

Applicant: **Offord-Woolley, Susie**
Organisation: **Chester Zoo**
Funding Sought: **£6,800.00**

DIR27PP\1060

Living with Big Cats in Terai, Uttar Pradesh, India

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Susie
Surname	Offord-Woolley
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Chester Zoo
Phone (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title & Location

Q3. Working title of the proposed Darwin project

Living with Big Cats in Terai, Uttar Pradesh, India

Q4a. Host country (of proposed Partnership Project trip)

India

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

India is the proposed country for the Darwin project

Q4c. Other collaborating country/ies

United Kingdom

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	Offord-Woolley	Zimmermann
Forename(s)	Susie	Alexandra
Post held	Field Programme Coordinator	Senior Conservation Fellow
Organisation	Chester Zoo	Chester Zoo
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.

 [Alex&Susie'sCV](#)

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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.

Chester Zoo is an international conservation charity that has provided technical support to around 600 conservation projects in 65 countries over the last 20 years. It has recognised specialisms in livelihood and sustainable development, community engagement and human-wildlife conflict. It has twice received the Queen's Award for Enterprise for conservation, education and sustainability. Chester Zoo has been working in India since 2004 and has extensive experience in implementing successful human-wildlife-conflict mitigation strategies. In this project, Chester Zoo will provide expertise in human-wildlife conflict mitigation, sharing learnings from the Darwin funded projects' Living with Tigers in Nepal (ref 23-013), and the Assam Haathi Project (ref 16-00 & EIDPO-040). It will be responsible for overall coordination and financial management, also providing technical support in behaviour change, community engagement and delivering environmental education. The Project Lead, Susie Offord-Woolley has 15 years of experience managing large complex international projects, with 8 years' experience working for a human-lion conflict project in Kenya and was the project lead for a recent IWT Challenge fund. Co-Lead Alexandra Zimmermann is the

Chair of the IUCN SSC HumanWildlife Conflict Task Force and has led 5 successful Darwin Initiative grants, in India, Nepal, Indonesia and Bolivia, on human-wildlife conflict.

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:	Wildlife Trust India
Website address:	www.wti.org.in
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	WTI will be the host county partner, and responsible for organising the field site visits, meetings, provide past data and experiences, that will feed into the planning and development of the main Darwin project proposal, and liaise with government and local agencies in the host country.
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	<p>WTI has been at the forefront of biodiversity conservation in India for last two decades. Employing diverse conservation strategies, WTI successfully aided in the conservation of several endangered species in the country. Notably, it has pioneered the conservation of wildlife corridors, recovery of dwindling wildlife populations, rewilding reclaimed wildlife habitats, and in developing the capacity of local communities and other stakeholders to preserve natural ecosystems for enhanced wellbeing of humans and nature. With nearly 40 running projects and over 200 personnel, it pursues its mission to "conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments". WTI, has fostered effective increase in India's protected area network, developed management plans for various states in the country, aided in curbing illegal poaching and trade of wildlife species, assisted in developing species-specific standardised rehabilitation procedures, and developed community engagement and participatory frameworks for preservation of biodiversity rich landscapes as well as endangered wildlife species. WTI has also made significant contributions to policy decision of the country pertaining to wildlife conservation and management.</p> <p>WTI is new to the partnership and has never worked on a Darwin project previously.</p>

Name of main contact and post held: Mayukh Chatterjee
Head of Division, Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Division

Letter of support submitted? Yes


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).

 [ChesterZoo and WTI letter 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?

This Project will focus on developing a community-owned and community-driven model of managing conflict with big cats in the project area. Government funding is accorded for conservation work, including management of human-wildlife conflicts but only within the bounds of the tiger reserves. Territorial administrative divisions are responsible for dealing with conflicts outside of the reserves but are poorly funded, lack the capacity and skill to mitigate and manage conflict effectively. The government has rarely focused any resources on developing capacity and skills of local communities to tackle conflict situations. WTI have been working in the reserves for 6 years, but with the ending of the current Project supported by the USFWS, and an imminent need to enhance the work, WTI has reached out to Chester Zoo for support in developing this project further. We would therefore like to develop a partnership to design the next phase of the Project, specifically, to bolster the existing work with community development initiatives, driving positive change in behaviour and practices that reduce conflicts, and employ an evidence-based approach to drive policy change that supports community owned conflict management frameworks.

Chester Zoo has in the past always contributed financially towards projects that it is involved with, however; the recent pandemic and national lockdown closures have immensely strained the Zoos' finances, leading to substantial budget cuts for its worldwide conservation work. While the Zoo can contribute all staff time and overheads, it isn't able to cover the other costs of this 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 key objectives of the Project will be to establish a working relationship towards development of strong collaboration, facilitating the joint planning and implementation of the main project, with buy-in from the host country partner on the project approach and methodology.

The partners aim to collaboratively develop a robust project that can effectively achieve a reduction of human big-cat conflicts in the project landscape using a replicable model of community buy-in, active participation and behaviour change. It will carry out essential preparatory work; review and evaluate existing information on human big-cat conflicts in the project landscape, and efforts put in place to manage and mitigate them over the past years. It will also engage with local grassroots organisations, local community members, and key individuals working on the ground (including officials and management staff of the Tiger Reserves) to understand the local context of the problems and identify key stakeholders. These will be used to develop a Theory of Change driven Logical Framework for mitigating/managing human-tiger and human-leopard conflicts.

Chester Zoo and WTI have already begun discussions around how the partnership would be managed, roles/responsibilities and how to best review existing information by email and video conferencing. The partnership application was therefore also mutually agreed upon, so that the partners could acquire a first-hand understanding of the problem, through data review, interactions with key stakeholder groups, and collaboratively develop the logical framework and the proposal.

During the partnership project, Susie Offord-Woolley, Alexandra Zimmermann and Mayukh Chatterjee will visit the site in Uttar Pradesh, India, attend meetings with local community members in conflict hotspots of the landscape including village level organisations (formal and informal), with local forest department officials and on-ground forest department staff. Meetings with other grassroots organisations as well as individuals working for various conservation and community development objectives, will also be organised during the visit.

Qualitative information will be collected during these meetings, which along with the quantitative data collected over past few years, will be analysed, to gauge the level of human-big cat conflicts in the landscape, understand local context of the problem, as well as the attitudes and perceptions of various stakeholder groups. All of this information will be utilised to develop a problem tree, leading to a theory of change. This will be carried out in a workshop mode by the lead applicant and the partner organisation representatives as well as representatives of stakeholder groups.

Lastly, a strategic planning meeting will be organised in which the Logical Framework will be developed. The main Darwin proposal will also be developed by the project leads during this period.

Both the partner organisation representatives have expressed clear intentions to collaborate on the partnership project and the main Darwin project if the applications are successful. Letters conveying the intent to collaborate have been annexed with the application.

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 partnership phase will develop the details of a main Darwin project concept and application, revolving around effectively reducing the adverse impacts of human-big cat conflicts (tigers and leopards) on people and the animals, in select hotspots of the Terai landscape of Uttar Pradesh, India. Central to this, and crucially important, it will follow a process of community co-design and participation that will serve as a model that can be showcased for replication across the landscape.

The key outputs of the resultant project will be A) the operation of a robust participatory response mechanism, allowing local communities, especially women, to engage and participate actively in mitigation of conflict situations. B) Creating a buy-in for alternative sugarcane farming practices and promotion of alternative fuelwood use in high conflict villages of the region. This would reduce the vulnerability of local people to attacks by big cats.

This is expected to directly cater to SDG 3 by ensuring the wellbeing of local people, especially women, by both reducing their vulnerability to chance encounters in fields, and through their reduced dependence on forest based fuelwood. The alternative sugarcane farming will benefit farmers by increasing their income, thus addressing SDG 1. By promotion of the community-trained volunteers, the project will endeavour to empower local people in the decision-making process to resolve conflict situations. Women will be a key element of this, thereby contributing to SDG 5, for promotion of gender equality.

The project will also endeavour to engage and educate adults and children about nature and their local environment including creating education centres and nature stewards.

WTI will be the main implementer of the project, responsible for undertaking majority of the activities and delivering the outputs on the ground. WTI will liaise and network with local stakeholder groups including local people, local grassroots organisations, individuals, state forest department, and other government line department as relevant to the work. Chester Zoo will co-manage the project and provide expertise and support in regard to developing behaviour change practices, community engagement campaigns, developing education programmes and centres as well as insights and learnings from its other wildlife conflict projects. Specifically Chester Zoo's Senior Conservation Fellow, Dr Alexandra Zimmermann will provide technical expertise in wildlife conflict resolution processes and approaches and the design of data collection and research for monitoring and evaluation. The Co-lead is the Chair of the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force and will bring to the project direct links to current HWC policy developments in the CBD Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework and ensure the project helps foster national governmental commitments to human-wildlife conflict management targets

The lead travellers and host partner representative, will lead the preparatory work and planning, and will drive the implementation of the project on the ground. They will be responsible for project management of the whole project, data analysis and interpretation, managing the design of awareness and education initiatives, and policy level inputs that will aid in addressing the problem in a holistic and scientific manner.

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]
Visas and other travel documents	£ [REDACTED]	£ [REDACTED]	£ [REDACTED]
Daily subsistence rate per day	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
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).

The workshop will be organised at the field site at a rented venue e.g. meeting hall at the hotel, and the costs will cater to the renting of the venue, food, stationary and other arrangements required for the

workshop. Food and beverages will be required for other stakeholders who will be invited to the workshop.

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).

The other costs envisaged are pertaining to round trip travel from new Delhi to the field site by motor vehicles, purchase of one tablet for host country partner, telecommunication expenses, printing and stationary, and incidentals during the field visit. The partnership also anticipates organising of one meeting in Delhi with the representatives of nodal agencies involved in wildlife management and conservation, towards the end of the field site visit for development of the logical framework and drafting off the main Darwin proposal.

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
01 July 2021	START
15 July 2021	First series of meetings completed remotely, including, host country partners, stakeholder representatives; plan for field visit finalised.
02 August 2021	Lead Applicant representative Susie Offord-Woolley commences site visit
05 August 2021	Meetings with Forest Department officers; village councils, other community members and existing village volunteers, in five conflict hotspots.
07 August 2021	Meeting with local grassroots organisations, associations, and individuals, carrying out different community level work
09 August 2021	Co-lead Alexandria Zimmermann to travel and arrive at project site
10 August 2021	Review of existing information, data, and day long brainstorming exercise to draft a 'Problem Tree'.
11 August 2021	Brainstorming workshops to develop Theory of Change and Logical Framework
13 August 2021	Finalisation of Logical Framework based on ToC and first draft of Stage 1 application in New Delhi
16 August 2021	A planning meeting to finalise main project plan and proposal and the next steps. UK partners to travel home.
31 August 2021	Completion of final Darwin main project proposal and submission

15 September
2021

Finalisation of Partnership project Report and submissions of Final (Stage
2) proposal

15 November
2021

FINISH

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

Chester Zoo

I apply for a grant of

£6,800.00

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

Susie Offord-Woolley

Position in the organisation

Field Programme Coordinator

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 Susie OffordWoolley Signature2
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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).