

Applicant: **Liao, Mary**
Organisation: **Mary Liao**
Funding Sought: **£9,996.00**

DIR27PP\1068

The Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary: Strengthening Resilience for Continued Success

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Mary
Surname	Liao
Organisation	Calgary Zoo Foundation
Website (Work)	www.calgaryzoo.com
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Mary Liao
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title & Location

Q3. Working title of the proposed Darwin project

The Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary: Strengthening Resilience for Continued Success

Q4a. Host country (of proposed Partnership Project trip)

Ghana

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

N/A

Q4c. Other collaborating country/ies

N/A

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	Liao	No Response
Forename(s)	Mary	No Response
Post held	Partnership Specialist	No Response
Organisation	Calgary Zoo Foundation	No Response
		
		
Have you included an one page CV?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No


Please explain why a CV has not been provided.

No Response

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

 [Mary Liao CV Darwin Partnership](#)

 18/01/2021

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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.

(Max 200 words)

The Calgary Zoo Foundation (CZF) has been working with communities in different parts of the globe for more than two decades to identify win-win scenarios that simultaneously benefit wildlife and people. At present, we support four community-based conservation initiatives in Ghana, Kenya and Madagascar. We support the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary (WCHS) CREMA to implement regular biomonitoring, gain communal revenue through eco-tourism, and diversify economic opportunities via an organic shea butter cooperative and processing centre. Also in Ghana, the Avu Lagoon CREMA project seeks to protect

the form a community protected area for sitatunga, the world's only aquatic antelope. We have helped to establish the management structure and processes required to protect sitatunga while also working to improve the livelihoods of local people. In Kenya, we work closely with government agencies and local communities to protect the critically endangered mountain bongo in Eburu Forest Reserve, conducting intensive camera trapping and regular forest patrols to dismantle illegal snares and discourage other human illegal intrusions. We are working to identify a viable bee-keeping/honey bio-enterprise that will ease human pressure on forest resources and on mountain bongo. In Madagascar, we working with the University of Calgary, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

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:	Centre for African Wetlands
Website address:	https://www.ug.edu.gh/caw
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	CAW will undertake to provide oversight to the in-country administrative, implementation, management, and scientific support for research, monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and community mobilization, capacity building and community-based conservation initiatives undertaken under this grant agreement.

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

The Centre for African Wetlands (CAW), hosted by the University of Ghana, was established with the mandate to contribute to the preservation of the global, sub-regional, national and local values of wetlands for the benefit of society as a whole; improving the quality of life for people living within and around wetlands; and maintaining wetland bio-diversity and enhancing the general ecological integrity of wetlands.

CAW programs focus primarily on the following areas: training and capacity development; wetland inventory and classification; long term wetland assessment and monitoring; climate change adaptation research as well as pollution/degradation mitigation measures. A major component of CAW efforts focusses on conservation and promotion of wise use of wetland resources by communities living in and around wetland sites through enhancing local livelihoods and eco-tourism. In addition to the WCHS, CAW currently supports communities around selected wetlands in northern Ghana to enhance agricultural productivity based on wise use of wetlands resources. CAW is well suited to implement the proposed project, coordination and bringing on board the necessary expertise to ensure timely delivery of project activities.

Name of main contact and post held: Dr. Kofi Amponsah-Mensah
Research Fellow

Letter of support submitted? Yes

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

Yes

2. Partner Name: Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary CREMA

Website address: <https://www.ghanahippos.com/>

Letter of Support: The WCHS CREMA will seek to facilitate and generate stakeholder buy-in to support research, monitoring, community engagement, capacity building and community-based conservation initiatives undertaken as part of this Agreement.

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

The WCHS CREMA Executive Committee represents the 20 communities that constitute the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary (WCHS). Founded in 1998 by local traditional leaders, the WCHS has been legally recognized as a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) since 2010 and ensures the protection and conservation of Hippopotamus and their habitat within the area. The CREMA status empowers WCHS communities to manage and benefit economically from their natural resources, with sanctuary bylaws enforceable by law, and wildlife management powers officially transferred from the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources to the WCHS CEC. The WCHS CEC thus is a critical partner, with expertise in the local, cultural and historic context, traditional ecological knowledge, in-depth understanding of livelihood needs and aspirations of member communities, and the ability to mobilize community participation.

Name of main contact point and post held:

R. Y. Abudulai Issahaku
WCHS Sanctuary Manager

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

The Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission, Ministry of Lands and Resources)

Website address:

<https://www.fcghana.org/>

Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:

The Wildlife Division will ensure that our programming meets relevant policy requirements, and support the capacity of the WCHS CEC and staff through targeted training

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

The Wildlife Division (WD) is the Government of Ghana's focal agency for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention. With authority over the conservation and management of Ghana's wildlife resources, WD has expertise in the administration of wildlife protected areas, and promotes management and sustainable development of wildlife resources, including facilitation of CREMAs.

Name of main contact point and post held:

MR. ASAMOAH BOATENG
Executive Director

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation?

No

Please explain why.

The Executive Director is participating in a planning retreat. We enclose a prior grant application letter of support as evidence of our collaboration.

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).

 [Calgary Zoo Foundation application All Supporting Letters](#)

 19/01/2021

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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?

The Calgary Zoo Foundation depends heavily on revenue generated by visitors to Calgary Zoo, with spring and summer visitation key to replenishing annual budgets. The pandemic forced the full closure of the zoo for 10 weeks and current operations are well below capacity, resulting in the cancellation of employment for 73% of the foundations' temporary staff, and temporary lay-offs or reduced pay for at times 57% of remaining foundation staff. The organisation's 2020 budget suffered a 21% cut and the proportion dedicated to community conservation a 38% reduction (akin to other programming budgets). We have nonetheless been determined to support our community partners in Ghana. Conscious that the economic outfall of the pandemic is having devastating effects on the livelihoods of the already marginalized populations of Wechiau and ensuing increase in pressure on the community protected areas, we have started to redirect our funds to cover Sanctuary management staff and ranger and guide salaries in an effort to maintain their livelihoods and to support the continuation of patrolling activities critical to the protection of the core zone habitats. We thus do not have sufficient funds to cover the all the costs needed for a comprehensive approach needed to develop a strong Darwin Initiative application. We do have sufficient costs to cover the travel of the Project Lead to Ghana and will be providing those funds as matched funds, as well as the in-kind funds through the salary of the designated project lead.

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

Prior to this project, the Calgary Zoo Foundation (CZF), the Centre for African Wetlands (CAW), and the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary CREMA (WCHS CREMA) recently signed a signed a multi-party, 5 year agreement which provides the framework for a collaborative partnership. The Parties are mutual

collaborators working jointly towards the achievement of the common community conservation objectives, including conservation of the WCHS's core zone, hippos and their habitat via measures that support, enhance or expand the protection and resilience of the WCHS's core zone, its hippos and their habitat, income generation and livelihood improvements for the WCHS and its residents, capacity building for the WCHS's leadership and staff, the development of the local community capacity to enable self-governance, and advancing the science and implementation of community conservation beyond the WCHS, the Region, and Ghana.

While the partnership is recent, CAW has so far:

1. Observed a workshop for the CREMA Executive Committee designed to support good governance processes within the CREMA; and
2. Supported ongoing work to repair and install water systems for the CREMA communities; expected to be completed by May 2021.

Before the COVID pandemic, we had agreed to an initial planning workshop to facilitate CAW's new role in the 3 way partnership, however this was delayed due to COVID.

The objectives of the visit and the work that will be carried out under the Partnership Project will include:

1. Establishing a stronger working relationship between the Calgary Zoo Foundation, the Centre for African Wetlands, the Wildlife Division, and the WCHS CREMA Executive and community representatives, and Shea Butter women's Coop, as well as other stakeholders including the SFC (Savannah Fruits Company), and NCRC (Nature Conservation Research Centre).
2. Strengthening CAW's familiarity on the ground within the WCHS Sanctuary to better understand the local context and nature of the problems being addressed.
3. Building an understanding between the new partners of the skills needed to deliver a successful Darwin project. CAW has familiarity with RBM approaches including logframes and theory of change models, however, the WCHS CREMA will need to be well educated to use this type of approach.
4. Support the understanding of the WCHS CREMA for strong transparency, accountability and inclusive models of governance and management in order to meet the requirements of grant applications such as the Darwin Initiative.
5. Developing the logic model and theory of change essential to the successful achievement of expected results and impacts. This will be accomplished through a participatory stakeholder planning workshop and meetings with stakeholders before and after the workshop.

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.

Our project has 3 ultimate outcomes, 1) Stable, sustainable, well-monitored hippo population, 2) Widespread, sustainable socio-economic benefits for the local community tied to conservation efforts, and 3) Legal authority and sufficient administrative, scientific, and financial capacity for autonomous local management. Associated outputs, include:

- strengthened protection and monitoring of hippos and their habitat
- assistance to construct infrastructure and develop sustainable plans for agro-forestry and eco-tourism

enterprises

- improved access to health and education for all residents
- empowering stakeholders, and women in particular, to contribute to decision-making and management of resources
- transparent governance within the CREMA to mediate individual and communal benefits

The expected results of our project strongly align with Ghana's development priorities. In one of the poorest regions in the country, income from eco-tourism and shea butter production has provided over USD \$ [REDACTED] annually, providing financial security. We aim to establish a tree nursery, which will create employment, ensure the sustainability of the shea harvest, restore forest, and provide additional opportunities to process tree crops. Our project has enhanced human dignity by improving access to water, sanitation, waste management and resultant health benefits. We aim to build the capacity of each board, committee and cooperative to increase gender equality and enhance the role of women in governance. New revenue generating enterprises will seek to mitigate climate change impacts, reduce poverty, and increase food security.

Our project aligns with many of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT) outlined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Strengthening protection of hippo habitat, promoting economic opportunities for women, and pursuit of legal recognition as a CREMA in Ghana contribute to strategic goals B, D, and E, respectively.

Our project also aligns with many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our investment in eco-tourism and sustainable agro-forestry ventures provide financial security for local communities and contributes to goals 1, 2, 8, and 9. Increasing access to clean water via the construction of boreholes and establishment of water sanitation committees contributes to goal 6. Our commitment to increasing the inclusion of women in governance, work within the CREMA framework, and strong partnerships align with goals 5, 16, and 17. Protecting hippos and their habitats strongly aligns with goals 13 and 15.

CZF brings expertise in biological and socio-economic monitoring, conservation science, community conservation, and fund development. CAW brings expertise in supporting community based resource management areas, identifying synergies between conservation needs and cultural beliefs, climate-smart agriculture and eco-tourism, payment for ecosystem services, and on the ground project administration and logistics. WCHS CREMA brings expertise on the local cultural and historic context, traditional ecological knowledge, an in-depth understanding of livelihood needs and aspirations within the community. WD is the branch of the Forestry Commission of Ghana responsible for the conservation, sustainable management and development of Ghana's wildlife resources.

The Project Lead is the Partnership Specialist for the CZF, and will support the Darwin project as the Partnership Coordinator and Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist.

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	£0.00	£0.00	£ 0.00

Visas and other travel documents	£0.00	£0.00	£ 0.00
Daily subsistence rate per day	£0.00	£0.00	
Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller)	0	0	
Total daily subsistence claimed (please provide details below)	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Workshop costs (please provide details below)			£ [REDACTED]
Other costs (please provide details below)			£0.00
		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	£0.00	£0.00
Number of days subsistence claimed	0	0

Workshop costs

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

Meetings with Wildlife Division and other project stakeholders including NCRC (Nature Conservation Research Centre) and SFC (Savannah Fruits Company), and other NGOs in Accra. 2 days fees for Kofi/Jones =220.

Preliminary meeting with WCHS CREMA EC in Wechiau before/during the workshop Yaa, Kofi/Jones 6 days visit Fees [REDACTED]

Planning workshop (3 days) of all stakeholders (costs for 85 participants: transport, hotel, meals, per diem) Detailed budget cannot be provided within the 150 max word requirement but is available on request = [REDACTED]

Drafting of logic model and drafting of preliminary proposal drafting with CAW in Accra. 2 days fees -Kofi and 1 day-Yaa. = [REDACTED]
 Debrief with WD, SFC, NCRC in Accra. 2 days fees = [REDACTED]

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).

N/A

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 October 2021	START
01 October 2021	Travel from Canada to Ghana
04 October 2021	CAW and CZF meetings in Accra
06 October 2021	CZF and CAW meeting with Wildlife Division and other project stakeholders including NCRC (Nature Conservation Research Centre) and SFC (Savannah Fruits Company), and other NGOs.
09 October 2021	Travel to Wechiau
11 October 2021	CZF and CAW meeting with WCHS CREMA EC in Wechiau. CZF and CAW meetings with Shea Butter Women’s Coop in Wechiau.
13 October 2021	Planning workshop of all stakeholders.
16 October 2021	CZF meetings with WCHS Staff, CEC, CRMC, and Shea Butter Women’s Coop after the workshop.
24 October 2021	Travel to Accra
25 October 2021	Drafting of logic model with CAW in Accra. Debrief with WD, SFC, NCRC in Accra.
30 October 2021	Depart Ghana
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
31 October 2021	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

Calgary Zoo Foundation

I apply for a grant of

£9,996.00

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

Axel Moehrenschlager


Position in the organisation


Director, Conservation and Science

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [Axel signature](#)

 19/01/2021

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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).