



EIDPO038



DARWIN200

Submit by Monday 30 November 2009

DARWIN INITIATIVE: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 17: POST PROJECT

Please read the Guidance Notes for both Main Round and Post Project applications before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required.

Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

1. Name and address of organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by post)

Name: Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU)	Address: Recanati-Kaplan Centre, Zoology Department, University of Oxford, Tubney House, Tubney OX13 5QL
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2. Post-Project details

Project Title (max 10 words): High Andes Conservation Without Borders				
Proposed start and end dates: 1 April 2010 / 31 March 2012			Duration of project: 2 years	
Darwin funding requested	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
	£65,773	£74,180	£	£139,953

3. Original Project Title and Defra reference number (eg 14-065)

Conservation of Puna's Andean cats across national borders
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4. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. Letters of support must also be provided from the host country partner(s) endorsing the partnership and value of the Post Project funding. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide more than one overseas project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
Surname	Sillero-Zubiri		Marconi
Forename (s)	Claudio		Patricia
Post held	Senior Research Fellow		President
Institution (if different to above)			Fundación YUCHAN
Department			
Telephone			
Email			

5. Define the purpose of the Post Project (extracted from logframe) and explain how it is linked to the objectives of the original Darwin project? (Max 200 words)

The purpose of this Post Project is to increase protection of High Andes biodiversity and of critical natural resources in the triple frontier of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile from the threats of incompatible land uses and climate change, through international collaborations. The original Darwin project sought to raise awareness and capacity for biodiversity conservation in the region, while creating and reinforcing networks of scientists, PA managers and other stakeholders. These are now in place and implementing some of the collaborative actions contemplated in the Tilcara Agreement, a major outcome of the original project signed by agencies from the three host countries. The original project identified key areas for conservation of carnivores, particularly Andean cats and their prey base; critical resources on which they depend, mainly highland wetlands; and threat from unregulated tourism, in addition to mining and overgrazing. The new project will focus on these threats by implementing international collaborations to improve the conservation status of wetlands in the region, which are the key resource not only for carnivores and migratory birds, but also for recovering populations of vicuñas and people raising livestock.

6. What have been the main outcomes (achievements) of the original project to date?

The aim of the original project was to improve conservation of biological diversity in the Central High Andes, particularly vertebrates and with a focus on carnivores. The partnerships and mechanisms put in place led to improved awareness and institutional capacity in support of biodiversity conservation in the region. The presence of research and education teams in the field throughout the project, and the efforts devoted to education and community participation, raised the profile of Andean cats and other wildlife among local communities, shifting the cultural paradigm by which wild cats are hunted for ceremonial purposes, while keeping the Andean cat as an important spiritual icon. The project prompted increasing interest in the local and regional media for Andean cats and High Andes conservation, progressing towards our goal of establishing the Andean cat as a flagship for the natural and cultural landscape of the High Andes. Local communities, tourist agencies and PA managers now have a better understanding of the importance and threats to High Andes biodiversity conservation, and are more willing and better prepared to implement conservation actions. The most tangible impact on conservation policy in host countries was the *Tilcara Agreement* for cross-border cooperation, signed by conservation agencies and partner institutions from the three countries. Project partners continue to work to enable the creation of protected areas in Vilama (Argentina) and Licancabur-Tatio (Chile). The project had a social impact in some of communities where local park staff and teachers benefited directly from training and employment, and some progress was made resurrecting traditional trans-boundary forms of exchange and communication between related communities in Bolivia and Argentina.

7. What steps have been taken to ensure that project purpose and outputs of the original project will be achieved within the original project term? (max 200 words)

WildCRU and partners conducted internal evaluations of project implementation from the start and throughout the project lifetime, mainly during international workshops when most team members gathered. These included an international workshop in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile (2005) and the AGA meeting in Arequipa, Peru (2007), when the implementation of standard methodologies was assessed with questionnaires. At the final international Tilcara Agreement meeting (2008) partner institutions from the three host countries provided feedback. At the end of each project year an annual evaluation took place to assess strengths and weaknesses and to adapt the project activities as required for remainder of the project. Specialists from WildCRU, AGA and GCFA acted as evaluators at various stages of the project. The main project activities, timetables and the staff responsible for their execution were included in the annual operational plans of AGA and evaluated annually using standardised internal procedures. The universities involved evaluated the proposed plans for the student theses conducted during the project.

8. Please list all the institutions involved including the UK/collaborative (where there are partners in addition to the applicant organisation) and host country partners that will be involved in the Post Project, and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project and in the original project (if applicable). Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including Post Project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of host country partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

<p>Lead UK institution and website where available:</p> <p>Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), Zoology Department, University of Oxford</p> <p>www.wildcru.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>Dr Claudio Sillero: initiator and overall responsible of the original and post project; political liaison, networking, coordination and administration of grant.</p> <p>Dr Jorgelina Marino: development of both projects, coordination of ecological research; edition of carnivore monitoring manual and Andean cat ecology book chapter; habitat suitability models; leader of off-road project Huella Unica to mitigate the impacts of uncontrolled tourism. Post project: coordination of ecological research; databases; co-supervision of students; technical reports for PA managers</p> <p>WildCRU will collaborate with Oxford University Centre for the Environment (OUCE) to develop regional models to predict climate change in the region of the triple frontier.</p>
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<p>Lead host country Partner and website where available:</p> <p>Fundacion YUCHAN</p> <p>www.reservadelhuaico.org.ar</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>Dr Patricia Marconi: Local coordinator in host countries; coordination of the four components of project, and oversee drafting of an Integrated Management Plan for the PAs of the triple frontier.</p>
<p>Lead host country Partner and website where available:</p> <p>High Andes Flamingo Conservation Group (GCFA)</p> <p>www.redflamencos.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>GCFA has entered an strategic alliance with AGA to integrate and jointly coordinate all GCFA activities in the triple frontier region during the duration of this project.</p> <p>Dr Patricia Marconi (a senior member of the GCFA) and other members will be responsible of collaborative work to census flamingos and survey wetlands in the project area.</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Andean Cat Alliance www.gatoandino.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>AGA was founded in 1999 to facilitate collaboration between individuals and institutions engaged in Andean cat research and conservation activities in all four range countries. Since then its members, including WildCRU's four national partner institutions in this project, have established firm working relationships with each other. Dynamic networking of AGA partners demonstrates a shared commitment to the proposed project, and has facilitated the planning and preparation of this post project application. WildCRU was an integral partner in the compilation of the Andean Cat Action Plan (Villalba et al. 2004. The Andean cat: conservation action plan. Andean Cat Alliance, La Paz, Bolivia).</p> <p>The following AGA members will participate of this project:</p> <p>Lilian Villalba will be responsible for implementation of project activities in Bolivia. She was a participant of the original project.</p> <p>Dr Pablo Perovic will be responsible for implementation of some project activities in Argentina. He was a participant of the original project.</p> <p>Magdalena Bennett will work full time in implementation of research activities across host countries. She will enrol for her doctoral studies at Oxford University under Claudio Sillero supervision. Magdalena was a participant of the original project while working for Universidad de Chile.</p> <p>Dr Jorgelina Marino will coordinate research activities.</p>
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9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

The *Tilcara Agreement* brings together the following agencies:

Argentina: Administración de Parques Nacionales Delegación Noroeste, Dirección de Fauna Silvestre de la Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (Nación), Dirección Provincial de Políticas Ambientales y Recursos Naturales (Provincia de Jujuy), Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Provincia de Jujuy).

Bolivia: Viceministerio de Biodiversidad, Recursos Forestales y Medio Ambiente, Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (SERNAP).

Chile: Corporación Nacional Forestal, Región de Antofagasta.

International networks: Alianza Gato Andino, Grupo Conservación Flamencos Altoandinos.

As signatories of the *Tilcara Agreement* these institutions give explicit support to initiatives such as: promotion of integrated management of PAs and Ramsar sites in the triple frontier region; identification of priority areas for conservation and support to the creation of new protected areas, of restricted areas within PAs, and biological corridors between PAs; agreements between PAs and natural resource managers for coordinated surveys of flamingos, carnivores, wetlands; participation in the establishment and access to common databases; articulated reinforcement of regulations and coordinated activities, such as communal patrols; unified tourism regulations, common languages and signalling; integrating tourist circuits and promoting participation of local communities in tourist industry.

9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders? Yes No

yes, please give details:

In addition to the institutions mentioned above we will consult livestock growers in Argentina and Bolivia to seek their participation in land use surveys. Additionally universities in Oruro & La Paz (Bolivia) and Salta & Jujuy (Argentina) will be approached to identify potential students.

9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated? Yes No
If yes, please give details:
 Comité para el Desarrollo Sustentable de las Regiones Montañasas de la República Argentina, a network of public institutions and agencies with a common interest on mountain issues
 Servicio Nacional de Turismo, Chile: interested in the Off-road Project
 Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, Chile: interested in changes in land use and wildlife management
 Municipalidad San Pedro de Atacama: interesados in the Off-road Project and creation of Tatio PA
 Municipalidad de Uyuni, Bolivia: Off-road Project.

9d. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CMS/CITES focal point in the host country? Yes No
If yes, please give details:
 All national agencies responsible for CBD/CMS/CITES are signatories of the Tilcara Agreement. If the proposal is successful the relevant CBD & CMS contact points in all three countries will be contacted and formal liaisons developed.

9e. Will your project support any work in the UK Overseas Territories? Yes No
If yes, please give brief details stating which Territory/ies will be involved.

POST PROJECT DETAILS

- 10. Please provide a Concept Note (max 1,000 words). Describe the problem to be addressed, explain why it is a priority for the host country and how its resolution will improve host country ability to meet it's obligations under CBD/CMS/CITES. The proposed strategy and its intended outcomes should be described adequately, including justification for and brief details of the contribution of each UK and host country partner.**

The High Andes ecosystem harbours a range of species that developed unique adaptations to this harsh climate with low temperatures and extreme aridity. In these arid environments shallow water bodies and extensive networks of wetlands, known as 'vegas' or 'bofedales', sustain patches of higher productivity, which are crucial for carnivores and their prey, birdlife including migratory and endemic species, and recovering populations of vicuñas as well as livestock. Away from the wetlands soils are poorly developed, low in nutrients, and of low productivity. The chief conservation issue in the High Andes as a result is its fragility and limited capacity to respond to disturbances brought about by increasing human pressures, such as mining, unregulated tourism, and livestock grazing. High Andes biodiversity is also vulnerable to climate change, and some impacts are already noticeable: shrinking *Polylepis* forests, contracting wetlands, and a reduction in hydrological resources, including lakes and salt pans that are crucial for the water balance in these closed basins, and essential to support large populations of aquatic birds.

Understanding past and future effects of various land uses upon the natural resources in the High Andes will contribute to targeting and strengthening the network of tessellated protected areas enclosing the triple frontier between Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. Although this extensive area is scantily populated it faces imminent threat from expanding human activities and from climate change.

Due to the protected areas straddling international borders the region has good potential for integrated management and transfrontier collaborations. Building up from the awareness raised among stakeholders during the original project, the post project will assist stakeholders establish collaborative programmes contemplated in the 'Tilcara Agreement'. The project strategy is to foster close cooperation with Governmental institutions and NGOs from host countries and the developed world to improve capacity and awareness, to generate and disseminate technical information and lobby for increased protection within PAs.

In this way the original and post project will contribute directly to the **2010 Biodiversity Target** (i.e. to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level) and the implementation by the Argentine, Bolivian and Chilean governments of the **Mountain Biodiversity thematic programme of the CDB**. Cross-border cooperation, coordinated research and better conservation across boundaries will be achieved via exchange of expertise, resources and integrated regulations (**Articles 5, 17 and 18: Co-operation, Exchange of information, Technical and scientific co-operation**). The project focus on **in-situ conservation (Article 8)** to help mitigating the impacts of growing threats to mountain biological diversity, with education campaigns for tourists, tour operators and local communities (**Article 13 - Public education and awareness**) and with monitoring work in priority areas for conservation (**Article 7 - Identification and monitoring**).

The new focus on highland wetlands will contribute to the implementation of the **CMS**, of which the three countries are signatories, helping to conserve populations of migratory species with unfavourable conservation status (two species of flamingos in **Appendix I: *Phoenicoparrus andinus* and *Phoenicoparrus jamesi***) and species which require international agreements for their conservation and management (**Appendix II: all species of flamingos, including *Phoenicopterus chilensis***). The project will help Bolivia and Chile to implement their **Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos and Their Habitats** (signed on 2008 between Bolivia, Chile and Peru, and with potential to include Argentina) and the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance** of which the three host countries are signatories.

Coordinated research under the supervision of Oxford University scientists will generate formal assessments of current and predicted threats to critical High Andes resources (**output 1**), with study cases to cover a diversity of scenarios in the triple frontier and with spatial modelling to include the continuous habitats across borders. Participants from AGA and GCFA bring the expert knowledge required to assess impacts upon populations and critical habitats of emblematic species such as Andean cats and flamingos. Their continuous involvement since the original project will ensure continuity of field protocols and databases. Partners from the three host countries will contribute their close links with PA managers, largely developed during the original project. This will ensure that technical evaluations and recommendations for PAs (**Output 2**) will take all relevant issues into consideration, receive input from PA experts, and contribute to build up momentum for improved conservation practices. The project leaders have ample experience working in PAs and good connections with political players, crucial to facilitate the implementation of the Tilcara Agreement and the formal upgrading of Vilama (**Output 3**). The impacts of unregulated tourism on the High Andes landscape are particularly worrying. A team of project members assembled during the original project to study and mitigate the impacts of off-road driving are in the best position to extend their work and improve the education campaign against off-road driving impacts while helping disseminate biological information to all stakeholders (**Output 4**).

11. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/Darwin Initiative projects carrying out similar work? Yes No

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have/will been made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:

12. Please indicate which of the following biodiversity conventions your project will contribute to:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Yes No

CITES Yes No

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Yes No

What problem is this project addressing and how was it identified? (150 words)

The post project grant will address problems that affect mountain ecosystems globally and the High Andes in particular. The vulnerability of mountain ecosystems to climate change is widely recognized, including diminishing habitat for highland specialists due to the potential effects of raising temperatures and changes in rainfall. In the triple frontier these problems are exacerbated by the increasing demand for water for urban development and the mining industry, particularly in Chile, and by the dependence on wetlands for livestock grazing. In the triple frontier all life systems depend on these wetlands. Furthermore, the wetlands are crucial for the water balance of these closed basins which are replenished very slowly. Low water levels have been registered in relation to El Niño/La Niña fluctuations by the GCFA. The original project also identified poor or absence of adequate control of tourism activities, with key areas in Los Flamencos (Chile) and Eduardo Avaroa (Bolivia) disturbed by off-road driving. Unregulated tourism, mining and overgrazing were recognized as major problems for High Andes biodiversity conservation by the new AGA Strategic Plan, and the GCFA Regional Strategic Plan for High Andean Wetlands.

What will change as a result of this project? (150 words)

Building on the framework laid out by the Tilcara Agreement, this project will promote a united front of neighbouring PAs against the growing threats of mining, unregulated tourism and grazing in this region. Upgrading the conservation status of Vilama in Argentina will help consolidate a *de facto* transfrontier conservation area of significant dimensions, enhancing the prognosis for the long-term persistence of High Andes biodiversity. As a result of this project, AGA, GCFA and PA authorities will develop closer links and favourable conditions for new and existing international agreements and initiatives for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable land use practices. Conservation agencies will count with technical knowledge and scientific evidence on the threats affecting High Andes biodiversity and ecosystems services such as water, improving their readiness to respond to changing land uses and climate change. National scientists and conservation agencies will have enhanced their capacity to contribute to biodiversity conservation in their respective countries.

Why is the project important for the conservation of biodiversity? (150 words)

The high level of endemism, together with adaptations of the flora and fauna to altitude and extreme temperatures, qualifies the High Andes ecosystem as a biome of particular conservation concern. Despite its fragility and vulnerability to degradation, fragmentation and climate change, this biome is under-represented in the protected area networks of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.

This project will help fill this gap with concrete contributions to conservation efforts in the triple frontier and a focus on threats to the wetlands and water bodies that concentrate most High Andes vertebrate diversity and biomass. Enhancing protection of these critical resources will contribute to maintain ecological processes and to the long-term persistence of populations of conservation concern, including carnivores and their prey base, three sympatric flamingo species and several other migratory water birds. Moreover, all these species require large areas and networks of wetlands that straddle international borders.

How does this relate to one or more of the biodiversity conventions? (150 words)

A strengthened network of PAs across the Andes will support the **Mountain Biodiversity thematic programme of the CBD**. This project will address problems specific to mountain biological diversity, such as endemic and endangered species and climate change, and promote a role for local communities in the conservation and management of natural resources. The project will help host countries to fulfil their obligations under the Convention in key areas for vertebrate diversity in the triple frontier and in the face of climate change and changing land uses. The project will fulfil aspects of the following three main objectives of the host **National Biodiversity Strategies**: (i) to strengthen the national system of protected areas; (ii) to identify, protect, and recover endangered species; and (iii) to increase knowledge on biological diversity. In addition to the contribution to the **CMS** described above, the project focus on wetlands and migratory species also relates to the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance**, and the **Regional Strategic Plan for High Andean Wetlands** that encompasses the host countries (5 priority sites).

13. Explain how gains from the Post-project work will be distinct and additional to those of the existing project. Show, where possible, how these gains require limited resources and could not be achieved without the funding. (max 200 words)

The research component of this project will shift emphasis from carnivores and prey ecology to assessing threats to critical resources, mainly wetlands, and will include important populations of migratory water birds. The project will benefit from the ecological information gained during the original project and from closer collaboration with GCFA, which has been monitoring water birds in the region for the last 12 years. Like Andean cats, flamingos are powerful flagship species, used in the original project for the tourist education campaign. The post project will add technical expertise on land cover and climate change research to understand the dynamics of the system and to predict future trends. The post project is distinct in that it will seek to implement conservation actions within the framework of the Tilcara Agreement, building up on the awareness raised during the original project. For example, technical reports will inform proposals to upgrade, extend or zone PAs, and a better integrated management. The coalescence of AGA and GCFA objectives for this important region will not only ensure that these gains are attainable but also that progress towards project outputs will be cost effective, taking into account the expertise, infrastructure and data they will provide. Funding for a PhD student and two master students will build up much needed capacity under expert supervision while avoiding expensive consultants. Finally, by contributing additional funding to the existing off road project, run by project partners, the mitigation of tourism impacts will be cost-effective.

14. What will be the long term benefits of the project in the host country or region and how will these help to strengthen the impact and legacy of your original Darwin project? Have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits? (max 250 words)

The project's impact on the long-term preservation of High Andean biodiversity and of water resources across the triple frontier will derive from the increased capacity, access to technical information and integration among decision makers. The post project strengthens the impact of the original project by promoting concrete international collaboration from the Tilcara Agreement, providing detailed assessments of threats affecting the PAs and developing reference datasets and protocols for long-term biological monitoring. Coordinated research and dissemination of results contributes to building capacity in PA staff and national scientists, and information campaigns to increase public awareness and participation in biological diversity. Extensive dissemination of results and education materials will ensure a real impact on biodiversity protection at various levels, from local communities to PAs, national governments, and international agencies from which we hope to lever future support. Scientific publications in international and national journals will help sharing lessons with scientists working in other mountain ranges with similar environmental and socio-economic conditions.

Potential problems to achieve these benefits are political instability and changes in the priorities of governments in relation to biodiversity conservation, which may impede or retard actions to improve PA management and to implement international collaborations.

15. State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave? (Max 200 words)

A chief legacy of this project will be a new management culture of collaborating across borders for successful conservation, the development and strengthening of networks (e.g., AGA and GCFA), a focus on wetlands and use of migratory flamingos as flagships for High Andean biodiversity conservation. The project will help equip local people to take on responsibility for managing biodiversity in sensitive areas and PA managers with fundamental information for the conservation of threatened species and natural resources, and well as the development of new and better integrated PAs, with the eventual shared goal of an integrated management plan. This should deliver a *de facto* transfrontier conservation area straddling the triple frontier.

Among the contributions that we expect to outlive the project are permanent schemes for monitoring wetlands in key conservation areas, policy-makers better equipped to consider enforcement and tighter regulation of environmental protection in the High Andes (e.g., mining and tourism), and leveraging additional financial support for High Andes conservation from other national and international agencies. Other collaborative activities will continue to develop within the framework of international collaboration promoted by the Tilcara Agreement. Training of local scientists and building the capacity of scientific and conservation institutions benefitting from UK teaching and research expertise will ensure the continued occurrence of local champions for the conservation and sustainable use of High Andes biodiversity.

16. How will the results of the project be disseminated? How will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways will the Darwin name and logo be used? (max 200 words)

To have a real impact on biodiversity protection promotional materials and the results of research activities and workshops will be disseminated widely, from local communities, to PAs, regional agencies, national and international institutions, from which we hope to lever future support.

Technical reports, monitoring plans and the integrated management plan for PAs will be delivered back to PA managers and governments. Databases on Andean carnivores and prey, wetlands and water birds will be created/maintained and channels for data sharing established. Scientific publications in international and national journals will ensure that the lessons learned are shared with scientists in other mountain areas (with similar environmental and socio-economic characteristics), thus promoting new research initiatives based on our findings. The AGA, GCFA and WildCRU websites will be used for the dissemination of results; a six-monthly newsletter will be produced and distributed among stakeholders, and national and local radio and newspapers will be used to promote High Andes conservation and disseminate results. A new website will be developed to promote responsible tourism more widely and mitigate negative impacts of off-road driving.

17. If your project includes training and development, please indicate how you will assess the training needs in relation to the overall purpose of the project. Who are the target groups? How will the training be delivered? What skills and knowledge to you expect the beneficiaries to obtain? How will you measure training effectiveness? (max 300 words)

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

18. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex 3 of the Guidance Note for Main applications.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Sub-Goal: Contribution to the implementation of international and national conventions for the protection of High Andes biodiversity, particularly migratory flamingos and water birds, carnivores and their prey, and the highland wetlands that sustain them around the triple frontier of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.</p>	<p>Stable or recovering populations of carnivores and water birds within interconnected protected areas; maintenance of nesting sites and migratory routes; status of wetlands maintained; more sustainable land uses in the region.</p>	<p>Ongoing long-term monitoring of water birds and water bodies; surveys of distribution of rare carnivores and abundance of prey; monitoring of wetlands; statistics of tourism activity within PAs; mapping of off-road disturbance.</p>	
<p>Purpose Through international collaborations in the triple frontier of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile increase protection of High Andes biodiversity and critical natural resources from the threats of incompatible land uses and climate change.</p>	<p>International collaborative projects resulting from <i>Tilcara Agreement</i> in place. Strengthened network of protected areas.</p>	<p>Key conservation areas and biological corridors protected. New areas under regulated tourism. Progress towards a new PA in Vilama, Argentina.</p>	<p>There is political willingness to counteract threats to biodiversity and to strengthen the network of protected areas in the triple frontier, fulfilling responsibilities assumed with international conventions and the Tilcara Agreement.</p>
<p>Outputs 1. Key threats to critical High Andes resources identified and measured.</p>	<p>Measures of the extension, impact and/or level of threat from mining, tourism, and livestock grazing on wetlands and associated populations of water birds and carnivores. Assessment of the distribution & status of wetlands across the triple frontier and of imminent threats from land use and climate changes.</p>	<p>1 PhD (start Apr10), 2 MSc theses, 2 undergraduate theses. Maps of critical resources, level of protection, and current and predicted threats. Scientific publications and technical reports.</p>	<p>In these arid environments wetlands are key resources for wildlife and local communities, under threat from tourism and the mining industry.</p>

<p>2. Technical evaluations and recommendations improve the efficacy of PAs network to protect key natural resources in the triple frontier.</p>	<p>Assessment of threats to critical resources in key conservation areas of: Salar de Tara (Los Flamencos Reserve) and proposed Licancabur-Tatio in Chile; Eduardo Avaroa Reserve (REA) and Los Lipéz Ramsar site in Bolivia; and Laguna de Pozuelos Biosphere Reserve and Lagunas de Vilama Ramsar Site in Argentina.</p>	<p>Technical reports to governments and PA authorities with assessments, guidelines and recommendations. Databases of wildlife associated to wetlands. Plan for wetland monitoring in REA, Bolivia.</p>	<p>There is a need and interest in governments and PA authorities for information on the status and threats to their natural resources.</p>
<p>3. Strengthened network of PAs and transfrontier collaborations in the triple frontier.</p>	<p>Zoning and ethical signalling in Salar de Tara; progress with Licancabur-Tatio proposals; implementation of zoning in REA, articulated with Ramsar sites and neighbouring PAs; progress towards formalizing the creation of a PA in Vilama. Tilcara Agreement results in successful international collaborations.</p>	<p>Endorsement of Tilcara Agreement at Foreign Affairs Ministerial level Progress formalizing status of Vilama PA (Arg) Draft of integrated management plan, subscribed by agencies in all three countries.</p>	<p>Tilcara Agreement and GCFA MoU accepted by government agencies as best framework for future collaboration. Integrated management plan adopted as an implementation tool by each of the relevant PAs</p>
<p>4. Effects of unregulated tourism in the PAs mitigated and increased awareness of the need to protect the High Andes ecosystem.</p>	<p>Information campaign 'Huella Unica' (off-road project) continued in Bolivia and Chile and extended to Pozuelos and Vilama in Argentina. Awareness campaign disseminates relevant good practice and biological information to tour operators and local communities. At least two key conservation areas with ethical signalling for drivers and tourists.</p>	<p>Reports with statistics on tourism, tour operators, PA staff and local communities reached by the campaign. Before-after surveys unveiling changes in attitude.</p>	<p>A sustainable tourism industry is compatible with the conservation of the fragile High Andean terrain.</p>

Activities

- 1.1 Mapping of wetlands, water bodies and associated vegetation formations from remote sensing data across the Triple Frontier (TF)
- 1.2. Distribution of wetlands and primary productivity within the network of PAs and climatic correlates
- 1.3. Map of off-road disturbance from tourism extended to include Pozuelos in Argentina
- 1.4. Research on the impact of water extraction (urban and mining) on wetlands, from land cover change analyses (study case in Chile)
- 1.5. Research on livestock grazing on wetlands, people's livelihoods and potential impacts on wildlife populations (study case in REA and Vilama)
- 1.6. Summer censuses of flamingo colonies (3 spp.), and other water birds, assess long term trend and climatic correlates

- 2.1 Consultation with PA managers to determine technical needs of PAs to quantify main threats to biodiversity and adapt management plans to changing circumstances
- 2.2. Collation of information on current and planned mining activities in the TF
- 2.3. Mapping key resources and threats in the TF
- 2.4. Socio economic surveys to determine changes in human demography as a result of mining and tourism development
- 2.5. Assist with technical reports to support changes in status, zoning and/or creation of new PAs, including maps of key resources and threats across PA

- 3.1 Revisit Tilcara Agreement, select concrete collaborative projects and agree on implementation (e.g., unified regulation of tourism)
- 3.2. Lobbying for progress towards PA in Vilama, Licancabur-Tatio, better integration of Ramsar site management with that of PAs
- 3.3. Assist with drafting of integrated management plan to include all PAs in TF

- 4.1. Information campaign in REA, LF and Pozuelos
- 4.2. Zoning and ethical signalling for tourists and drivers in Salar de Tara
- 4.3 Support with ethical signalling and zoning in REA and Los Lipez Ramsar sites

Monitoring activities:

Indicator 1 Extent and status of wetlands network

Indicator 2 Summer surveys of water birds

Indicator 3 Areas under nominal and effective conservation compared for 2004, 2008 and 2012

Indicator 4 Financial and human resources available to PA managers in 2004, 2008 and 2012

Indicator 5 Additional areas put under effective protection by 2012

Indicator 6 Changes in the attitude of tourism operators before and after implementation of Off-Road project

Indicator 7 Off-Road damage does not increase. Better compliance by tour operators

Indicator 8 Length of road networks signalled and adopting Huella Unica principle

19. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your Post Project.

Activity	Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
		1.1	x	x									
1.2	6		x		X								
1.3	2	X											
1.4	12			x	X	X	X						
1.5	12			x	X	X	X						
1.6	1				X							X	
2.1	4	x	x										
2.2	6	x	x	X									
2.3	8			x	X								
2.4	4				x	X							
2.5	12					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.1	18			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2	18			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.3	6											x	
4.1	18	x	x	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.2	6									X	X	X	X
4.3	6									X	X	X	X
6.5													

20. Please indicate which of the following Standard Measures you are likely to report against. You will not necessarily plan to cover all these Standard Measures in your project. Separate guidance on Standard Measures can be found at [http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/standard measures/](http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/standard%20measures/)

Standard Measure	Description	Tick if Relevant
1A	Number of people to submit thesis for PhD qualification (in host country)	X (1)
1B	Number of people to attain PhD qualification (in host country)	
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc)	X (2)
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications (ie. Not outputs 1 or 2 above)	
4A	Number of undergraduate students to receive training	X (2)
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	X (12)
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	X (12)
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	X (30)
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	X (8)
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	X (3)
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	X (12)
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	X (1)
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	X (2)
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	X (4)
12A	Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to host country	X (1)
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country	X (2)
13A	Number of species reference collections to be established and handed over to host country(ies)	
13B	Number of species reference collections to be enhanced and handed over to host country(ies)	
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	X (4)
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	X (3)
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	X (3)
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	X (3)
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	X (1)
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	X (4)
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	100
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	20
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	1
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	2
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	2
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	2
18D	Number of local TV programmes/features in UK	
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	3
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	3
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	£5,250
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	£62,000

PROJECT BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

21. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.

WildCRU and partners will conduct evaluations of project progress and implementation throughout the project lifetime, and particularly during international workshops to which most team members are expected to participate. Toward the end of each project year, an annual evaluation will take place to assess strengths and weaknesses and adapt the project activities as required for remainder of the project, with specialists from WildCRU, AGA and GCFA as evaluators. This post-project focuses on implementation of conservation activities, for which evaluation is more difficult, not only for the degree of uncertainty in political decisions, but also because of the less measurable indicators of conservation success. At the end of the first year our process of internal evaluation will focus on how dissemination activities and outputs are providing feedback to inform decision-making, and at the end of the second year the project will evaluate its impact in terms of ongoing collaborations from the Tilcara Agreement and the willingness to implement recommendations for an integrated management of PAs in the triple frontier. At the end of the project, we will evaluate whether the project is replicable, transportable and applicable to other parts of the High Andes within the range of Andean cats and migratory flamingos. The main project activities, timetables and staff responsibility for their execution will be included in the annual operational plans of AGA and evaluated annually. We will apply the participatory principle by promoting the participation of all partners in the evaluation of the project. Participating universities will evaluate these plans for student projects to be conducted during the project.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which will provide the Budget information for this application. Some of the questions below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (April to March). Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative will not be able to agree increases in grants to cover inflation on UK costs once grants are awarded.

22. How is your organisation currently funded? (max 100 words)

WildCRU is part of the University of Oxford, with close links to Lady Margaret Hall. Although strongly committed to WildCRU, the University is unable to provide funding, so WildCRU relies upon grants and donations to fund its research and implementation work. WildCRU is based at Tubney House, a facility donated by the Tubney Charitable Trust.

23. Provide details of all confirmed funding sources identified in the Budget that will be put towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity. Please include any additional unconfirmed funding the project will attract to carry out additional work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.

Confirmed:

Born Free Foundation £9,738 (yr1) + £6,664 (yr2)

CONICIT Chile (student grant) £9,600 + £9,600

WildCRU £8,128 + £4,000

Wildlife Conservation Network £3,125

GCFA (Rio Tinto/Birdlife International) £7,150

Unconfirmed:

Wildlife Conservation Network £4,000

24. Please give details of any further funding resources (confirmed or unconfirmed) sought from the host country partner (s) or others for this project that are not already detailed in the Budget or Question 22. This will include donations in kind or un-costed support eg accommodation. (max 50 words per box)

Financial resources:
Funding in kind:

25. What was the amount of funding for the original Darwin Project?

	Total Project Costs £
Amount of original Darwin Initiative project funding	£157,968
+ Funding/Income from other sources	£135,128
= Total original project cost	£293,096

FCO NOTIFICATION

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise details of the Darwin Post-project and the resultant work in the UK or in the host country.

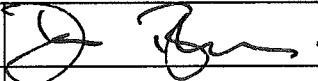
CERTIFICATION 2010/11

On behalf of the trustees/company* of The University of Oxford
 (*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £65,773 in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 2011 on the activities specified in the above application.

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 project schedule should this application be successful. (This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the lead UK institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

I enclose a copy of the organisation's most recent audited accounts and annual report, CVs for project principals and letters of support.

Name (block capitals)			
Position in the organisation	RESEARCH FUNDING MANAGER		
Signed	DANIEL BLAKEY	Date:	30/11/09

for financial statements please see

www.ox.ac.uk/about-the-university/facts-and-figures/financial-statements.html

Post Project Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	X
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	X
Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	X
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	X
Is the logframe no longer than 2 pages?	X
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email, but a wet signature should be provided in the hard copy version))	X
Have you included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader, any other UK staff working >50% on this project, and for a main individual in each overseas partner organisation?	X
Have you included a letter of support from the main overseas partner organisations?	X
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	X
Have you included a copy of the UK organisations most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	X
Have you read the Guidance Notes for both Main projects and Post Projects ?	X

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on **Monday 30 November 2009** to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the first few words of the project title as the subject of your email. However, if you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately **please include in the subject line** an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). In addition, a hard copy of the application and any supporting documents not available electronically should be submitted to the Darwin Applications, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL postmarked **not later than Tuesday 1 December 2009**.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.