at SPWS. This comprises the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis and White-shouldered Ibis, White-rumped, Slender-billed and Red-headed vultures for which SPWS supports globally important populations and in the case of the three vulture species is their last stronghold in Cambodia. Whilst deforestation rates are expected to remain below 2% per annum.

Similar impacts could be achieved at other Key Biodiversity Areas in Cambodia.

Q20. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. 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, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

The feasibility study will demonstrate the economic viability of household cricket farming as a scalable livelihood, that reduces multidimensional poverty and the drivers of biodiversity loss (Output 1).

Households will be selected on the basis of likelihood of success, proximity to and impact on Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) and its biodiversity.

Selected households will sign a conservation contract with Rising Phoenix committing to cease logging, further land encroachment and hunting in SPWS. In return, householders will receive training in cricket farming, and a cricket breeding unit will be established at their home.

Compliance with the conservation contract, guarantees the household market access. Households sell their cricket crop at a premium and receive cricket feed at a discounted price. This will allow the participants to increase household income, contributing to food security, via acquiring a new transferable skill-set (Output 2).

Most households will abide by their conservation contracts because the economic rewards of participating in the scheme are greater than the consequences of breaking the agreement and being prosecuted. This behavior change will reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss in SPWS (Output 3).

The approach can be brought to scale within the district and at other key biodiversity areas.

Q21. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q21a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

By the end of the project 40 households will be selling their cricket crop to Agri House as viable independent producers. As these skills are transferable we expect interest in the project to spread by word of mouth laying the foundation for recruiting additional producers for expansion of the scheme. We will seek a Darwin Initiative main grant to scale activities at 16 villages in the district. Beyond that we will seek partners to expand the project at other key biodiversity areas.

Rising Phoenix has made a 30-year commitment to investing at the site. Rising Phoenix monitors conservation contract compliance for 1,000 households under the IBIS Rice scheme. The staff institutional knowledge will facilitate further expansion of cricket farming beyond the term of the Darwin Innovation grant. Project outputs will be shared on the Rising Phoenix website.

Q21b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

With its economic viability established, the opportunity to participate in cricket farming will, finance permitting, be extended within two years to the 16 villages in Siem Pang district where Rising Phoenix currently work with

1,000 households to deliver organic and wildlife friendly rice farming. This would deliver greater food security, reduced vulnerability to climate change to 5,000 rural people. Demonstrating scalability and impact.

Beyond Siem Pang district cricket farming could be expanded to and replicated at other key biodiversity areas including the six sites in six provinces where IBIS Rice is produced.

Constraints on expansion include raising capital for investment, limited processing capacity, value added by certification as wildlife friendly or organic, and the development of products utilising cricket powder and markets for them.

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q22. Risk Management

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (financial)					
Due to present high levels of corruption in the Cambodian government there is a risk funds shared to project stakeholders who are government agencies may not be used for their intended purpose which would result in activities not properly being implemented.	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	To reduce this threat, Rising Phoenix will control project expenditure linked to government stakeholders and pay costs directly in line with Rising Phoenix internal financial policies and meeting the terms and conditions of the grant.	Minor
Safeguarding					
As the project will be purchasing two motorbikes for use of project staff there is a risk a motorbike accident may occur which could result in injury or loss of life.	Minor	Possible	Moderate	To reduce the threat, Rising Phoenix provides all staff safety helmets and uniform which includes boots. Rising Phoenix has policies against drink driving, and has inhouse bike maintenance which ensure all motorbikes are in good working condition.	Moderate

Delivery Chain	As funds will be sent in GBP and project expenditure is in USD there is a risk that fluctuating exchange rates due to geopolitical crisis may reduce the exchange rate resulting in reduction of available budget to achieve project outcome.	Moderate	Possible	Major	In the development of the budget, a small contingency has been added in the development of the costing of each budget item to reduce the impact of a fluctuating exchange rate. The threat is accepted and will be continued to be monitored at the different payment's stages of the grant.	Major
Risk 4	As cricket farming is a novel livelihood activity in Siem Pang district there is a risk the project may find it difficult to find interested community members to participate in the intervention, preventing the piloting of cricket farming for conservation	Major	Possible	Major	To reduce this threat, a pilot cricket farm has been established at RP Siem Pang Office. This farm has been announced at the stakeholder forum, and local community members have visited the farm, with a positive response. Being able to show potential members an operational farm will reduce this risk.	Major
Risk 5	A severe El Nino event has been forecasted for 2024, resulting drought could impact the breeding success of key focal species.	Minor	Likely	Major	This threat is accepted. No mitigation actions will be taken, and the risk of threat occurring will be monitored, and if change to the project is required a change request will be made.	Moderate
Risk 6	If the feasibility study shows cricket farming for conservation is not feasible, then the intervention will not be scaled and this means the established cricket farms in the project would not have further support after the project.	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	Agri House has committed to continued buy back from compliant farmers established as part of the project, after the project has ended and in the eventuality that the concept is not feasible for scaling.	Minor

Q23. Project sensitivities


Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.). Please note your response to this question won't influence the outcome of your application.

Section 8 - Workplan


Q24. Workplan

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

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 Workplan](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. 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 Finance Guidance).

The project will be monitored, evaluated, managed and adapted (where necessary), using a comprehensive M&E framework based on the project logframe, implementation table and project budget which will be detailed in full at the start of the project and shared with stakeholders and project partners at the Project Inception meeting to ensure that all parties are clear on the M&E plan, responsibilities for data collection and collation, and that any required changes to the M&E plan made early on.

Project monitoring will be used to inform project management and highlight if the project is on track to deliver project outputs and the project outcome (and flag if changes to activities need to be made to ensure delivery).

For community related outputs, means of verification will be disaggregated by gender to provide a fuller picture of participants and beneficiaries over the project's lifetime. In addition, pre and post training assessments will be undertaken to capture learning outcomes.

An internal review will be made ahead of the submission of financial and technical annual reports to Darwin and a mid term evaluation with all stakeholders will take place at the end of year 1 to review progress to date and make informed changes as required.

Staff members have been allocated M & E roles based on their roles within the proposed project.

M&E coordination and review:

James Lyon leads on M&E coordination and review: 10 days p.a. (20 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Sopheap Mak leads on ensuring the M&E framework is updated each month: 24 days p.a. (48 days total)

£ [REDACTED]

Output 1: Feasibility study

Lundy Chou from Agri house staff leads on the monitoring of the progress of the feasibility study: 12 days p.a. (24 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Output 2: Cricket farm establishment and operation

Kanharadalin Hourn from Agri House leads on monitoring sales agreements and purchase records: 21 days p.a. (42 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Sopheap Mak is responsible for the review of the Community Development Unit (CDU) monthly reports, Cricket farming training reports and half-year and annual cricket farming reports: 18 days p.a. (36 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Tola Lam is responsible for the production of the cricket farming training reports and half-year and annual cricket farming reports: 60 days p.a. (120 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Output 3: Reduction in drivers of biodiversity loss.

Tukla Mang is responsible for the production of the forest cover change reports and monthly law enforcement reports: 34 days p.a. (68 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Bunleng Hai is responsible for the monthly compliance reports – 36 days p.a. (72 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Samnang Eang is responsible for the biodiversity reports – 36 days p.a. (72 days total) £ [REDACTED]

Romain Legrand and Mark Dainty would lead on tarantula harvest and farming pilot related report and publications – 10 days p.a. (20 days total) each, Romain £ [REDACTED] and Mark £ [REDACTED]

Total days: 542

Total cost: £ [REDACTED]

Total project budget for M&E (£)

£ [REDACTED]

(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)

Total project budget for M&E (%)

[REDACTED]

(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)

Number of days planned for M&E

542

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q26. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their 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.

[DIR30IN Ref1068 Single Stage Logical Framework and ToC](#)

k and ToC

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Impact:

Sustainable cricket farming is scaled across key biodiversity areas of Cambodia, reducing multidimensional poverty of rural communities, and achieving biodiversity conservation.

Outcome:

Sustainable cricket farming as a novel approach for reducing multi-dimensional poverty is established, increasing household income for 250 rural people and reducing biodiversity loss, within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.

Output 2:

50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 250 rural people (50% female).

Output 3:

Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

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.

Project inception activities:

- 0.1 Project staffing, contractual arrangements, equipment and logistics required put in place
- 0.2 Project M & E and reporting and communications framework established and agreed with key stakeholders
- 0.3 Project inception workshop with project Partners and key stakeholders

Output 1. Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.

- 1.1. Investigate different accreditation bodies and requirements
- 1.2. Investigate appropriate conservation branding for product
- 1.3. Investigate organic cricket feed production and scaling
- 1.4. Complete financial modelling and business plan
- 1.5. Produce feasibility study for cricket farming
- 1.6. Get feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by a third party

Output 2: 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 50 households.

- 2.1. Announcements made in two target villages looking for households to participate in cricket farming
- 2.2. Selection process implemented and 50 households selected in two target villages for cricket farm establishment.
- 2.3. Selected households sign conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and sales agreement with Agri House.
- 2.4. Training is implemented for the trainers (Rising Phoenix staff) to allow them to provide support to participating households.
- 2.5. Training participating households in cricket farming and financial literacy
- 2.6. Cricket farms establishing at participating households.
- 2.7. 50 children from participating households are enrolled in English language training, provided by Siem Pang Conservation.
- 2.8. Continued mentoring support to participating households
- 2.9. Buy back of crickets from compliant farmers and provision of cricket feed.


Output 3: Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.


- 3.1. Update household information on compliance database for households who have signed the conservation agreements.
- 3.2. Regular law enforcement patrols in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary
- 3.3. Regular biodiversity monitoring patrols, vulture restaurants, nest, and roost monitoring for key species.
- 3.4. Monthly cross checking of law enforcement data against compliance database
- 3.5. Annual forest cover change study completed and report produced
- 3.6. Tarantula harvesting survey implemented, data analyses and short communication submitted.
- 3.7. Tarantula breeding pilot is established
- 3.8. Case study of tarantula breeding pilot is prepared and published.


Section 11 - Budget and Funding


Q27. 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.

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 Budget over 100K](#)

 20/10/2023

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 xlsx 101.83 KB

Q28. Alignment with other funding and activities

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

Q28a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

- Development of existing/past activities

Please give details.

This project represents a novel approach to multidimensional poverty and reducing the drivers of biodiversity loss at SPWS.

Rising Phoenix has a 30-year commitment to securing SPWS as a viable protected area that supports sustainable economic development. Under this wider project, Rising Phoenix has an established Community Development Unit that together with Sansom Mlup Prey administers the largest IBIS Rice scheme in Cambodia, enabling over 1,000 households to produce a wildlife friendly and organic rice for which participating households receive premium payment. This work has been funded by a wide range of donors since its inception, including the Darwin Initiative via BirdLife International to Rising Phoenix. Since 2022 the USAID Morodok Baitong project has supported this work.

Rising Phoenix utilised funds from Cartier philanthropy to establish a pilot cricket farm at our office in Siem Pang. Since its establishment in 2020, Agri House has received funding from impact investors and the World Food Programme to support the design and engineering of their cricket production system, as well as their capacity in the processing the crickets into added value snack and protein powder.

Q28b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

Yes

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

Agri house are working with Samaritan's Purse and HURREDO to establish household cricket farms in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap province. These Agri House partners are solely focussing on the livelihood, gender inclusive and climate resilience of cricket farming as a development tool, rather that a tool to apply leverage for the conservation of protected areas and to reduce biodiversity loss.

Agri House has recently been awarded funding from the USAID Harvest III project. This funding will increase their cricket processing capability, the development of organic feed and develop export customers. This funding will provide Agri House better capacity to process the crickets produced by the farmers in Siem Pang district.

Q29. Value for Money

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

This project represents value for money, bringing direct benefits of improved food security and nutrition, and climate resilience to over 250 rural people (50% women) whilst enhancing the conservation of five critically endangered species and critical habitat at SPWS. It will test a novel approach utilising cricket farming to reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss, which holds potential for national scaling.

One hundred rural people, two from each household (50% female) will learn a new transferable skill and increased financial literacy skills for an novel income generating activity and help reduce household vulnerability to climate change because cash income can be used to purchase food in the event of a poor rice harvest. Up to 50 children (50% female) from participating households will receive free English language training, increasing literacy and future employment opportunities.

100% of the grant will be spent in Cambodia. Most project staff are Cambodians, maximising the in-country financial and capacity building benefits.

Rising Phoenix has an established project at SPWS, working with communities for many years and has the trained staff and systems to monitor conservation contract compliance. This avoids expensive start-up costs and ensures the majority of this grant will be used directly on project activities, within the project timeframe and budget.

By providing [REDACTED] co-funding, combined with the facilities and staffing already in place at SPWS, this proposal offers the opportunity to deliver significant gains in addressing poverty of rural people and improving biodiversity conservation outcomes, while testing a novel approach for conservation.

Q30. 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.

We propose to purchase and register two Honda Wave motorbikes (or similar) and two laptops for the use by the two new Rising Phoenix staff to be recruited under this project. At the end of the project the motorbikes will continue to be used to support Rising Phoenix work in Siem Pang district.

Two chest freezers will be purchased by Agri house to support the storage of crickets prior to their transport to Phnom Penh. These freezers will continued to be used by Agri House to support the participating farmers after the project has finished.

Capital items represent 3% of the total requested funds from Darwin.

Construction material for the cricket farms have been placed under "other cost", as these materials will be used to construct the cricket farms at the participating members household. They will be under the ownership of the participating households once established.

Section 12 - Outputs, Open Access, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q31. Safeguarding

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

Please upload the following required policies:

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

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

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

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

The Rising Phoenix safeguarding policy, Grievance, Discipline and "Whistle-blowing," and code of conduct will be shared with all stakeholders and implementing partners during the project inception workshop where it will be highlighted that our partners need to apply the same standards.

The project inception meeting will be held during a quarterly stakeholder forum, which is part of the Rising Phoenix governance mechanism at SPWS. The meeting is chaired by the deputy provincial governor, and has the district governor, head of the provincial department of environment and commune and village chief representatives present.

Interested households that want to join the project will be updated on Rising Phoenix safeguarding policy prior to signing of the conservation agreements and hence engagement in the project.

Implementation of the safeguarding policy will be reviewed quarterly to ensure compliance. If a breach occurs, an investigation will be carried out following Rising Phoenix disciplinary procedures and records of the breach, investigation and resulting actions, made in our safeguarding register.

Newly recruited staff will be taken through the safeguarding policy. Policies and procedures can be easily accessed by staff at any time from Rising Phoenix google drive and physical copies at the Siem Pang office.

Q32. Ethics

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

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd. is registered with the Ministry of Commerce and meets all legal and ethical obligations of Cambodia, including relevant access and benefit sharing legislation pertaining to the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as enshrined in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Rising Phoenix has policies relevant to Cambodian legal and ethical obligations, including staff behaviour and conduct; grievance and complaints, data protection; risk; bribery; health and safety and equal opportunities.

Rising Phoenix follows ethical principles of respect, safeguarding, justice and safety for all participants and stakeholders, including staff and project beneficiaries.

Rising Phoenix staff have worked with the local communities in Siem Pang district for many years, are fully aware of societal norms and sensitive to the needs and challenges that local communities face. During this project we will follow the principles of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) with communities, ensuring the incorporation of stakeholder perspectives, interests and knowledge, in addressing the wellbeing of those directly engaged with the project. We recognise the value and importance of traditional knowledge, alongside international scientific approaches, and methods, and will respect the rights, privacy, and safety of people who are impacted directly and indirectly by project activities.


Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement


Q33. British embassy or high commission engagement


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


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 FCDO correspondence](#)

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q34. Project staff

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


Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 Page CV or job description attached?
Jonathan Eames	Project Leader	5	Checked
James Lyon	Operations manager. Acts as financial controller, oversees project implementation and timetable. Coordinates project reporting and risk management	10	Checked
Romain Legrand	Biodiversity Technical Advisor - Lead on development of scientific publications, and leads on the tarantula hunting assessment under output 3.	10	Checked
Samnang Eang	Head of Biodiversity Monitoring Unit. Coordinating the activities of the biodiversity monitoring team, and responsible for producing monthly biodiversity reports	20	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 Page CV or job description attached?
Tukla Mang	Head of Surveillance, Intelligence and reporting unit. Responsible for coordinating scout unit patrols and producing the monthly law enforcement reports.	20	Checked
Sopheap Mak	Head of Community Development Unit. Responsible for maintaining M&E framework and review of CDU and cricket reports	20	Checked
Bunleng Hai	Head of Compliance Section under CDU. Responsible for monitoring compliance to conservation contracts and producing compliance reports.	20	Checked
Tola Lam	Head of Value Chain Section under CDU. Responsible for leading on Rising Phoenix support to community on cricket farming and will develop cricket farming training, half year and annual reports.	100	Checked
TBR x 2	Value Chain Technicians. Responsible for providing mentoring and support to community participants of cricket farming intervention.	100	Checked
Mark Dainty	Senior Curator at Angkor Wildlife Aquarium. Is responsible the establishment of tarantula farming pilot and case study production.	5	Checked
Lundy Chou	Project Manager at Agri House. Will manage the project for Agri House and oversee the implementation of the work plan and communication, and be responsible for development and completion of all Agri House deliverables.	25	Checked
Ian Jones - Sokly Heng - Sokly Heng - Kanharadalin Hourn - Kimlong Kun	Agri house: Business development - Community specialist - Product Engineer - Lead engineer	10	Checked

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

 [DIR30IN Ref1068_CVs combined](#)

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 pdf 2.17 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q35. Project Partners

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

Lead Partner name: Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.

Website address: www.risingphoenix.ltd

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value do they bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Rising Phoenix brings unparalleled experience and institutional history to the project, and established personal and institutional relationships with local partners.

Rising Phoenix already manages Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and is the largest employer and private sector investor in the district. Established in 2015 as a social enterprise Rising Phoenix assumed full responsibility for the site in 2021, replacing BirdLife as the lead agency. As part of a pre-agreed phased withdrawal from Cambodia by BirdLife projects, staff and assets all transferred to Rising Phoenix at this time.

Rising Phoenix has a governance board drawn from the business sector and conservation. The CEO and project leader-initiated conservation activities at the site and has thirty years of conservation experience. The Rising Phoenix team, numbering over 100 staff includes staff with long associations with the site.

For example, Mak Sopheap the Head of the Community Development Unit has worked at SPWS since 2019 and has worked closely with local NGO Samsum Mlup Prey since to deliver the IBIS Rice programme. In addition to Samang Eang the Head of Biodiversity Monitoring Unit who has been monitoring the key wildlife at SPWS since 2014.

Rising Phoenix will manage the project to ensure project impact, deliver value for money, manage risk and finance while ensuring all terms and conditions of the grant are met.

Rising Phoenix will be responsible for all the activities under output 3 and jointly deliver the activities under output 2 with Agri house.

International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	■
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Do you have partners involved in the project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:	Agri House
Website address:	www.agrihouse.asia/

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

Agri House is a Khmer women owned and led registered company, which acts as a social enterprise. It has been operating since 2020 and in that time has modernized the Cambodian cricket industry with end-to-end value chain support for the raising, processing and sales of high-quality crickets and cricket-based products.

They have designed and engineered a semi-automatic cricket farming kit, which can be set up in remote areas. The cricket kit utilizes temperature and humidity control to increase the cricket yield, allowing great income for farmers and higher quality crickets.

Agri house have established over 50 cricket farms, and they provide supports farmers with after-sales service, including a buy back guarantee and connections to market, and financial and digital literacy training.

They have also developed agri-processing to develop roasted crickets, cricket snacks and cricket powder for sale.

Agri House will lead on the activities of output 1, and support in output 2. They will be responsible for setting up the household cricket farms and provide the initial training of the farmers. They will sign sales agreement with the participating households and be responsible for the purchase of the crickets and the supply of cricket feed.

International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	■
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

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

2. Partner Name: Siem Pang Conservation Organisation

Website address: N/A

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Established in 2020 Siem Pang Conservation Organisation (SPC) is a registered local NGO in Cambodia. At the end of 2022, SPC signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia to manage Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary for 30 years. Under this agreement Rising Phoenix will continue to deliver conservation management, community development and support for enforcement.

In 2023, Siem Pang Conservation established a English teaching programme in Siem Pang District. As part of the project SPC will sponsor fifty places for children who are part of the households participating in the cricket farming scheme.

International/In-country Partner In-country

Allocated budget: █

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

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

3. Partner Name: Angkor Wildlife Aquarium

Website address: www.facebook.com/AWASRPark

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Rising Phoenix already has a long-standing relationship with AWA under a Siamese crocodile reintroduction project. Under this new project, AWA will raise tarantula spiders in controlled conditions to test the feasibility of household spider production. Tarantulas fetch US\$ 1 each and are harvested unsustainably within SPWS currently, negatively impacting a Critically Endangered bird species.

International/In-country Partner In-country

Allocated budget: █

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

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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: 0

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

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: 0

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

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*


International/In-country Partner	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	0
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

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


No Response

Please provide a **combined PDF** of all Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 Letters of support combined](#)

 20/10/2023

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Section 16 - Lead Partner Track Record

Q36. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DR:30-021	Jonathan Eames	Increasing climate resilience for communities and wildlife in Siem-Pang, Cambodia
IWT119	James Lyon	Reduced illegal wildlife trade and strengthened rural communities
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q36. Certification

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

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

On behalf of the

Company

of

Rising Phoenix Co, Ltd

I apply for a grant of

£199,805.00

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

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

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

Checked





Name Mr Jonathan Charles Eames OBE

Position in the organisation Chief Executive Officer





Signature (please upload e-signature)  [OBE signature](#)
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Date 20 October 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 Financial statement combined 2021 2022](#)
 20/10/2023
 06:58:18
 pdf 3.08 MB

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

 [DIR30IN Ref1068 safeguarding policies combined](#)
 20/10/2023
 06:58:30
 pdf 5.33 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">my 1 page Theory of Change as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidancemy budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance, or provided an explanation if notmy completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 31).1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 34, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 35, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF. 	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
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	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 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 the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

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

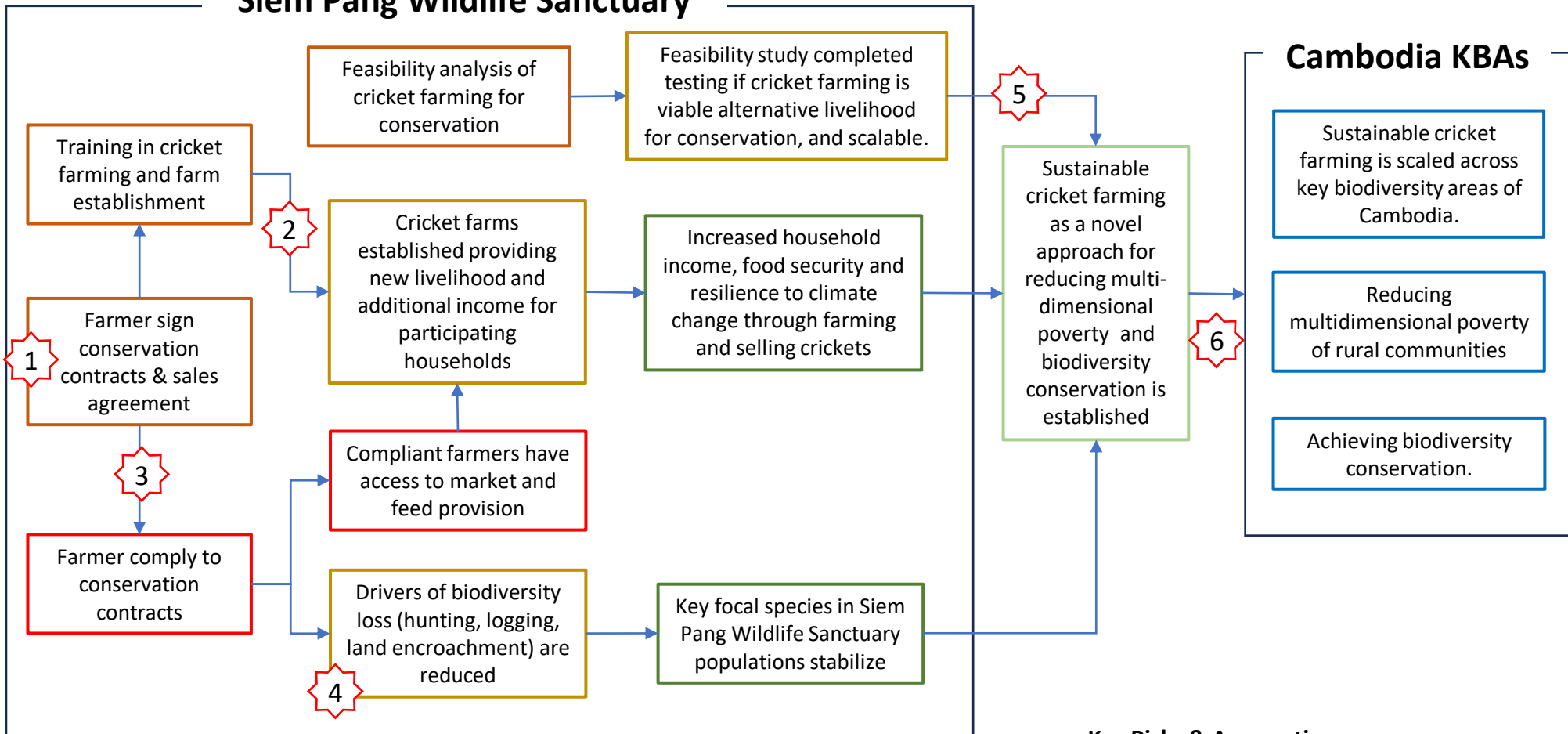
Project Title: Community cricket farming for conservation

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Project Inception Activities									
0.1	Project staffing, contractual arrangements, equipment, and logistics required put in place	1								
0.2	Project M & E and reporting and communications framework established and agreed with key stakeholders	1								
0.3	Project inception workshop with project Partners and key stakeholders	1								
Output 1	Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.									
1.1	Investigate different accreditation bodies and requirements	9								
1.2	Investigate appropriate conservation branding for product	9								
1.3	Investigate organic cricket feed production and scaling	9								
1.4	Complete financial modelling and business plan	9								
1.5	Produce feasibility study for cricket farming	3								
1.6	Get feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by a third party	12								
Output 2	50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 50 households.									
2.1	Announcements made in two target villages looking for households to participate in cricket farming	1								
2.2	Selection process implemented and 50 households selected in two target villages for cricket farm establishment.	1								
2.3	Selected households sign conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and sales agreement with Agri House.	3								
2.4	Training is implemented for the trainers (Rising Phoenix staff) to allow them to provide support to participating households	1								

Project Title: Community cricket farming for conservation

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.5	Training participating households in cricket farming and financial literacy	9								
2.6	Cricket farms establishing at participating households.	9								
2.7	50 children from participating households are enrolled in English language training, provided by Siem Pang Conservation.	21								
2.8	Continued mentoring support to participating households	21								
2.9	Buy back of crickets from compliant farmers and provision of cricket feed.	21								
Output 3	Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.									
3.1	Update household information on compliance database for households who have signed the conservation agreements.	1								
3.2	Regular law enforcement patrols in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary	24								
3.3	Regular biodiversity monitoring patrols, vulture restaurants, nest, and roost monitoring for key species.	24								
3.4	Monthly cross checking of law enforcement data against compliance database	24								
3.5	Annual forest cover change study completed and report produced	6								
3.6	Tarantula harvesting survey implemented, data analyses and short communication submitted.	4								
3.7	Tarantula breeding pilot is established	15								
3.8	Case study of tarantula breeding pilot is prepared and published.	3								

Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary



Key Risks & Assumptions

1. Suitable households can be identified and are willing to participate in the project.
2. Participating households having the ability to manage the financial inputs and logistics around managing a cricket farm.
3. Households are willing to abide by their conservation agreement.
4. Law enforcement initiative supported by Rising Phoenix at SPWS continues to be effective.
5. Feasibility study is economically viable and appropriate.
6. Additional financial inputs and partnerships would be required to scale to key biodiversity areas in Cambodia.

Key

Activities

Enablers

Outputs

Shorter term Outcome

Longer term Outcome

Impact

Scope

Key Risks & Assumptions

1

Project Title: Community cricket farming for conservation

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact:</p> <p>Sustainable cricket farming is scaled across key biodiversity areas of Cambodia, reducing multidimensional poverty of rural communities, and achieving biodiversity conservation.</p>			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Sustainable cricket farming as a novel approach for reducing multi-dimensional poverty is established, increasing household income for 250 rural people and reducing biodiversity loss, within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia.</p>	<p>O.1. One “feasibility study for cricket farming” endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04)</p> <p>O.2. 40 sustainable cricket farms are established which are profitable by the end of the project. (DI-A11)</p> <p>O.3. Sustainable cricket farming increases household income and therefore improves resilience to climate change for 250 rural people (DI-D02)</p> <p>O.4. Logging and land encroachment are reduced as measured by no more than 2% forest loss per annum and population of five critically</p>	<p>O.1.1. Published feasibility plan endorsed by a third party. O.1.2. Darwin Initiative final report O.1.3. Rising Phoenix annual report x 2</p> <p>O.2.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring reports, developed by Community Development unit (CDU).</p> <p>O.3.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU. O.3.2. Agri House purchase records and sales contracts.</p> <p>O.4.1. Annual Forest cover change report O.4.2. Monthly biodiversity monitoring reports.</p>	<p>Communities living within two target villages are willing to work with Rising Phoenix in sustainable agriculture practices</p> <p>Participating households being able to manage a cricket farm, and the cricket farming systems works in the rural setting.</p> <p>Increased income and less dependence on rice farming improves resilience to climate change for rural communities</p> <p>Law enforcement initiative supported by Rising Phoenix at SPWS continue to be effective.</p>

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	endangered species remains stable by the EOP (DI-D04)		
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.</p>	<p>1.1. One feasibility study for cricket farming produced by the end of the first year of the project. (Core DI-B04)</p> <p>1.2. One feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04)</p>	<p>1.1.1. Feasibility study published and uploaded on Rising Phoenix website.</p> <p>1.2.1. Published feasibility study is endorsed in writing by a third party.</p>	<p>Feasibility study is economically viable and appropriate.</p>
<p>2. 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 250 rural people (50% female).</p>	<p>2.1. 50 female head of households sign a conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and a sales agreement with Agri house by the end of year 1.</p> <p>2.2. Four Rising Phoenix staff (50% female) trained as trainers and have delivered further training by the end of year 1. (Core DI-A05)</p> <p>2.3. 100 people (50% female) from two target villages complete training on cricket farming and financial literacy by the end of year 1. (Core DI-A01)</p>	<p>2.1.1. 50 new conservation contracts signed with household information databased on members.</p> <p>2.1.2. 50 Sales agreement with Agri house</p> <p>2.2.1. Cricket Farming training and set up report.</p> <p>2.2.2. Attendance list for training. [Gender – Age Group]</p> <p>2.3.1. Cricket farming training and set up report.</p> <p>2.3.2. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU. [Gender – Age group]</p>	<p>Suitable households can be identified are willing to participate in the project.</p> <p>Participating households having the ability to manage the financial inputs and logistics around managing a cricket farm.</p>

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	<p>2.4. 80 trained rural people (50% female) are selling crickets by the end of the project. (Core DI-A04)</p> <p>2.5. 40 households show increased income as a result of cricket farming, as compared to 2023 baseline.</p>	<p>2.4.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU [Gender – Age group]</p> <p>2.5.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU</p>	<p>It is assumed there will be a 20% drop out rate of local communities participating in Cricket farming by the end of the project</p>
<p>3. Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.</p>	<p>3.1. 75% of participating households have not broken their conservation contracts by the EOP.</p> <p>3.2. Less than 2% of forest is lost in SPWS by the EOP compared to 2022 baseline</p> <p>3.3. Population of five critically endangered species remains stable compared to 2023 baseline by the EOP</p> <p>3.4. Tarantula hunting by communities in SPWS is assessed and conservation recommendations are made by the BEOP (Core DI-C04)</p>	<p>3.1.1. Monthly Law Enforcement report</p> <p>3.1.2. Half year compliance reports</p> <p>3.2.1. Annual forest cover change report for SPWS.</p> <p>3.3.1 Attendance at vulture restaurant, attendance at roosting sites and number of nests recorded for each species documented in BMU report</p> <p>3.3.2. A WSI conservation action plan is endorsed by CIWG by EOP (DI-B02)</p> <p>3.4.1. Tarantula harvesting short communication submitted to peer reviewed journal.</p>	<p>Households are willing to abide by their conservation agreement.</p> <p>Law enforcement officers operate to a high professional standard.</p> <p>2024 El Nino climatic event will not impact breeding success of focal species.</p>

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	3.5. One tarantula breeding pilot project is established by the end of the project.	3.5.1. Case study of tarantula breeding pilot project published.	
<p>Activities</p> <p>Project inception activities:</p> <p>0.1 Project staffing, contractual arrangements, equipment and logistics required put in place</p> <p>0.2 Project M & E and reporting and communications framework established and agreed with key stakeholders</p> <p>0.3 Project inception workshop with project Partners and key stakeholders</p> <p>Output 1. Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.</p> <p>1.1. Investigate different accreditation bodies and requirements</p> <p>1.2. Investigate appropriate conservation branding for product</p> <p>1.3. Investigate organic cricket feed production and scaling</p> <p>1.4. Complete financial modelling and business plan</p> <p>1.5. Produce feasibility study for cricket farming</p> <p>1.6. Get feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by a third party</p> <p>Output 2: 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 50 households.</p> <p>2.1. Announcements made in two target villages looking for households to participate in cricket farming</p> <p>2.2. Selection process implemented and 50 households selected in two target villages for cricket farm establishment.</p> <p>2.3. Selected households sign conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and sales agreement with Agri House.</p> <p>2.4. Training is implemented for the trainers (Rising Phoenix staff) to allow them to provide support to participating households.</p> <p>2.5. Training participating households in cricket farming and financial literacy</p> <p>2.6. Cricket farms establishing at participating households.</p> <p>2.7. 50 children from participating households are enrolled in English language training, provided by Siem Pang Conservation.</p> <p>2.8. Continued mentoring support to participating households</p> <p>2.9. Buy back of crickets from compliant farmers and provision of cricket feed.</p> <p>Output 3: Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.</p> <p>3.1. Update household information on compliance database for households who have signed the conservation agreements.</p>			

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- 3.2. Regular law enforcement patrols in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary
- 3.3. Regular biodiversity monitoring patrols, vulture restaurants, nest, and roost monitoring for key species.
- 3.4. Monthly cross checking of law enforcement data against compliance database
- 3.5. Annual forest cover change study completed and report produced
- 3.6. Tarantula harvesting survey implemented, data analyses and short communication submitted.
- 3.7. Tarantula breeding pilot is established
- 3.8. Case study of tarantula breeding pilot is prepared and published.