

Applicant: **Forrest, Alan**  
Organisation: **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**  
Funding Sought: **£10,000.00**  
Funding Awarded: **£10,000.00**

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# **DIR26PP\1053**

**DARPP207 Keeping the benefits of biodiversity on Soqatra**

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title	Dr
Name	Alan
Surname	Forrest
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Dr  
**Name** Alan  
**Surname** Forrest  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
<b>Name</b>	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
<b>Phone</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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## Section 2 - Title & Location

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### Q3. Working title of the proposed Darwin project

DARPP207 Keeping the benefits of biodiversity on Soqotra

### Q4a. Host country (of proposed Partnership Project trip)

Bahrain

### Q4b. If this is not the intended host country for the proposed Darwin project, please justify here

The host country is Yemen, of which the Soqotra Archipelago is part. Yemen is in active conflict and is not a secure location for either travel or hosting. While the Soqotra Archipelago is a secure location upon arrival, the routes used to travel to Soqotra are not secure (eg. flights through Yemen, boats from Salalah (Oman) across the Gulf of Aden). Flights from other locations are not commercial flights and can only be accessed through specific routes and contacts and for specific reasons. Hosting workshops at the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain - a known and trusted partner - is an excellent option. Other locations could be considered, but would be logistically more complex and demanding to arrange, including difficulties in arranging entry visas for Yemeni citizens.

### Q4c. Other collaborating country/ies

No Response

## Q5. Is this a resubmission of a previous scoping/Partnership application?

No

## Section 3 - Partnership Project Principals & Lead Organisation Summary

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### Q6. Principals in Partnership Project work i.e. the travellers


Please give the details of the individuals (up to 2) who would be directly involved in the Partnership Project work - i.e. making a visit to a host country. One page CVs must be uploaded below.

Details	Main traveller (Project Leader)	Second traveller
Surname	Forrest	Neale
Forename(s)	Alan	Sophie
Post held	CMEP Biodiversity Scientist	Head of Centre for Middle Eastern Plants
Organisation	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Email	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Country travelling from	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Have you included an one page CV?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Please upload one page CVs for all Principals involved in Partnership Project work as a combined PDF.

 [DIR26PP1053 CVs](#)

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### Q7a. About the lead applicant organisation

Briefly discuss your expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development. Please refer to recent track record you have in this field. You may be asked to provide evidence of this track record.

The Centre for Middle Eastern Plants (CMEP), part of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, has a long track record of working with partners across the Middle East in the fields of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. This experience has been especially focused on the Soqotra Archipelago.

Recent relevant projects include Darwin Initiative work in Afghanistan to reduce the unsustainable use of wild harvested plants for fuel, as well as local horticulture and market appraisal initiatives in Tajikistan to

reduce wild harvesting of wild plants with a view to increased livelihoods through local producer groups. RBGE has also run similar Darwin Projects in Tanzania, Nepal and Lao PDR as well as hosting a range of Darwin Fellows. It has also hosted Darwin Projects focusing on biodiversity conservation in Iraq and on Soqotra in the past.

CMEP is also currently managing projects on Soqotra that document the use of natural resources in traditional and cultural practices, as well as contributing towards the conservation of plant species through Protected Areas designation and management.

## **Q7b. Have you obtained a letter of support from the lead applicant organisation?**

**(If yes, please upload with the partner letters of support on the next page)**

Yes

## **Section 4 - Project Partners**

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### **Q8. About the partner organisation(s)**

**Please list all the partners involved and explain their roles and responsibilities in the Partnership Project work. Briefly discuss your partner's expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development. Please refer to recent track record they have in this field. You may be asked to provide evidence of this track record. If there is more than 1 partner organisation, you can enter the details of more partners below. Please specify which of the partners is new to the partnership.**


<b>Partner name:</b>	Environmental Protection Authority (EPA Soqotra)
<b>Website address:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:</b>	EPA Soqotra is responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity on Soqotra. They will drive the workshop themes and have the final decision on example community projects that will feature in the full application. They will be responsible for reviewing existing regulations and drawing up draft agreements.
<b>Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:</b>	EPA Soqotra have been active for many years in the conservation of biodiversity. Current staff are closely involved in the GEF #5347 Project for conservation and development and have developed a range of appropriate skills in developing management protocols. They have extensive project management, logistics and community working skills.
<b>Name of main contact and post held:</b>	Ali Mohammed Salem Hasan DEPUTY MANAGER EPA SOQOTRA
<b>Letter of support submitted?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

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### **Do you have more than one partner involved in the Partnership Project work?**

No

**Please provide a combined PDF of letters of support from the lead organisation and partner(s).**

 [DIR26PP1053 Support Letters](#)

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**Q9. Can you confirm that at least one of the partners have not previously been in receipt of Darwin funds from the same lead partner?**

Yes

## **Section 5 - Justification & Concept Notes**

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### **Q10. Justification of need for a Partnership Project**

**Please provide written details of why alternative funding is not available from within your own organisation or from other sources. Will matched funding be provided?**

The cost of this partnership workshop involves meeting colleagues in a location outside the host country Yemen, due to security meaning travel to Soqotra is not currently feasible.

RBGE has very limited departmental core funds for travel, which would not cover travel and subsistence for one person for such a workshop, and certainly would not cover the costs of travellers from the host country to a third location.

By hosting the workshop at the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain, there will be no cost for visas and no cost for hosting the workshop and this can be expressed as co-financing. Staff from RBGE will provide co-financing through in-kind staff time and overheads to undertake background research and time at the workshop, and to develop a full Darwin Initiative main project proposal.

EPA Soqotra has extremely limited funds and does not have any access to travel and subsistence funds for workshops.

The proposed partnership is therefore essential, to bring together local expertise, experience and implementation alongside global knowledge and expertise regarding sustainable use and benefit sharing. Although not named as an official partner, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) have indicated that they are happy to provide advice and support to the proposed workshop through expertise in the biocultural heritage of indigenous people, and integrating livelihood benefits into SDG targets.

### **Q11. Concept note for the Partnership Project**

**This question concentrates on the Partnership Project work and should demonstrate the objectives of the project including:**

- objectives of the visit
- what work (including research, remote communications or other collaborations) has been carried out prior to applying for this project
- what work will be carried out under the Partnership Project – please see the guidance for advice on what type of activity can be funded
- evidence of the proposed partners' intentions to collaborate in your Partnership Project work

The Soqotra Archipelago, a World Heritage Site designated in 2008, hosts a range of unique biodiversity. Elements of this biodiversity are under threat - through unsustainable harvesting and use, through land management changes, and through development. For many years it has been discussed that the biodiversity, cultural heritage and livelihoods of the people of Soqotra is inextricably linked, but few

attempts have been made to ensure that the benefits of this biodiversity are shared equitably. There is great potential for a range of benefits, including financial benefits, to contribute to livelihoods and conservation on Soqotra, and for these benefits to be managed sustainably. There is no doubt, for example, that many plants and animals endemic to Soqotra can be purchased in many countries without any benefit to the people of Soqotra, and the same is true for plant-based resources and products which are harvested locally. No attempts have been made to quantify these markets or assess who the main beneficiaries are.

Under current conflict and uncertainty in Yemen, Soqotra does not have the ability to control access to resources and the equitable sharing of the benefits accrued. Since signing the Nagoya Protocol in 2011 there has been little opportunity to update regulations or legislation relating to Access and Benefit Sharing or to actively promote the benefits to local producers and communities.

This partnership will be established to bring together UK expertise to support Soqotra to enable benefits for the people of Soqotra, through examining the legal and regulatory mechanisms available to establish equitable sharing. It will go on to discuss a range of practical activities with local communities and NGOs to sustainably harvest plant-based resources and products, and the traditional knowledge that enables that process, to demonstrate how sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits can contribute to livelihoods, poverty reduction, and biodiversity conservation through resource management.

Both UK and Soqotri partners will undertake basic research into contemporary harvesting and use, as well as past uses that could be restored and managed for increased benefits. Research will also be undertaken to identify current sales and markets that exist without contributing to Soqotri livelihoods in an attempt to highlight and prioritise activities for the future application. Identification of potential community and NGO groups that are active in relevant markets, or used to be, will be identified for further collaboration during the preparation of the full proposal.

## **Q12. Concept note for the resultant project**

**This question concentrates on the full Darwin application you intend to submit after the Partnership Project and should discuss:**

- the expected Outcome and Outputs of the resultant Darwin project
- how the resultant Darwin project would meet a need in the host country (and the wider region if applicable e.g. if the proposed project would be based in a UMIC)
- how the project would contribute to any or all of the Conventions and Treaties supported by Darwin, including the SDGs
- how the project will contribute to sustainable development in the country concerned
- briefly explain the proposed partner role(s) in the resultant Darwin project
- briefly the expected role of the Partnership Project travellers in the resultant Darwin project.

Outcome: the unique biodiversity of Soqotra contributes to livelihoods in an equitable manner with measurable benefits for both people and biodiversity.

Outputs:

Published article documenting current uses and abuses of Soqotri biodiversity and the lack of transparency in access and benefit sharing;

Recommendations for new access and benefit sharing agreements and regulations;

On the ground activities that demonstrate livelihood and biodiversity benefits, that are sustainable and increase awareness of sustainable management through equitable sharing of benefits (including financial benefits);

Recognition and implementation of the role of women in traditional crafts that use biodiversity resources, and the equitable sharing of benefits among genders;

Soqotra is one of the poorest regions in a poor country currently suffering from conflict and instability.

While there is no active conflict on Soqotra itself, it is isolated through reduced supply chains from Yemen and relies on alternative supply routes that can be extremely unpredictable. This places more pressure on local resources. The ability of Soqotra to make better use of its natural resources, and to ensure the

benefits are shared equitably and benefit the people of Soqotra is therefore more important than ever. The project will focus on the Access & Benefit Sharing aspects of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will also contribute directly to the assessment of where plant resources are located, how much can be harvested and yet still maintain healthy populations, and whether populations are conserved within Protected Areas designated as part of the Soqotra Conservation Zoning Plan. Several GSPC targets will be addressed directly. The outcome will contribute to several SDGs including No Poverty, Life on Land, and Gender Equality.

The project will identify a minimum of two interventions based upon discussions during the Partnership Project workshop. These could include, but not be limited to:

The establishment of nurseries that produce saleable seeds/plants that are either endemic to Soqotra or are hybrids derived from Soqotri material, for sale in international markets;

Production of plant-based resources derived from locally managed producer groups - examples could include frankincense (sourced from trees of the genus *Boswellia*) dragons blood (sourced from the Dragon Blood Tree *Dracaena cinnabari*), or aloes (there are currently five aloe species recognised as endemic to Soqotra).

The production and sale of items that use plant products in their production process - for example dyes and stains used in ceramics, carpets, and weaving - will also include the traditional knowledge associated with both harvesting and production methods.

Transparency and equity in financial management will be a key component.

The project partners on Soqotra will carry out all field activities, manage all local logistics and community and producer group and NGO works.

UK partners will meet Soqotri partners annually in Bahrain at ARC-WH. The named travellers would be the Lead Applicant and Project Managers for the resultant application, and those travelling from Soqotra would manage and coordinate implementation on the ground.

## Section 6 - Costs

### Q13. Costs

**Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative in GBP.**

	Main traveller	Second traveller	Total
<b>Airfare including travel to airport</b>	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Visas and other travel documents</b>	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Daily subsistence rate per day</b>	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
<b>Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller)</b>	5	5	



<b>Total daily subsistence claimed (calculated from figures above)</b>	<b>£</b>		
<b>Workshop costs (please provide details below)</b>			<b>£</b>
<b>Other costs (please provide details below)</b>			<b>£</b>
		<b>Total request from Darwin (must not exceed £10,000)</b>	<b>£</b> 10,000.00

### Workshop costs

**Please provide further details on your workshops costs (N/A if not relevant).**

A small budget for printing, stationary and copying is required for the workshop. As Yemeni partners English is basic, translation costs are required for three days, based upon locally available translation services used routinely by ARC-WH at discounted rates (USD \$ per day).

### Other costs

**Please provide further details on your other costs (N/A if not relevant).**

Yemen is not currently a secure destination, and Soqatra cannot currently be accessed through secure commercial travel. As such it is necessary to host the workshop in an alternative location. The suitability of such a location is primarily determined through the availability of visas for Yemeni citizens. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage is one such location, and has hosted and supported similar workshops previously and also has an active programme on Soqatra. The cost of bringing partners from Soqatra to Bahrain are included in the "other" costs, and include flights and subsistence. Flights from Soqatra only operate on Wednesdays, via Cairo to Bahrain, and to avoid the weekend this means that the workshop must take place Sunday-Tuesday and seven nights subsistence will be required. Expected flight costs are USD \$ per person, with a subsistence rate including accommodation of approximately USD \$ per day.

## Section 7 - Timetable & Activities

**Q14. Provide anticipated dates of travel (start and finish) and activities to be undertaken on your trip.**

**N.B.: this question is specifically about your travel plans - your dates and specific milestones during travel - NOT your timetable to Stage 1 application. Your application will be considered ineligible if this section does not specifically cover your planned Partnership Project trip.**

Date	Milestone
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01 April 2020	<b>START</b>
01 April 2020	Start to arrange all visas, flights and logistics with all partners and hosts
01 April 2020	Gather all documentation and background research required, by all partners
03 June 2020	All partners fly to Bahrain for workshop
04 June 2020	Workshop discussion about existing and planned regulations dealing with Access & Benefit Sharing
06 June 2020	Workshop discussion about themes and activities for full Darwin Main Project proposal, including consideration of local partners for implementation
07 June 2020	Discussion workshop to draft full application, and detail all further required research and logistics for implementation
01 July 2020	Start additional data gathering for full proposal
<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>
31 December 2020	<b>FINISH</b>

## Q15. In what year would you expect to submit the full Darwin project application?

Round 28

## Section 8 - Certification

### Q16. Certification

**On behalf of the**

trustees

**of**

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

**I apply for a grant of**

£10,000.00





**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 Partnership 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 uploaded CVs for project principals
- I have uploaded letters of support from the lead application organisation and the partner(s)

Checked

<b>Name</b>	Alan Forrest
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Biodiversity Scientist
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	 <a href="#">AF Signature</a>  04/11/2019  15:59:19  jpg 207.52 KB
<b>Date</b>	05 November 2019

## Section 9 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the</b> Guidance <b>Notes for Main projects as well as the Guidance for Partnership Projects and am satisfied that this concept would be eligible for a main project application.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current</b> Terms and Conditions <b>for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided anticipated start and end dates for my Partnership Project trip.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked that my budget is complete and correctly adds up.</b>	Checked
<b>My application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have included one page CVs and letters of support as required.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the</b> Darwin website <b>immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on</b> GOV.UK.	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 main traveller/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.**

Unchecked

### **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, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organization, 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).