



Submit by Monday 20 August 2012

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 19: Post Project

Please read the Guidance Notes 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.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Name and address of organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by post and email to the named Project Leader in Question 8)

Name: Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Address: 4 th Floor, Jupiter House, Station Road, Cambridge, CB1 2JD, UK
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2. Post Project title

(max 10 words) Participatory management and sustainable use of walnut-fruit forests in Kyrgyzstan
2b. Main project reference and title Ref: 17-001 Conserving Eden: participatory forest management in the Tien Shan region

3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested, matched funding

Proposed start date: 1 st April 2013 Duration of project: 2 years End date: 31 st March 2015					
Darwin request	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
	£72,126	£73,761	£	£	£145,887
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost: 19%					

4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your Post Project be working in. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

Country 1: KYRGYZSTAN	Country 2:
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5. Post Project Outcome

Define the outcome of the Post Project and explain how this links with the outcome from the Main Darwin project. This should be a summary statement derived from the answer given to question 25.

(max 100 words) Local stakeholders in Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma will be supported to implement the participatory management plans developed under the Main Project, taking forward practical collaborative actions to deliver conservation, promote sustainable use, diversify and develop sustainable livelihoods, thus contributing towards reducing poverty.

6. Main Project Outcome

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

The original project 'Conserving Eden' was successfully completed on 31st March 2012. The objective was to address the unsustainable use of fruit and nut forests and support a process towards more sustainable use. The project delivered some significant steps towards this, through (i) research into identification of human activities and their impacts on forest biodiversity, to inform the development of sustainable land use practices, and (ii) the development of participatory management processes that aim to deliver increased sustainability. Whilst positive biodiversity impacts may take a number of years to become evident, the project helped define key elements and approaches required for sustainable forest use to be achieved in the study area.

The capacity of individuals and institutions was developed through formal training, in UK, Austria and Kyrgyzstan, and mentoring and learning-by-doing. Kyrgyz staff and students were trained in field survey techniques by UK scientists during joint fieldwork, and 39 forest service and local government staff learned about participatory forest management. Additionally key partners were supported to develop improved project management, budgeting, monitoring and report writing skills.

Data was collected and analysed on forest structure and dynamics; impact of human activities; distribution of Red List tree species; and socio-economic situation, and the results disseminated through publications and two conferences organised by the project. This interdisciplinary information was also used to inform the development of two management plans, a policy brief for government and decision-makers, and interpretative panels at Bishkek Botanic Gardens.

Community outreach was delivered through a series of seminars, events and published materials, raising awareness of the value of the forest, its biodiversity and services, and discussing the impact of human activities.

Two forest management plans were developed using a participatory approach, engaging local people in identifying issues and potential solutions around management and sustainable use of the forest ecosystem.

7. Biodiversity Conventions

Which of the three conventions supported by the Darwin Initiative will your Post Project be supporting? Note: projects supporting more than one convention will not achieve a higher scoring

Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	No

7b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your Post Project will contribute to the objectives of the convention(s) your project is targeting. You may wish to refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one convention

This project focuses on sustainable use, one of the three main objectives of the CBD, and Goal 4 of the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity. The project aims to implement the ecosystem approach, the primary framework for action under the Convention, by supporting the implementation of forest management strategies that promote conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The integral role of humans in these ecosystems is addressed through the development and use of participatory management approaches, with the active involvement of local communities. Recognising that gender equality is an important prerequisite for environmental conservation and sustainable development, the project is in line

with the Gender Plan of Action. The project is designed to address Strategic Component C "Sustainable Use" of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which was developed to implement the CBD in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CITES/CMS focal point in the host country?

Yes **No** if yes, please give details:

The CBD focal point is the Director of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, who has provided a Letter of Support for this project. One of the key partners in both the Main and Post Projects, Prof. Toktoraliev, is the official advisor to the Director and the project will use this link to develop meaningful contact and liaison with the CBD focal point.

8. Principals in Post Project. Please identify and provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more personnel or more than one project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1 - Main	Project Partner 2
Surname	Birchenough	Shalpykov	Attokurov
Forename (s)	Liesje	Kayirkul	Aibek
Post held	Eurasia Programme Manager	President of NGO Bioresource / Director of Center	Deputy Director of NGO JFDF / Director of Institute
Institution (if different to above)	Fauna & Flora International	NGO Bioresource / National Academy of Science of the Kyrgyz Republic	NGO Juniper Forest Development Foundation / Osh Technological University
Department	Eurasia Region	Innovative Center of Phytotechnologies	Institute of Applied Sciences & Ecology
Telephone			
Email		_____	

9. Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Institution) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the Post Project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships.

<p>Lead institution and website:</p> <p>Fauna & Flora International (FFI)</p> <p>www.fauna-flora.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the Post Project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>FFI is an international conservation organisation, based in the UK, working to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and take into account human needs. FFI has been active in Kyrgyzstan for c. 15 years, and was a major partner in the Darwin project Ref: 17-001 'Conserving Eden: participatory forest management in the Tien Shan region', particularly engaging the communities in participatory planning, awareness and outreach activities. This Post Project builds on those achievements, proposing to support local partners and stakeholders to collaboratively implement actions from the plans developed under the Main Project.</p> <p>FFI UK will take overall responsibility for effective project management, delivery and monitoring, working closely with host country partners to ensure successful implementation.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website available:</p> <p>Bioresource</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the Post Project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Bioresource is a non-profit organization promoting all areas of basic and applied biological sciences, a genuinely scientific knowledge of biological resources, and the introduction of theoretical and practical developments in the field of plant and animal conservation.</p> <p>Bioresource were the main host country partner for the Main Project Ref: 17-001. Additionally the organisation has worked together with FFI on a number of smaller projects on research, survey, conservation and awareness of Red List tree species in the fruit and nut forests. Dr Shalpykov is a respected scientist and a good project manager, with experience on a number of international projects.</p> <p>In the Post Project, Bioresource will be the main host country partner, sharing management and decision-making responsibility with FFI. Specifically they will be involved in implementing activities relating to engaging local people in project execution (such as the community steering groups), supporting sustainable livelihoods, and integrating climate adaptation measures into project plans and activities.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>FFI Kyrgyzstan</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the Post Project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>FFI Kyrgyzstan became an officially registered organisation in 2011, with a mandate for biodiversity conservation in Kyrgyzstan, and currently has two members of staff, who are Kyrgyz nationals.</p> <p>FFI Kyrgyzstan will be responsible for host country coordination, convening the steering group, facilitating collaboration between partners, and monitoring project progress. The project manager will be the main point of contact for project partners. The coordinator will additionally have the job of translation, as only one of the project partners and none of the local stakeholders speak English.</p> <p>The team will also be involved in project implementation, bringing previous experience in participatory approaches, workshop facilitation, sustainable livelihoods and management plans.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Juniper Forest Development Foundation (JFDF)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the Post Project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>JFDF is a NGO with links to Osh Technological University, whose remit includes preservation of biological diversity of southern Kyrgyzstan, including walnut forests; ecological education and awareness; and ecological and forest monitoring. They were an active partner in the Main Project, working with FFI to develop management plans through a participatory process, having first gained an understanding of the ecological and socio-economic situation and inter-dependencies. This Post Project will support local stakeholders to implement actions from these plans: JFDF already have understanding of the plans, the local context, and good relations with the community. Their specialists will take responsibility for the activities to promote sustainable use, specifically the grazing management plan, wood lots, and processing of forest products.</p> <p>JFDF chairman, Prof. Toktoraliev, is very influential within the scientific and government forestry sectors in Kyrgyzstan. He is a full Academician, and official advisor to Director of the State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry (a position he held himself in the transitional government 2010/11). The project will benefit from these close ties, which will strengthen visibility and impact. Prof. Toktoraliev will be a member of the project steering group, using his considerable knowledge and experience to advise on design and implementation.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Partner Name and website available: Dr Almaz Orozumbekov, Kyrgyz Agrarian University	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the Post Project): (max 200 words) Dr Orozumbekov was the host country coordinator for the Main Darwin project, and has a great deal of experience in walnut-fruit forest research and conservation. He will act as a technical advisor to the Post Project, and as an active member of the project steering committee, so the project can ensure continuity with the earlier work, and build on past achievements, in particular the knowledge gained from the research demonstrating the links between biodiversity and human welfare.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

10. Have you provided CVs for the senior team including the Project Leader	Yes
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TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

11. Problem the Post Project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your Post Project is trying to address. For example, what biodiversity and development challenges will the Post Project address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

(max 200 words)

The key problem is unsustainable use of biological resources. The fruit and nut forests are of global biodiversity and genetic value, and are also crucial to the livelihood strategies of thousands of people. Current use of the forest is unsustainable, with particular challenges around grazing and firewood collection.

However in these remote areas there are few employment or income generation opportunities available, often meaning no alternative to heavy reliance on forest products. The uncontrolled use of natural resources is leading to serious environmental degradation which directly threatens the livelihoods of dependent families.

The forest service is not able to effectively manage the forests, due to inadequate skills and resources.

Civil society is generally not well developed, due to the Soviet legacy including top-down governance, resulting in a low level of participation in decision-making and community mobilisation.

These problems were identified during community meetings, and from discussions with foresters and other key stakeholders. Participatory workshops involving local women and men, forest service, village government and forestry specialists provided the basis for management plans developed under the Main project. The plans identify main challenges and opportunities for both the forest and local people, and this project will support stakeholders to address them.

12. New and additional work

Explain how gains from the Post Project work will be distinct and additional to those of the Main project. Show, where possible, how these gains require limited resources and could not be achieved without the funding.

(max 300 words)

The Main project resulted in the production of participatory forest management plans for Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma forestry units, developed by national specialists in collaboration with local stakeholders, and informed by project research. These plans identified key themes such as forest conservation; sustainable use; improving the socio-economic condition of local people; collaboration and cooperation; and identified actions to address the issues.

Currently the forest service does not have the resources to take forward many of the actions from the plans. The participatory approach to forest management and governance is new and, although national policy, very little is being done on the ground to engage local women and men in this area. The Main project included training for the local forest service and other stakeholders in participatory planning and management approaches. Supporting collaborative implementation of some of the key actions from the plans through the Post Project will not only mean local efforts do not lose momentum, but will also act as a demonstration to government how the approach can work in practice.

The Main project promoted interdisciplinary and participatory approaches, focusing on field research, planning, capacity building and awareness raising. The Post project will build on this solid base to take forward more practical action at the local level, consolidating the results and strengthening the impact of the Main project. The Post Project will address both sustainable use and poverty reduction, making a practical difference to people's lives, through empowering and supporting local actors to work together to improve their situation.

Working at the local level, significant gains can be achieved with limited funding, which will have a lasting legacy. The development enterprises established with the support of the project, and the empowerment of local people, will continue to deliver positive impact for the community after the project ends.

13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc).

(Max 500 words)

The project will build on the participatory and collaborative approach of the Main project, and go further to promote local ownership and empower local people to take action. At each site a steering group will be set up to coordinate and guide the activities at local level, with representatives from the community, village government and local forest service. The group will promote local decision making and transparency, helping to ensure the community has a strong say in project design and execution. The project will also employ a local coordinator for each site, selected by the community representatives, to help ensure project activities are accessible to all groups in the community and not just the vocal few.

The project will be implemented by the host country partners with project management, technical guidance and support from FFI. National specialists will conduct the grazing and pasture assessment, make recommendations and work with local stakeholders to develop a practical grazing plan for Kyzyl Unkur. One suggested solution to the current over collection of wood from the forest is to establish wood lots of fast growing trees in the villages. In order to be sustainable this initiative will need local ownership and management, and an agreement to ensure equitable access to benefits. Depending on the situation in each village the lead may be taken by the forest service or the village government, but the steering committee will also be involved.

The promotion of sustainable and diversified development opportunities will be through demonstrations, training and seed funding for initiatives. Workshops will be held to announce the scheme, and discuss potential ideas identified through participatory processes during the Main Project. Special attention will be given to encouraging the participation of women and other marginalised groups, through direct intervention of the local coordinator and assistance with proposal and budget development, and a transparent system will be used to select initiatives. Activities proposed by the Kara Alma community include: ecotourism, bee-keeping, tree nurseries, small businesses; business management training; alternative energy provision; and seminars on forest user rights.

Training needs assessments will be conducted with the two local forestry teams, to identify knowledge and skills gaps. Qualified national specialists will then deliver practically orientated training as required and requested by the beneficiaries.

As lead applicant FFI has the responsibility to Darwin Initiative for effective project and budget management, monitoring and reporting, but will in all other ways involve Bioresource in management, decision-making and implementation in an equitable partnership. MoUs will be developed setting out roles and responsibilities for each partner and all partners will be part of the project steering committee, including the host country coordinator from the Main project, together with key stakeholders such as the Forestry Department.

FFI Kyrgyzstan and Bioresource will implement the actions to promote local participation and collaboration, sustainable livelihoods, and integrating climate adaptation measures. JFDF will lead on the actions directly addressing unsustainable use – the grazing plan and wood lots. Capacity building of the local forest service will be delivered by FFI and JFDF.

14. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/ projects carrying out or applying for funding for 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 been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:

Currently there are no other projects carrying out participatory conservation, management and sustainable use in the fruit and nut forests. There have been programmes in the past, which we are aware of and have learnt lessons from, such as the Swiss supported KIRFOR project, landscape research studies funded by Volkswagen Foundation, and the EU funded juniper forest project. More recently GIZ have been looking at different forest governance models but this has not progressed beyond the initial discussion phase.

There are a number of current initiatives focused on grazing and pasture management, but not in forest ecosystems, and this project intends to cooperate and share experience with these, possibly using some of their expertise and tools.

15. Value for money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money?

(Max 250 words)

Host country partners have a leading and substantial role in project management and delivery, meaning the majority of the funds are spent on personnel and operating costs in-country. This approach is possible due to the capacity and good relationships built in the Main project.

Local communities and stakeholders will be actively involved in project design and execution, which will mean that activities implemented have local ownership, meet the beneficiaries' real needs, and are implemented in an appropriate and sustainable way – thereby most likely to deliver real change and value for money.

16. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the guidance notes.

(Max 300 words)

The project includes strong leadership and participation from host country partners, who are experienced in both the field and communities targeted by the action. The project's activities are taken from management plans which were developed in a participatory manner with the communities directly involved. To continue this strong participatory ethic, and to ensure the interests and well-being of the local people are at the heart of the project, the project proposes to establish 'steering groups' in each of the communities to promote local ownership, and oversee and guide implementation.

FFI's work in this area has continually championed the engagement of local women and men in discussions and decision-making in forest governance and management, and is seen as a pilot exemplar of the National Forest Policy's goal "ensuring the sustainable development of forests through involvement of the population and local communities in the joint management of forests....".

The project was developed on the basis of participatory processes in the target communities, responds to issues identified by them, and project activities will be undertaken with the consent and participation of the communities.

Local people will be supported to explore, analyse and develop sustainable livelihoods, and the value of traditional knowledge will be acknowledged and utilised.

As a Post Project, the activities are more practically focused to deliver biodiversity conservation and contribute towards poverty reduction, based on research conducted in the Main project.

FFI takes seriously health and safety of all project staff, regardless of nationality, and will ensure risk assessments are undertaken for the project.

PATHWAY TO IMPACT

17. Legacy

Please describe what you expect will change as a result of this Post Project with regards to biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. For example, what will be the long term benefits (particularly for biodiversity and poor people) of the Post Project in the host country or region and have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits?

(Max 300 words)

The Post Project will deliver benefits on the ground for both biodiversity and local people. By supporting local stakeholders to work together to address threats such as unsustainable grazing and wood collection, the forest conservation status will improve. In particular, natural regeneration will be encouraged through better management of livestock in the forest, resulting in a more robust ecosystem and restoration of populations of threatened tree species. Forest restoration will also be promoted through propagation and planting out of saplings. The capacity of the forest service to manage the forest will be increased, including their ability to work collaboratively with local people, which will benefit biodiversity conservation beyond the life of the project.

A healthier more resilient ecosystem will also benefit local people who depend heavily on forest products and services. For the poor, forests are an essential element of their livelihood strategies. They are a resource against which people can draw, particularly in times of enhanced vulnerability. Forests are a source of natural, socio-cultural and financial capital and provide a safety net to poor rural communities, helping to reduce vulnerability through provision of fuel wood, grazing and fodder, food and condiments, medicines, and materials for construction.

Additionally the project will contribute directly to poverty reduction through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, helping local women and men to diversify or add value to their activities, whilst protecting the environment. FFI's previous experience of running a small grants scheme, with associated capacity development through training and mentoring, proved this to be an effective way to promote development, with over 60% of initiatives continuing to operate successfully post project. This is also a very effective mechanism for empowering women, giving them confidence and standing within their communities. Diversifying livelihoods is one way to increase resilience to climate change and other shocks.

18. Pathway to poverty alleviation

Please describe how your Post Project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Projects are required to show how positive impact on poverty alleviation will be generated from your project in low-income countries. **All projects funded under the Darwin Initiative in Round 19 must be compliant with the Overseas Development Assistance criteria as set out by the OECD.** The outcomes of your research must at the very least provide insight into issues of importance in achieving poverty alleviation.

(Max 300 words)

Kyrgyzstan is one of the two poorest of the former Soviet republics, ranked 182nd out of 226 countries in terms of GDP per capita. Nationally 33.7% of the population are estimated to be below the poverty line (2011), but the project sites are in one of the poorer rural districts, with the poverty level in Kyzyl Unkur given as 41.5%, and 52% of the population considered unemployed.

Following the break-up of the Soviet Union, Kyrgyzstan experienced a major shift in economic and social development. The resulting decline in public services and high unemployment rate

left many families increasingly reliant on subsistence agriculture and the collection of natural products for their livelihoods. Particularly in remote rural areas, there are very few employment or other income generation opportunities available. Many families are dependent on remittance income from relatives abroad, often leading to the decline in human resources of rural communities, the separation of families, and increased vulnerability, considering the current global economic instability.

The project will have a positive impact on poverty alleviation in the target communities, by increasing women and men's access to assets (skills, finance, natural resources, infrastructure, social or marketing networks, etc.). This will be addressed directly through the provision of training to 120 people and direct tailored support to community initiatives and enterprises. The effects of these activities will result in positive and sustainable social empowerment, and inclusive economic development outcomes. In impoverished communities, the entrepreneurial spirit and ideas for small-scale developments of community benefit are often present but inhibited by the lack of funding and technical or process knowledge.

The project will also deliver wider livelihood benefits, including empowerment and participation in decision-making processes. Local people's adaptive capacity will be enhanced, reducing their vulnerability to shocks and climate change.

19. Exit strategy

State whether or not the Post Project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the Post 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)

The Post Project is part of a progressive approach to empower and support local stakeholders, including the forest service and local women and men, to take collaborative actions towards conservation of their environment, development, and sustainable use of natural resources. The focus on developing participatory approaches to forest management, which can be implemented by local communities, is aimed at ensuring long-term sustainability without strong dependence on external financial support.

Certain activities are discrete, and will be completed within the project life-time, such as the increase of knowledge and practical skills of local people and the forest service leading to improved capacity and effectiveness. Other activities are sustainable, and will continue to secure benefits after the project, such as community wood lots and sustainable development initiatives. From FFI's past experience in Kyrgyzstan, enterprises set up under the small grants programme continue to function well beyond the life of the project. In addition the empowerment of local women and men will have a long-lasting beneficial effect.

The project will facilitate closer and more collaborative working between the forest service, community, and village government. This groundwork will lead to improved relationships and a basis for cooperation able to continue into the future.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE

20. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your Post Project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials there will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

(Max 300 words)

At the local level, the project will build on the awareness raising activities of the Main project. All meetings and seminars will have an introduction about the project, the value of the fruit and nut forests, the benefits they provide and the challenges they face. This will ensure all activities are understood in the wider context of ecosystem conservation. Specific training on sustainable use or forest protection will then be delivered to the target audiences.

Knowledge will be disseminated on sustainable harvesting, processing and marketing of forest products, and on other livelihood activities such as bee-keeping. Practical information sheets and leaflets will be disseminated to participants. Community groups and initiatives will be linked to an established network of community-based organisations in the Regional Association, enabling sharing of experiences and peer-to-peer learning.

The project will produce a newsletter in Kyrgyz language to communicate activities and achievements, and allow participants to share experiences. This will be primarily aimed at local stakeholders who have very little access to information. In addition, local media such as newspapers and radio will be used to communicate with a wider audience beyond the target communities.

The overall project approach of collaboratively implementing actions from a participatorily developed management plan is of interest to the wider forest sector policy debate in Kyrgyzstan, as is the development of a grazing management plan in this context. The results and lessons learnt will be disseminated through i) the steering committee, which will include representatives from the State Agency; ii) partners' participation in seminars and conferences; iii) Prof. Toktoraliev's role as advisor to the Director of the State Agency; and iv) a project policy briefing note.

21. Importance of subject focus for this project

If your Post Project is working on an area of biodiversity or biodiversity-development linkages that has had limited attention (both in the Darwin Initiative portfolio and in conservation in general) please give details.

(Max 250 words)

The project will be a practical demonstration of how biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use can deliver more resilient livelihoods and contribute towards poverty reduction. The fruit and nut forests of Central Asia are at the heart of the livelihood strategies of thousands of people, and whilst participatory management is within national forest policy, there is still little understanding of what this means in practice on-the-ground.

Central Asia is a relatively neglected region in terms of biodiversity conservation. Whilst the vast expanses of steppe and mountain ranges are recognized worldwide for their beauty and wilderness value, the importance of the region's biodiversity is frequently overlooked and undervalued. FFI responds to need rather than pursuing a fixed global agenda, and is one of only a few international conservation NGOs with a strong track-record of working in the 'unfashionable' location of Central Asia.

22. Leverage

a) Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity.

Confirmed:

Global Trees Campaign: £5,860 in Year 1, with the possibility of further support in Year 2.

BAT: £3,390 (part of a larger grant) supporting the Climate Adaptation output.

In-kind contributions from partners, including office facilities and meeting venues.

b) Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments
10 th August 2012	European Union (Non-State Actors in Development)	Euro 157,500	A portion of this grant would be used as match funding; it would also support parallel activities and scale up others.
Intend applying...	Trusts and foundations based in the UK and US	At least GBP 15,000	Over the course of 2.5 years, FFI would expect to raise this scale of funding for the project.

COMPLETING YOUR PROJECTS**23. What steps have been taken to ensure that project purpose and outputs of the Main project will be achieved within the original project term?**

(max 200 words)

The Main project was successfully completed on 31st March 2012.

24. What will be the long term benefits of the Post Project in the host country or region and how will these help to strengthen the impact and legacy of your Main Darwin project? Have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits?

(max 250 words)

The Post Project will result in local people being empowered to take positive practical actions to improve both their environment and livelihoods. It will put into action participatory forest management. At a local level this will benefit the communities of Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma through increased livelihood assets, and a healthier more resilient forest ecosystem providing products and services for now and future generations.

Local women and men will have improved skills, networks and infrastructure, and will have developed small initiatives and enterprises which will continue into the future.

Actions identified under the Main project will be implemented, strengthening its impact.

At the country level, the project will demonstrate the national forest policy of involving local communities in joint forest management to ensure the sustainable development of forests. There is currently a debate regarding governance approaches in the forest sector, and the experience from this project will be able to inform that debate.

The drawback of a fully participatory approach is that it often takes more time to deliver results and requires significant facilitation input at the start of the process. However, in addition to this being ethically the right approach, the benefit is that the local ownership and empowerment leads to longer-lasting and more sustainable impact. Another potential problem is how genuine the forest service really is in its commitment to participatory forest management. Close mentoring, and demonstration of the positive outcomes of working together with the community and the project, will address this issue.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION
MEASURING IMPACT OF THE POST PROJECT

25. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcomes if funded. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcomes of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this. Further detail is provided in Annex C of the guidance notes for Round 19 Main Project which you are encouraged to refer to. The information provided here will be transposed into a logframe should your project be successful in gaining funding from the Darwin Initiative. The use of the logframe is sometimes described in terms of the Logical Framework Approach, which is about applying clear, logical thought when seeking to tackle the complex and ever-changing challenges of poverty and need. In other words, it is about sensible planning.

Impact

The Impact is not intended to be achieved solely by the project. This is a higher-level situation that the project will contribute towards achieving. All Darwin projects are expected to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its products.

(Max 100 words)

The globally important fruit and nut forests of Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma, and associated biodiversity and ecosystem services, are effectively conserved through collaborative management and sustainable use, whilst local women and men are empowered to diversify and develop sustainable livelihoods, thus reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and contributing to poverty reduction.

Outcome

There can only be one Outcome for the project. The Outcome should identify what will change, and who will benefit. The Outcome should refer to how the project will contribute to reducing poverty and contribute to the sustainable use/conservation of biodiversity and its products.

(Max 100 words)

Local stakeholders will be supported to implement the participatory management plans developed under the Main project, taking forward practical collaborative actions to deliver conservation, promote sustainable use, diversify and develop sustainable livelihoods, thus contributing towards reducing poverty.

Measuring outcomes - indicators

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving this outcome. You should also be able to state what the change you expect to achieve as a result of this project i.e. the difference between the existing state and the expected end state. You may require multiple indicators to measure the outcome – if you have more than 3 indicators please just insert a row(s).

Indicator 1	Local ownership of project activities through active steering groups at both project sites facilitating collaboration between community and forest service by Year 1.
Indicator 2	Increased sustainability of forest resource use through at least two actions e.g. wood lots of fast growing trees; grazing management plan by Year 2.
Indicator 3	Capacity of two local forest service teams to effectively manage forest

	increased through training and resources.
Indicator 4	Sustainable diversified and improved livelihood opportunities available in Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma, resulting in measurable increase in income for those households involved.

Verifying outcomes

Identify the source material the Darwin Initiative (and you) can use to verify the indicators provided. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc.

Indicator 1	Steering group terms of reference; list of members; minutes of meetings including decisions taken
Indicator 2	Reports, photographs, grazing plan
Indicator 3	Training reports, participants' evaluation, resource handover documents
Indicator 4	Demonstration seminars, small grant monitoring reports

Outcome risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the *outcome and impact* of the project. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1	National forest policy and practice continues to promote collaborative or joint forest management.
Assumption 2	Target communities and local forest service remain open to collaborating with each other and the project.
Assumption 3	Kyrgyzstan remains politically stable during implementation.

Outputs

Outputs are the specific, direct deliverables of the project. These will provide the conditions necessary to achieve the Outcome. The logic of the chain from Output to Outcome therefore needs to be clear. If you have more than 3 outputs insert a row(s). It is advised to have less than 6 outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the activity level.

Output 1	Sustainable grazing management plan developed for one forestry unit.
Output 2	Use of natural resources made more sustainable by providing alternatives (e.g. to firewood) or adding value (to non-timber forest products).
Output 3	Sustainable diversified income generating initiatives supported in 8 villages through provision of vocational and business training and small grants.
Output 4	Capacity of two local forest service teams to protect and restore forest enhanced through targeted training and resource provision.
Output 5	Climate adaptation measures integrated into project plans and activities to increase resilience of forest ecosystem and local communities.

Measuring outputs

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving these outputs. You should also be able to state what the change you expect to achieve as a result of this project i.e. the difference between the existing state and the expected end state. You may require multiple indicators to measure each output – if you have more than 3 indicators please just insert a row(s).

Output 1: Sustainable grazing management plan developed for one forestry unit.	
Indicator 1	Assessment study report produced by year 1 detailing current situation of pastures and grazing.
Indicator 2	Joint grazing plan produced for forestry unit and local authority lands by year 2.

Output 2: Use of natural resources made more sustainable by providing alternatives (e.g. to firewood) or adding value (to non-timber forest products)	
Indicator 1	Wood lots of fast growing trees established in at least 2 pilot villages as alternative to firewood and timber from the forest.
Indicator 2	Small processing unit for forest products (e.g. fruit) set up in one village as pilot and demonstration by Year 2.

Output 3: Sustainable diversified income generating initiatives supported in 8 villages through provision of vocational and business training and small grants.	
Indicator 1	Four participatory village meetings held in year 1 to discuss opportunities and constraints within current livelihood strategies and identify ways to develop livelihoods sustainably.
Indicator 2	At least 16 small income-generation or sustainable livelihood projects supported by year 2.
Indicator 3	120 women and men trained in business, marketing or vocational skills by year 2.

Output 4: Capacity of two local forest service teams to protect and restore forest enhanced through targeted training and resource provision.	
Indicator 1	Prioritised training and resource needs assessment (TRNA) produced for two forestry units in year 1.
Indicator 2	Four training sessions delivered to increase knowledge of 40 forestry and local government staff in forest conservation and management by year 2.
Indicator 3	Priority resources provided (as identified in needs assessment) e.g. support to forest nursery.

Output 5: Climate adaptation measures integrated into project plans and activities to increase resilience of forest ecosystem and local communities.	
Indicator 1	Locally appropriate responses to predicted climate impacts identified for both sites through a participatory process by year 1.
Indicator 2	Adaptation measures integrated into management plans at two sites by year 2.

Verifying outputs

Identify the source material the Darwin Initiative (and you) can use to verify the indicators provided. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc.

Indicator 1.1	Survey, report
Indicator 1.2	Meeting notes, plan document
Indicator 2.1	Photos, project report, wood lot
Indicator 2.2	Photos, project report
Indicator 3.1	Meeting notes, participants lists
Indicator 3.2	Project monitoring reports, small grant reports, evaluation workshop report
Indicator 3.3	Training materials, participants lists and feedback
Indicator 4.1	Workshop notes, TRNA plans
Indicator 4.2	Training materials, participants lists and feedback
Indicator 4.3	Handover documents, photos, project reports
Indicator 5.1	Workshop notes, list of actions
Indicator 5.2	Revised management plans, community seminar reports

Output risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the achievement of your outputs. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1	Local stakeholders remain willing to engage with project activities
Assumption 2	Land can be found for village wood lots
Assumption 3	Staff turnover within forest service is manageable
Assumption 4	Additional funds can be sourced for the pilot processing unit (please note: non-delivery of this action will not affect the rest of the project)

Activities

Define the tasks to be undertaken by the research team to produce the outputs. Activities should be designed in a way that their completion should be sufficient and indicators should not be necessary. Any risks and assumptions should also be taken into account during project design.

Output 1: Sustainable grazing management plan developed for one forestry unit.	
Activity 1.1	Assessment of current grazing and pasture situation: field research, focal group discussions and key informant interviews
Activity 1.2	Produce report with recommendations for improved and more sustainable management of grazing pressure, including location and stocking rates
Activity 1.3	Develop joint grazing management plan for local authority and forestry unit land using a participatory approach

Output 2: Use of natural resources made more sustainable by providing alternatives (e.g. to firewood) or adding value (to non-timber forest products)	
Activity 2.1	Agreement with local authority or forest service to provide land for wood lot in at least 2 villages, and through local steering group ensure maintenance and fair and transparent benefit sharing
Activity 2.2	Prepare plot, including fencing as necessary, plant trees, maintenance
Activity 2.3	Pilot demonstration of equipment, methods and marketing to add value to fruit harvested from the forest

Output 3: Sustainable diversified income generating initiatives supported in 8 villages through provision of vocational and business training and small grants.	
Activity 3.1	Workshops to announce scheme; discuss and identify issues and potential solutions; training in how to complete project proposal and budget
Activity 3.2	Initiatives for support selected through fair and transparent competition
Activity 3.3	Training provided in business skills, and vocational and marketing skills as identified as necessary
Activity 3.4	Provision of seed funding under micro-finance scheme; mentoring recipients; monitoring progress
Activity 3.5	Participatory evaluation of success and achievements including change in household income or security

Output 4: Capacity of two local forest service teams to protect and restore forest enhanced through targeted training and resource provision.	
Activity 4.1	Training and resource needs assessment (TRNA) undertaken with Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma forestry units resulting in prioritised action plans
Activity 4.2	Training seminars for local foresters in identified topics (e.g. forest legislation, collaborative forest management, pests & diseases) given by national experts from partner organisations
Activity 4.3	Priority resources provided, within scope of project, e.g. tree nurseries; fire fighting equipment etc.

Output 5: Climate adaptation measures integrated into project plans and activities to increase resilience of forest ecosystem and local communities.	
Activity 5.1	Extract appropriate actions from FFI's climate adaptation plan for Kyrgyz fruit and nut forest; conduct workshop with stakeholders to discuss and check relevance and applicability to project site
Activity 5.2	Community level awareness seminars
Activity 5.3	Ensure project plans and activities are appropriate in context of predicted climate changes; take forward specific adaptation measures if identified

26. 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 project.

Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
0.1	Inception meeting; develop and sign MoUs with partners	2											
0.2	Set up project steering groups in Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma	3											
Output 1	Sustainable grazing management plan developed for one forestry unit												
1.1	Field research, focal group discussions and interviews	4											
1.2	Produce report with recommendations	2											
1.3	Develop joint grazing management plan	4											
Output 2	Use of natural resources made more sustainable by providing alternatives (e.g. to firewood) or adding value (to non-timber forest products)												
2.1	Agreement to provide land for wood lot in 2 villages, and through local steering group ensure maintenance and benefit sharing	3											
2.2	Prepare plot, fencing as necessary, plant trees, maintenance	20											
2.3	Pilot demonstration of equipment, methods and marketing to add value to fruit harvested from the forest	6											
Output 3	Sustainable diversified income generating initiatives supported in 8 villages through provision of vocational and business training and small grants.												
3.1	Workshops and training in project proposals and budgets	2											
3.2	Initiatives for support selected	1											
3.3	Training in business skills, and vocational and marketing skills	3											
3.4	Provision of funding; mentoring recipients; monitoring progress	12											
3.5	Participatory evaluation of success and achievements	0.5											
Output 4	Capacity of two local forest service teams to protect and restore forest enhanced through targeted training and resource provision.												
4.1	TRNA undertaken with Kyzyl Unkur and Kara Alma forestry units	1											

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Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4.2 Training seminars for local foresters in identified topics	2		■	■		■	■						
4.3 Priority resources provided within scope of project	3		■			■							
Output 5 Climate adaptation measures integrated into project plans and activities to increase resilience of forest ecosystem and local communities.													
5.1 Identify appropriate responses to climate change; workshop with stakeholders to check relevance and applicability to project site	2	■	■										
5.2 Community level awareness seminars	2		■	■									
5.3 Integrate adaptation measures into management and on-going project plans	2				■								

27. Project based monitoring and evaluation

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the projects monitoring and evaluation. Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. Monitoring and evaluation is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact.

(Max 500 words)

All partners, including FFI Kyrgyzstan, will be required to produce brief reports each quarter outlining progress against activity plan and indicators, based on their agreed terms of reference and workplan. The project leader and manager will review the reports and follow-up on any issues identified. The reports will be discussed at the six-monthly steering committee meetings as well, adding an element of peer review.

Project progress will be monitored at the community level by the local steering groups, composed of representatives from the community, forest service and other stakeholders, guided by project partners. The outputs and indicators will be discussed with the group at the start of the project, so members are well informed and able to participate in management and monitoring. There will be clear 'terms of reference' developed by and for the group, which will include a role in monitoring. The groups will have regular meetings, organised by the local coordinator. As the local steering groups will play an important role in shaping how the activities are implemented on-the-ground, they will be in a good position to ensure delivery is adaptive and responds to results of monitoring.

Each partner organisation will be responsible for monitoring inputs (time and funds spent on the project) to ensure their activities are successfully implemented. FFI Kyrgyzstan will be responsible for monitoring the progress of the partners, and the national level steering committee will also have a role in this regard in tracking progress towards the indicators. The partners and steering committee will be encouraged to adapt and improve delivery and management based on the information acquired through monitoring, to ensure the best progress towards the project outcome.

For the forest service and community training activities, participants will complete evaluation forms at the end of the training session. In addition, towards the end of the project, the participants will be contacted (by the local coordinator) for feedback on how useful the knowledge or skills they learnt has been to them, and whether they have used it in practice.

For the micro-finance support to sustainable livelihoods, the recipients of funds will be required to produce interim and final narrative and financial reports. Following the interim reports, the coordinator (and relevant partner organisations) will work with any initiative in difficulty to address challenges and adapt as necessary. There will also be an evaluation workshop towards the end of the project, involving all fund recipients, where impact will be assessed, experiences shared and lessons recorded.

At the end of the two years, both the national and local steering groups will evaluate project impact, including feedback from key stakeholders, and participatory debate.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

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

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. **Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted.** Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

28. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(max 300 words)

FFI and its partners in Kyrgyzstan have experience in developing project budgets and have used past practice to inform the development of the current proposal budget, for example the amount of personnel time required, cost of travel to and around the project sites etc. Whilst each partner will be responsible for managing their portion of the funds to ensure their activities are successfully delivered, overall financial monitoring will be the responsibility of FFI. Partners will be expected to produce biannual financial reports against the budget.

In general, FFI manages its operations tightly and in 2010, 86% of its expenditure was directed at delivering and supporting its programme of work, with careful control exerted over support costs to be able to achieve this.

FFI has a strong ethos of good value for money, and in Kyrgyzstan we have communicated this to our partners as well. Funding is always spent with due care to maximising impact without wasting money, for example in choice of accommodation, workshop venues etc. As part of the adaptive management approach, if necessary and appropriate funds will be reallocated between budget lines to ensure most effective delivery (particularly if money can be saved on personnel or transport, and spent on community and field activities instead). Darwin Initiative approval would of course be sought in advance.

29. What was the amount of funding for the Main Darwin Project?

	Total Project Costs £
Amount of Main Darwin Initiative project funding	179,723
+ Funding/Income from other sources	88,631
= Total Main project cost	268,354

FCO NOTIFICATIONS

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 the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Please indicate whether you have contacted the local UK embassy or High Commission directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice) **Yes, advice attached** **No**

CERTIFICATION 2013/14

On behalf of the trustees of Fauna & Flora International:


I apply for a grant of £ 145,887 in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates 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 institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our last two audited accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Name (block capitals)	ROSALIND AVELING
Position in the organisation	Deputy Chief Executive & Director, Conservation Partnerships

Signed



Date:

20th August 2012

Post Project Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your Post Project?	√
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	√
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?	√
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	√
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the Principals identified at Question 8?	√
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner(s) organisations identified at Question 9?	√
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	√
Have you included a copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	√
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	√
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	√

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on Monday 20 August 2012 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. 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). You are not required to send a hard copy.

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.