

Applicant: **Kell, Shelagh**
Organisation: **University of Birmingham**
Funding Sought: **£9,820.00**

DIR27PP\1072

Plant genetic resources and socio-economic development in rural Colombia

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Title | Dr |
| Name | Shelagh |
| Surname | Kell |
| Organisation | University of Birmingham |
| Website (Work) | birmingham.ac.uk |
| Tel (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Email (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Address | [REDACTED] |

GMS ORGANISATION

| Type | Organisation |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Name | University of Birmingham |
| Phone | [REDACTED] |
| Email | [REDACTED] |
| Address | [REDACTED] |

Section 2 - Title & Location

Q3. Working title of the proposed Darwin project

Plant genetic resources and socio-economic development in rural Colombia

Q4a. Host country (of proposed Partnership Project trip)

Colombia

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

Not applicable

Q4c. Other collaborating country/ies

Not applicable

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








No

Section 3 - Partnership Project Principals & Lead Organisation Summary


Q6. Principals in Partnership Project work

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, or leading on the collaboration.


One page CVs must be uploaded below.

| Details | Project Leader | 2nd individual |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Surname | Kell | Parra Quijano |
| Forename(s) | Shelagh | Mauricio |
| Post held | Research Fellow | Associate Professor |
| Organisation | University of Birmingham | Universidad Nacional de Colombia |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |   |
| 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.

 [Kell DIR27PP 1072 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 School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham (UoB) has been a leading education and research centre for plant genetic resources (PGR) conservation and sustainable use since the 1960s. It plays a prominent international role in PGR-related research and policy development, and has led and participated in several collaborative projects with funding from the UK government, EU, global organizations and industry.

The lead applicant has been a professional in PGR conservation and sustainable use for more than 20 years. As Project Manager and Research Fellow at the School of Biosciences, she has managed and participated in several major international collaborative projects and contributed to research and policy development. She is Editor-in-Chief of the journal, Plant Genetic Resources: Characterization and Utilization, Chair of the Genetic Resources section of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding, and Research Supervisor and Examiner, Centre for Environment, Development and Policy, School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London. She has supervised post-graduate students in a range of disciplines, including sustainable rural development, environmental management, and biodiversity conservation. She has undertaken consultancies for international organizations such as FAO and IUCN, and has worked both in and outside Europe, including in Central and South America.

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

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.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Partner name: | Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNC) |
| Website address: | http://www.unal.edu.co |
| Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities: | UNC, as the lead host country partner, will liaise closely with the lead applicant, CCS and ONIC, providing support for the planning and facilitation of the meetings and workshop. |
| Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development: | <p>UNC has led scientific research in Colombia, including key studies focused on biodiversity conservation produced by 38 research groups accredited by the Ministry of Sciences. Staff have published more than 581 articles in the field since 2017.</p> <p>The main contact belongs to the research group 'Agrobiodiversity and Biotechnology', and has extensive experience in crop genetic diversity conservation and sustainable use, development of technical tools for efficient conservation of agricultural biodiversity, and in education and training of future technicians and researchers in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. He has participated in several international collaborative projects and has been a consultant for international organizations, coordinating programmes for technology transfer and capacity building for Latin American countries. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the journal Agronomía Colombiana.</p> |

Name of main contact and post held: Mauricio Parra Quijano, Associate Professor

Letter of support submitted? Yes

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

Yes

2. Partner Name: Corporación Custodios de Semillas (CCS)

Website address: <https://custodiosdesemillas.org/>

Letter of Support: CCS will support the planning and facilitation of the meetings and workshop in liaison with UoB, UNC, ONIC and the indigenous authorities.

Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development: CCS has played a leading role in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in indigenous territories. It has developed participatory research on agrobiodiversity for ONIC, and contributed to policy development and implementation to guarantee the protection of traditional knowledge systems in indigenous communities, and adequate participation in aspects of development, such as in the bioeconomy. In addition, within the framework of the implementation of the peace agreements, CCS is helping to generate responses from indigenous peoples on issues such as the implementation of comprehensive rural reform. The organization has been involved in a team of professionals that has developed capacities to provide advice to indigenous peoples for eight years on community and innovative appropriation strategies for genetic resources and their associated knowledge. CCS has also produced publications aimed at indigenous authorities and decision-makers in the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

Name of main contact point and post held: Diego Chiguachi, Director

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC)

Website address: <https://www.onic.org.co/>

Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:

ONIC, as the national authority of the indigenous government, will provide support for the planning and facilitation of the meetings and workshop in close liaison with CCS and the traditional indigenous authorities of the prioritized organizations in the Amazon and Orinoco.

Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:

The territorial scope of the indigenous peoples of Colombia is made up of 12,000 communities—which include 429,000 homes, 535,000 families, and 2.2 million people—and 767 reservations that add up to 32.6 million hectares. These communities play a vital role in the generation and maintenance of unique plant genetic diversity and associated knowledge.

The ONIC Council for Life Planning and Self-Development in the IX Congress of the Peoples (2017–2020) assumed the management of eight direct mandates on prioritized issues in terms of food autonomy and the necessary economy for the indigenous movement. In 2016, ONIC, through an inter-administrative agreement made with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, put into operation a programme to strengthen its own economy. This includes the recovery of native seeds, agricultural production and the pilot design of a ‘Semilla Nativa’ marketing scheme to support biodiversity conservation while contributing to sustainable economic development among the indigenous peoples.

Name of main contact point and post held:

Victoriano Joropa, Councillor, Life Planning and Self-Development

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address:

No Response

Letter of Support:

No Response

Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:

No Response

Name of main contact point and post held:

No Response

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation?

Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Letter of Support: *No Response*

Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development: *No Response*

Name of main contact point and post held: *No Response*

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation? Yes No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*


Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities: *No Response*


Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development: *No Response*

Name of main contact point and post held: *No Response*

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation? Yes No

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

 [Kell DIR27PP 1072 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

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?

Colombia is in the top ten most megadiverse countries, and while significant efforts have been made to improve knowledge of the country's biodiversity in recent years, few initiatives have focused on biodiversity for food and agriculture. Such projects are vital to contribute to food security and sovereignty, improved nutrition and health, socio-economic development, and poverty alleviation of the indigenous rural communities.

Although some small grants have previously been provided by the Colombian government for local projects of relevance, no previous funding has been provided specifically for an initiative that takes a comprehensive and holistic approach to plant genetic resources conservation and sustainable use in Colombia. Collaboration between local, national and international organizations will be beneficial to pool knowledge and expertise, address the full suite of practical and policy-related issues required to advance in this area, and provide a strong foundation for wide publicity and advocacy.

Funding to undertake travel and convene meetings in the host country for the purposes of planning the proposed main project are not available from institutional core funding of the main applicant or lead host country partner (both universities). However, in-kind co-funding will be provided, as salary costs will be covered for staff of the lead applicant and partner organizations for their time dedicated to planning and implementing the Partnership Project.

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 primary objective of this project is to build a new partnership between the applicant organizations, the University of Birmingham (UoB), Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNC), Corporación Custodios de Semillas (CCS), and Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC), and to lay the foundations for a main Darwin Initiative project application. The funds will be used to convene a series of meetings and a workshop in the host country, which will involve international travel by the lead applicant and in-country travel by representatives of the project partners. The workshop—which will take place in Leticia, Amazonas—is a critical milestone in the preparation of the main project proposal. It is vital to provide sufficient time to discuss the needs and aspirations of the indigenous rural communities, and to respect their cultural identity and autonomy in a future project. Critically, this two-day workshop is necessary to build trust between the local community members of ONIC and the lead applicant and UNC representative.

Proposed itinerary:

Day 1

Lead applicant and UNC main contact at UNC campus, Bogotá: One full day to discuss the proposed main project application, disseminate the objectives of the project with other researchers at UNC, and prepare for subsequent meetings with CCS and ONIC.

Day 2

Lead applicant, UNC, CCS and representatives of the Greater Council of the Government of ONIC at ONIC HQ, Bogotá: One full day for introductions, to discuss the main project proposal, and prepare for the subsequent workshop in Leticia.

Day 3

Lead applicant, UNC, CCS, representatives of the Greater Council of the Government of ONIC: One full day to travel to Leticia and set up for the workshop. Local community representatives of ONIC travel to Leticia.

Days 4 & 5

Two-day workshop in Leticia to present and discuss the main project proposal with local community representatives of ONIC (c. 17 participants).

Day 6

Lead applicant, UNC, CCS, representatives of the Greater Council of the Government of ONIC travel to Ubaque.

Day 7

Lead applicant, UNC, CCS, representatives of the Greater Council of the Government of ONIC at the Living Maize Museum in Ubaque (CCS HQ): One full day to discuss and elaborate the proposed full project proposal, including agreement on role designations, budget requirements and the project monitoring and reporting processes.

In total, the visit will involve nine days, including international and in-country travel.

Prior to applying for this project funding, a series of extensive online meetings have been convened between the partners to discuss and develop a project proposal. In addition to the detailed discussions to understand the background and identify the main needs of the indigenous rural communities to achieve food sovereignty and economic security, a range of relevant previous projects and publications were identified, such as:

Strengthening of food sovereignty through the recovery of the agro-food cultural heritage of the indigenous peoples of Colombia (2016–2018, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

ONIC, 2017. Diagnósticos Participativos de Agrobiodiversidad de Especies Importantes para Sistemas Productivos Tradicionales Indígenas. Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia. <http://www.onic.org.co/canastadesaberes/125-cds/publicaciones/practicas-productivas/2640-diagnosticos-participativos-de-agrobiodiversidad-de-especies-importantes-para-sistemas-productivos-tradicionales-indigenas>

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.

Colombia is part of the Andean centre of crop diversity—however, knowledge of plant genetic resources (PGR) (including farmers’ varieties, wild food and medicinal plants) in situ (on-farm and in the wild) is incomplete. PGR in Colombia are threatened by a range of factors, including a lack of appropriate policies to support their conservation and sustainable use, particularly by the indigenous rural communities that depend on local PGR (cultivated and wild), and play a vital role as custodians of this diversity. There is a critical need to increase the knowledge base for conservation planning and to inform the development of appropriate policies to avoid future loss of PGR diversity and the associated risks to the food, nutrition, health and livelihood security of these communities.

Activities to establish inventories, standards and protocols for valuing and accessing PGR and associated traditional knowledge (TK), strengthen value chains, promote women’s roles, and review institutional policies will be carried out, and an accessible knowledge base created to support decision-making on conservation management and sustainable use. Critically, the proposed project will promote the maintenance of PGR by indigenous rural communities by increasing capacity and autonomy, while contributing to food security and sovereignty, sustainable rural development, and maintenance of cultural identity.

The expected outcome is increased stakeholder knowledge of PGR policy, diversity, values, utilization, threat and conservation status, enlarged options for sustainable PGR management, and enhanced exchange of expertise among indigenous rural communities. The anticipated outputs are: 1. inventories of wild and cultivated PGR, including threat, conservation and utilization status; 2. methodologies for the assessment of the nutritional, medicinal, economic, cultural and adaptive capacity values of PGR; 3. proof of concept for strengthening PGR value chains to improve food, nutrition, health and livelihood security; and 4. An accessible knowledge-base on PGR conservation management and sustainable use to support decision-making by local communities and policymakers.

The project will address the CBD and Nagoya Protocol principles of respecting, preserving and maintaining knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, as well as the objectives of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It will address the ITPGRFA principles of promoting and supporting farmers and local communities in on-farm management of PGRFA, expanding the use of local crop diversity, pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems, protecting TK, and increasing farmers’ participation in decision-making processes*. It will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs—particularly Goal 2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Partner roles:

UoB – Project lead; overall project coordination; technical support for activity planning and preparation of associated documentation, publications and other outputs.

UNC – Lead in-country partner; lead on specific in-country activities; project website hosting and management; coordination of external communications and dissemination activities.

CCS – Lead local partner; lead on specific in-country activities; liaison with UNC and ONIC.

ONIC – Lead on local community activities.

*Promotion of ratification of the ITPGRFA is ongoing in Colombia.

Section 6 - Costs

Q13. Costs

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

| | Project Leader | Second individual | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Airfare including travel to airport | £ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] 0 |
| Visas and other travel documents | £0.00 | £0.00 | £ 0.00 |
| Daily subsistence rate per day | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller) | 9 | 3 | |
| Total daily subsistence claimed (please provide details below) | £ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Workshop costs (please provide details below) | | | £ [REDACTED] |
| Other costs (please provide details below) | | | £ [REDACTED] |
| | | Total request from Darwin (must not exceed £10,000) | £ [REDACTED] |

Additional details to support the figures above

| | Project Leader | Second individual |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Average expected subsistence rate per day | £ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Number of days subsistence claimed | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

Workshop costs

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

Travel and subsistence costs of representatives of the Greater Council of the Government of ONIC, local community members of ONIC, and CCS.

Venue hire and catering.

Other costs

Please provide further details on Other costs e.g. subscription to communications platforms, purchase of tablets for local partners etc (N/A if not relevant).

Biosecurity: Covid tests for lead applicant international travel and partner representatives' travel to Leticia.

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 July 2021 | START |
| 15 July 2021 | Detailed planning for the meetings, workshop and travel begins. |
| 17 September 2021 | Meetings, workshop and travel schedule finalized. |
| 15 October 2021 | Workshop participant list finalized. Flights and accommodation booked. |
| 12 November 2021 | Meetings and workshop programmes finalized. Local venue and catering arrangements in place. |
| 06 December 2021 | Meeting at UNC, Bogotá concluded (UoB and UNC). |
| 07 December 2021 | Meeting at ONIC HQ, Bogotá concluded (UoB, UNC, CCS and ONIC). |
| 10 December 2021 | Two-day workshop in Leticia concluded (all partners and local community representatives of ONIC). |
| 12 December 2021 | Meeting at the Living Maize Museum, Ubaque concluded (UoB, UNC, CCS and ONIC). |
| 30 January 2022 | Report of outcomes of the meetings and workshop drafted, including key issues relevant for planning and preparation of the main project proposal. |
| 11 March 2022 | Partner agreement on outcomes and draft donor report concluded. |
| 31 March 2022 | Partnership Project report to donor completed and submitted. |
| 31 March 2022 | FINISH |

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

Ⓒ Round 29

Section 8 - Certification

Q16. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

The University of Birmingham

I apply for a grant of

£9,820.00

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 Jasmine Penny

Position in the organisation Research Facilitator

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [DIR27PP 1072 CertificationSection Signed](#)

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Date 19 January 2021

Section 9 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| I have read the Guidance 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. | Checked |
| I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund. | Checked |
| I have provided anticipated start and end dates for my Partnership Project trip. | Checked |
| I have checked that my budget is complete and correctly adds up. | Checked |
| My application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable). | Checked |
| I have included one page CVs and letters of support as required. | 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 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).