

Applicant: **Turvey, Samuel**
Organisation: **Zoological Society of London**
Funding Sought: **£9,935.50**

DIR27PP\1071

Respecting expertise of mountain people; conserving Vietnam's surviving bears

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Nicholas
Surname Wilkinson
Tel (Work) + [REDACTED]
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CONTACT DETAILS

Title Prof
Name Samuel
Surname Turvey
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

| Type | Organisation |
|--------------|--|
| Name | Zoological Society of London |
| Phone (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Email (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Website | [REDACTED] |
| Address | [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] |

Section 2 - Title & Location

Q3. Working title of the proposed Darwin project

Respecting expertise of mountain people; conserving Vietnam's surviving bears

Q4a. Host country (of proposed Partnership Project trip)

Vietnam

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

NA

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

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 | Turvey | Wilkinson |
| Forename(s) | Samuel | Nicholas |
| Post held | <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| Organisation | ZSL | CERD |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| 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.


 [Brian CRUDGE CV](#)


 19/01/2021

 22:10:23

 pdf 674.93 KB

 [CV Trung 2019](#)


 19/01/2021

 22:10:22


 pdf 213.02 KB

 [Nicholas Wilkinson CV 2021a](#)


 19/01/2021

 22:10:21

 pdf 53.05 KB

 [Turvey 1page-CV 2021](#)

 19/01/2021

 20:15:12

 pdf 41.62 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.

I have a robust conservation programme that combines ecological surveys and social-science research in rural and indigenous communities, with a commitment to ensuring that good-quality science is fed effectively into conservation policy and practical project implementation. I have led numerous field programmes to strengthen evidence for science-based recovery of threatened species, focused on China and southeast Asia and including Annamite ungulates. Key areas include assessing population status/threats, sustainability of exploitation, monitoring methods, genetic health and/or behavioural ecology, and spatial prioritisation. I have been Co-PI on 2 Darwin Initiative projects and provided extensive support for a third Darwin Initiative project, involving extensive in-country training, mentoring and development of project staff/students, education and awareness-raising at local, national and international levels, and shaping national conservation policy (co-ordination of multi-stakeholder planning workshops, drafting government action plans). Since 2013 I have personally developed ZSL's conservation programme for the Hainan gibbon, the world's rarest primate, through fund-raising, employment/management of PhD/MSc students, postdoctoral researchers and Chinese project staff, and establishment of strong collaborations with Chinese government and other in-country stakeholders. My research into wider correlates of success/failure in species recovery programmes led to evidence-based recommendations that were used to refine and improve effectiveness of WWF's global strategy.

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:

Center For Environment and Rural Development (CERD) at Vinh University

Website address: www.vinhuni.edu.vn

Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities: CERD will be the main in-country partner, responsible for planning and implementing interview and field surveys, developing and maintaining relationships with local experts, PA management boards and local FPDs and responsible for financial reporting to ZSL.

Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development: Vinh University is among the nation's most academically diverse public universities. CERD was established in 2002 as a separate legal entity within the university. Its director, Dr Cao Tien Trung, has been involved in biodiversity conservation since 1995. In Nghe An province, CERD has long-standing relationships with local forest experts as well as senior policy-makers and officials at all levels. However its status within a national-level university allows it to coordinate fieldwork across the country. CERD and its forerunners within the university have a history of standing up for rights of local people and our recommendations have been influential. A report produced by the center was instrumental in a decision to reject fifteen of twenty-three proposed hydropower developments due to the severe impact on local livelihoods. We also successfully made the case against relocation of Dan Lai communities from the Pu Mat core zone. CERD has collaborated with both ZSL and FTB on questionnaire-based interview surveys across the country. These collaborations grew out of a previous Cambridge University Darwin project (17-008). We have since hired Nicholas Wilkinson, the Project Officer as a consultant for ongoing work which, since 2016, has included engagement with local experts in camera trapping.

Name of main contact and post held: Dr Cao Tien Trung, Director

Letter of support submitted? Yes

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

Yes

2. Partner Name: Free the Bears

Website address: *No Response*

Letter of Support: In collaboration with project partners, the Regional Director will be actively involved in development of a main Darwin Stage 1 proposal, using his network within Vietnam and the global bear conservation community to seek feedback on proposed methods, conservation outcomes, indicators of success and potential risks.

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

Free the Bears' Research Programme, under the leadership of Brian Crudge since 2013, has conducted several large-scale research projects using both social science and natural science techniques to improve understanding of wild bears, producing results of immediate value to range-wide strategic conservation planning. Through its own research programme and links with other organizations, Free the Bears has access to up-to-date knowledge of field methods for monitoring bear populations. Brian is a member of the IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group's Asian Bear Monitoring Expert Team and has specific experience designing and implementing ecological research in Vietnam which will contribute to the successful delivery of the proposed partnership project and subsequent projects. Much of Free the Bears' research has involved training of university students, recent graduates, and forest protection staff in order to build capacity for locally-led conservation research. Free the Bears is also experienced in development having successfully end the trade in Indian dancing bears through the provision of alternative sustainable livelihoods. In Laos, several projects are underway, designed to provide sustainable income sources for communities previously dependent on unsustainable use of forest resources.

Name of main contact point and post held:

Brian Crudge, Regional Director

Have you included a letter of support from this organisation?

Yes

3. 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

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).

 [Free the Bears letter of support Darwin Partnership_190120](#)
 19/01/2021
 20:26:44
 pdf 309.55 KB

 [ZSL Darwin Partnership letter](#)
 19/01/2021
 20:26:44
 pdf 287.48 KB

 [Letter of support CERD](#)
 19/01/2021
 20:26:44
 pdf 232.49 KB

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?

ZSL's EDGE programme recognises Annamite biodiversity as globally significant for conservation, and ZSL has supported previous targeted conservation actions for highly threatened Annamite mammal species, including financial support for construction of an ex situ Annamite ungulate captive breeding facility, to demonstrate its institutional commitment to conservation in this region. Unfortunately however, no funds are currently available from within ZSL to support international travel or other logistic costs for conservation staff to develop new collaborative programmes, in large part due to the current global COVID-19 crisis; as much of ZSL's revenue comes from visitors to its two zoos (London Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo), this crisis has forced ZSL and other UK-based zoos to make major financial cuts and restructuring in order to survive, our staff now have substantially restricted internal resources to achieve their conservation targets, and remaining resources are focused around maintaining established long-term programmes. As such, acquiring external financial support is essential to enable development of innovative new projects. Similar delays and restrictions have also affected many external donors and funding organisations, which also typically require initial collaborations to have been already established before grants can be pursued; thus making the Darwin Partnership fund an increasingly unique resource to support initial project development and set-up. ZSL will however provide matched funding in terms of Professor Turvey's salary, computer equipment and software, international travel insurance, medical vaccination/immunisation costs, and associated overheads.

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

Background

This proposal comes from a need to address two related issues of global significance within the context of Vietnam

Certain species are 'vanishingly rare'; i.e. they survive at such low densities that fieldwork must concentrate on locating scattered individuals. Some of Vietnam's conservation flagships, like the saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis* and the turtle *Rafetus swinhoei* clearly fall into this category and it now also includes the country's two bear species. Standard surveys designed to estimate population parameters may fail such species.

Camera trapping results from Pu Mat National Park (94,804 ha) are typical; a grid of 110 cameras covering the park did not detect bears and nor did an intensive grid within a 2,500 ha area. However cameras set in the same small area by a CERD team in partnership with a skilled local hunter detected both Asiatic black bear and Sun bear.

The importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge is increasingly acknowledged in conservation but the respect depends on socio-cultural context. In Vietnam, forest protection staff and field biologists typically respect local knowledge there is no formal recognition at higher levels. Hunting for the wildlife trade is therefore the only way in which local knowledge supports livelihoods. This is doubly tragic where vulnerable species are culturally important because both the suppression and the continuation of hunting lead to a loss of connection. Bears are powerful animals in cultures across the world but their significance in Vietnam's mountains is not widely understood.

In late 2020 we (N Wilkinson, B Crudge, S Turvey, CT Trung) began discussing the potential of local expertise in surveys for very rare species following recent developments in CERD's work on saola. The confirmation of results from Pu Mat in December suggested that this approach might help meet research needs identified by the the IUCN-SSC Bear Specialist Group.

CERD has a long experience of developing practical working relationships with local experts but we also need more work to ensure an approach that does not appropriate or exploit such knowledge or encourage its use for unsustainable hunting. Such work might take the form of additional partnerships.

Activities

Research and consultation, UK-based (10 days)

Meetings with NGO representatives in Hanoi (3 days)

Meeting local experts and PA management boards at one example site (3 days)

Planning meeting for main proposal in Vinh (3 days)

Objectives

- gain input from indigenous scholars, anthropologists and conservation organizations on appropriate engagement with indigenous knowledge.
- receive input and feedback from expert forest users.
- receive feedback on the concept and draft log-frame from representatives of the conservation community in Vietnam, including Flora & Fauna International.
- prepare a proposal, including realistic evaluation of the potential welfare and poverty alleviation benefits.
- assess potential for additional partnerships with NGOs and/or scholars.

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.

Proposed Outcome:

An explicit partnership with local experts to gather knowledge on vanishingly rare species provides a respectful model for sustainable, forest-linked livelihoods.

Likely Outputs:

- A small number (3-7) of experts from different ethnic groups are trained in camera trapping and other techniques and have formed respectful and remunerative working relationships with PA management boards, Forest Protection Departments (FPDs) and possibly tourism agencies.
- At key Vietnamese protected areas presence of bears is either confirmed, or their extirpation is convincingly indicated by published methods whose power is understood.
- Academic and popular materials elucidate views of mountain peoples on extirpation or survival of bears and on the loss of forest-based livelihoods.

Relevance to sustainable development and SDGs:

This project would provide balance to dominant approaches which take an explicitly modernist approach and aim to reduce economic dependence of rural peoples on the forest. Such a balancing approach is needed to prevent the loss of traditional knowledge which is integral to the maintenance of natural and cultural heritage within the lived environment of mountain peoples (SDG target 11.4) and which may be crucial to community resilience. Maintenance of such knowledge depends on societal respect for it which depends on its ability to support sustainable livelihoods.

This project would provide vocational skills (target 4.4) to support employment (8.4). A potential tourism component would contribute to target 8.9 and provide positive links between urban and rural areas (11.a). Broadly, the project is relevant to terrestrial biodiversity (SDG15, especially 15.7) and to livelihoods in poor and marginalized communities (SDGs 1 and 10, especially 10.2).

Role of partners

ZSL: technical input and oversight on field survey methods, publication of academic materials in collaboration with CERD and others, reporting to donor.

CERD: main in-country partner, planning and implementing interview and field surveys, developing and maintaining relationships with local experts, PA management boards and local FPDs.

FTB: technical input on field surveys for bears, ensuring integration of results in bear conservation planning, producing popular materials. Possibly oversight.

As noted above,

we also wish to consider the possibility of developing additional partnerships under this proposal. For example, we have been in contact with the Vietnam office of Flora & Fauna International who have expressed an interest and have relevant projects in potential key sites

.

Role of travellers

Samuel Turvey (ZSL) Project Leader. Technical input to the development of search methods which apply local knowledge to the detection of vanishingly rare species.

Nicholas Wilkinson (Consultant for CERD) Likely to continue his role working closely with CT Trung and team to design and plan fieldwork.

Brian Crudge (FTB). Coordinating dialogue with the conservation community, including the IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group, as well as organizations focused on bear conservation and conservation NGOs working in Vietnam.

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 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Daily subsistence rate per day | £ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller) | 9 | 9 | |
| Total daily subsistence claimed (please provide details below) | £ [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Workshop costs (please provide details below) | | | £0.00 |
| 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 | £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).

N/A

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).

Other costs not included above:

Consultancy costs (Nicholas Wilkinson) for 9 days: £ [REDACTED]
Subsistence for Brian Crudge (in Vinh and Hanoi) and Cao Tien Trung (in Hanoi): Total £ [REDACTED]
Travel for BC from Lao: £ [REDACTED]
Internal travel Vietnam: Total £ [REDACTED]

Salary costs for up to 20 days are specified in the guidance. Dr Wilkinson's involvement in the project is considered essential but he is currently employed as a consultant by CERD (on Cao Tien Trung's suggestion with funding from Vietnamese government sources) and this funding will expire.

Aside from the 2 travellers from the UK, Brian Crudge (based in Lao) should attend meetings in Vinh and Hanoi and Cao Tien Trung should attend meetings in Hanoi and Con Cuong leading to additional subsistence costs.

Internal airfares between Hanoi and Vinh and travel in Hanoi for consultation with NGOs and travel to Con Cuong district to meet local experts:

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 |
| 19 September 2021 | Begin desk-based research, reach out to potential academic and NGO collaborators. |
| 20 September 2021 | Fly to Hanoi |
| 22 September 2021 | Meetings in Hanoi with potential NGO collaborators. |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 23 September 2021 | Fly to Vinh, meeting with CERD team |
| 24 September 2021 | Concept brainstorm with CERD team. Small group travels to Con Cuong district |
| 25 September 2021 | Discussion of potential project with staff of Pu Mat National Park, feedback on concept from local experts |
| 29 September 2021 | Return to Vinh, meetings to determine activities, draft logframe gender policy, financial reporting |
| 30 September 2021 | Return UK |
| <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> |
| 30 September 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

the Zoological Society of London

I apply for a grant of





£9,935.00

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 | Samuel Turvey |
| Position in the organisation | Professor |
| Signature (please upload e-signature) |  signature  19/01/2021  22:00:58  jpg 31.86 KB |
| 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).