

Applicant: **Abeli, Thomas**  
Organisation: **Università Roma Tre**  
Funding Sought: **£6,030.00**  
Funding Awarded: **£6,030.00**

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# **DIR26PP\1051**

**DARPP208 Community action and research linkages for plant conservation in Kenya**

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Prof  
**Name** Thomas  
**Surname** Abeli  
**Organisation** Università Roma Tre  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
<b>Name</b>	Università Roma Tre
<b>Phone (Mobile)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Website</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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## Section 2 - Title & Location

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

DARPP208 Community action and research linkages for plant conservation in Kenya

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

Kenya

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

Kenya is the host country for the proposed Darwin project

#### 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	Abeli	No Response
Forename(s)	Thomas	No Response
Post held	Associate Professor (Botany, Conservation Biology)	No Response
Organisation	University of Roma Tre	No Response
Email	████████████████████	No Response
Country travelling from	██	No Response
Have you included an one page CV?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

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

 [CV Thomas Abeli](#)

 29/10/2019

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 pdf 139.3 KB

#### 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 lead applicant has 10 years experience in research and conservation of threatened plant species. 2013-ongoing: member of the IUCN Freshwater Plant and Conservation Translocation Specialist Groups. 2010-2018: Involved in the reintroduction of several threatened species in northern Italy such as *Leucojum aestivum*, *Isoetes malinverniana* and *Marsilea quadrifolia*.

2016-2018 leader of the research unit of the University of Pavia in the EU-funded LIFE project (LIFE14-NAT-IT-000759) (<http://www.lifewetflyamphibia.eu/it/>) for the restoration and management of amphibia and their habitats. Total budget of the project led by the Foreste Casentinesi National Park: € [REDACTED] budget for UNIPV: € [REDACTED]

Applicant interacted with several parks for ex situ conservation activities (i.e. seed banking).

2013-2014: involved in a project (VCLR; [http://www.labecove.it/download/relivel/SchedaSintesiRELiVE\\_L.pdf](http://www.labecove.it/download/relivel/SchedaSintesiRELiVE_L.pdf)) with important socio-economic outcomes for the recovery and use of almost lost local crop varieties in N-Italy with ca. 25 farms and local governmental agencies responsible for the policy in agriculture.

At the organisation level, the University of Roma Tre has experience in management of EU LIFE projects and local projects for the monitoring, conservation and management of biodiversity (plants and wildlife).

The above-mentioned statements can be verified through published papers and documents (see also CV).

## 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>	Plants for Life International (PLI)
<b>Website address:</b>	Plantsforlifekenya.org
<b>Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:</b>	Linkage of researchers to communities for plant conservation, training and awareness creation
<b>Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:</b>	PLI has 20 years experience in ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation
<b>Name of main contact and post held:</b>	Dr. Mark Nicholson, Director PLI
<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).**

 [Letters of support](#)

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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 lead applicant moved to the University of Roma Tre in March 2019 from the University of Trieste so he has no available funds from his own organisation for networking activities but he receives €[REDACTED]/year to cover lab costs. The University of Roma Tre provides modest funds for research staff. Prof. Abeli is currently building up his new research by applications to different competitive project calls. There are no residual funds from previous activities.

EU funds for networking (e.g. cost actions) do not cover activities in Kenya. EU funds for conservation (i.e. LIFE projects) are exclusively dedicated to species and habitats of Community Interest to the EU, so are not applicable outside the Union.

PLI in Kenya has just completed a six-year grant from Ashden Trust (UK) and a two year grant from the Korean Forest Service (through the CBD in Montreal). We have small annual grant from Ball Seed Company in Chicago and are currently applying for plant conservation funds from the Mohammed bin Zayed Fund. Matching funds for the main Darwin project will be partially provided by the leading and partner institutions in terms of labour (at daily rates) of the staff involved and through a contribution from the lead organisation for the support of training activities (see section Q12).

### **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

• Objective is to create a partnership for a main Darwin project.

Specific objective of the visit will be: 1) assessment of facilities available in the partner country (Kenya) and their relevance for the activity proposed in the main project; 2) preparation of an advanced draft of the main proposal; 3) preliminary activities to test the feasibility of the main project (e.g. interest of the local community, characteristics of the study areas and target species); 4) identification of suitable field sites.

• Work carried out prior to applying for this project included preliminary contacts for exchange of information on threatened plant species (*Embelia keniensis*) unrelated to the Darwin partnership or main

projects. During this exchange of information, the applicants recognized a convergent interest and mission in conservation of plant biodiversity. The two institutions are compatible within the scope of the proposed project.

• Work that will be carried out under the Partnership Project will include: 1) visit of the facilities of Plants for Life International (PLI) at Brackenhurst Botanic Garden (BBG) and evaluation of the conservation activities in the main project. Attention will be paid to sites for experimental cultivation of target species, germination and propagation, lab facilities and facilities for seed banking; 2) Identification of potential target species to be included in the main project based on conservation status, need for species/habitat management & socio-economic implications for local people; 3) visit to potential in situ and ex situ sites for field work; 4) workshops with staff of PLI (BBG) for the creation of a draft of the main proposal. A preliminary meeting will be held a priori in order to identify issues that require discussion during the workshop following the assessment of facilities and field sites; 5) training workshop on plant translocation (the subject of the main project, (see section Q12) for the staff of the PLI and possibly for graduate students from a local University. This will be for initiating collaboration between the two institutions. It will also serve to identify potential candidates for PhD/training promoted in the main project (see section Q12). A training course entitled "Plant Translocation: Theory and Techniques" developed by Prof. Abeli and held since 2017 in different institutions (i.e. Omsk State Pedagogical University, Russia and Liverpool John Moores University, UK; [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333340355\\_Plant\\_Translocation\\_Theory\\_and\\_Techniques](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333340355_Plant_Translocation_Theory_and_Techniques)) will be adapted to fit the educational level of the participants).

• PLII has been conserving rare (CR/EN/VU by the IUCN Red Listing authority) East African plants for 20 years. Kenya is undergoing severe land degradation with concomitant loss of plant biodiversity. At the same time, there is erosion of indigenous knowledge about the benefits of local flora. The aim of this project from the local perspective will be to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation of East African flora, to restore indigenous knowledge through training, to propagate ex situ (and in situ where feasible) rare and threatened species of shrubs and trees and develop restoration protocols that include combining rare species with species of economic importance to farmers.

## **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.

The main Darwin project will contribute to the conservation of at least three highly threatened useful plants in Kenya. It will combine training for 2-4 Kenyan graduate scientists (among students or botanic garden staff), research on target species required to define best management practices to save them from extirpation and socio-economic benefit and awareness for local people. Examples of target species (to be chosen during the visit) are: *Vitex keniensis*, *Ocotea usambarensis*, *Premna maxima*, *Olea capensis* ssp. *macrocarpa*, *Entandophragma angolense* etc. all timber or medicinal or food plants used by locals and threatened by overexploitation.

Training will consist of single courses or PhDs or post-doc positions (depending on the eligible duration of the main Darwin project), in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Analysis, which will provide theoretical and technical knowledge to address issues in plant management and conservation. Research will focus on plant population management (e.g. viability analysis, propagation, seed germination, more efficient extraction of active principles, etc).

Expected Outcome of the main Darwin project will be: 1) highly-trained local people who will drive plant conservation and ecological restoration in Kenya; 2) immediate reduction in overexploitation of the target species; 3) inclusive and sustainable use of plant resources in local communities.

The project would contribute to SDG 4, 5, 11, 15, 17, CBD (improved conservation status of target species; ex situ stock), CITES (alternative sources other than in situ collection for the use of target species), and ITPGR depending on the selected target species. The project will comply with the Nagoya Protocol.

The project will contribute to sustainable development in Kenya by improving the access of locals to limited resources represented by the target species with practical actions such as creation of community nurseries/seed banks, replanting (restoration) activities, creation of community facilities for product transformation and enlargement of the potential product market through ad hoc dissemination activities in Italy and the EU.

Partner roles: UNIROMA3 (Department of Science) is a public university in Rome with a mission in education and research. UNIROMA3 will coordinate the project and will provide training for 2-4 people from Kenya in plant conservation and management. The mission of Plants for Life International is to carry out ecological restoration of upland forest, promote the conservation of indigenous plants, and to demonstrate income-generating activities. PLI will organise and manage the ex situ research and conservation activities on the selected focal species. Research carried out on the premises of the botanic garden and in the field in Kenya will constitute part of the research activity of the traineeship. Both institutions will contribute to communication and dissemination activities.

Supervisory roles: Prof. Thomas Abeli (traveller) will be the project leader and will be responsible for the project and training coordination. Prof. Abeli will be the supervisor of the PhDs/trainees. Dr. Mark Nicholson will oversee the field work and conservation activity in Kenya and will be co-supervisor of the PhD/trainees.

## 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>	██████	██████	██████
<b>Visas and other travel documents</b>	£ ██████	██████	██████
<b>Daily subsistence rate per day</b>	£ ██████	██████	
<b>Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller)</b>	9	0	

<b>Total daily subsistence claimed (calculated from figures above)</b>	£	█	█
<b>Workshop costs (please provide details below)</b>			£ █
<b>Other costs (please provide details below)</b>			£ █
		<b>Total request from Darwin (must not exceed £10,000)</b>	£ 6,030.00

### Workshop costs

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

Hire of room/ projector: £ █  
 Meals: 25 x 10: £ █  
 Local accommodation: 40 x 6 x 5d: £ █

### Other costs

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

Transport (4WD) for site visits: £ █  
 Accommodation: Mt Kenya £ █  
 Hire of bus 5d: £ █  
 Local staff costs for the organisation of the workshop and field trips (ca █ £)

## 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
15 June 2020	START
15 June 2020	Arrival at final destination
16 June 2020	Visit to the facilities of the Brackenhurst Botanic Garden and discussion about target species and field sites
17 June 2020	Field excursion to Mt. Kenya



18 June 2020	Field excursion
19 June 2020	Workshop for main project drafting
20 June 2020	Training course on translocation
21 June 2020	Training course on translocation (continued)
22 June 2020	Final arrangements and discussion of the project draft
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
23 June 2020	FINISH

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

Round 27

## Section 8 - Certification

### Q16. Certification

**On behalf of the**

company

**of**

University of Roma Tre

**I apply for a grant of**

£6,030.00

**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

**Name**

Thomas Abeli

**Position in the organisation** Associate Professor

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  [Firma scansionata](#)  
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**Date** 30 October 2019

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## Section 9 - Submission Checklist

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### 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.**

Checked

### Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, 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).