



DARWIN INITIATIVE

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2003

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Please note the additional information requirements (CVs and letters of support as detailed in the Guidance for Applicants)

Submit by 22 April 2003

1. Contact Details

<i>Ref. (Defra/ECTF only):</i>
Name and address of UK applicant organisation Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) Department of Anthropology University of Kent at Canterbury CT2 7NS, UK

2. Darwin Scholar. A one page CV must be enclosed.

Name and official address of proposed Darwin Scholar Dr Zelealem Tefera Ashenafi Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme P.O.Box 101426 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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3. Project summary (no more than 100 words)

This project will extend work that was previously carried out by the proposed scholar under a Darwin Initiative grant. The project will develop and implement a management plan for the Guassa-Menz area. Previous work showed that this area has an indigenous natural resource management system that was estimated to be over 400 years old, and which focused on harvestable products (grass for thatch, grazing for livestock, fuel wood and medicinal plants). The aim of the present proposal is to strengthen that existing system to include the conservation of endemic biodiversity of the area, including the threatened Ethiopian wolf and the largest population of the Ankoba serin. Finally, using the results of the previous work and with the addition of data collected over the forthcoming year, the applicant will finalise a number of scientific papers for publication. The project will have a lasting legacy, both through the professional development of the applicant and through securing the future of an area of outstanding beauty and importance tht lies outside the current system of protected areas in Ethiopia, yet that is critical for the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf.

4. Principals in Project. Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisations who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Scholar. A 1 page CV on each must be enclosed.

Details	Main UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert
Surname	Leader-Williams			
Forename(s)	Nigel			

Post held	Director			
Institution (if different to above)	DICE			
Department	Anthropology			
Telephone				
Fax				
Email				

5. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the UK applicant organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

DICE aims to integrate international conservation and development sustainably, by combining natural and social sciences in designing measures to help conserve biodiversity.

DICE's main activities comprise training and implementation, specifically building capacity in developing countries, through 1) multidisciplinary postgraduate training in conservation biology, tourism, ethnobotany and biodiversity management; 2) partnerships in research and conservation implementation centred on conservation biology and sustainable conservation.

DICE's achievements are many and include: 1) being the first institution in the British university sector to specialise in interdisciplinary postgraduate research and training in biodiversity management; 2) having trained nearly 300 postgraduates from over 70 countries to Masters level or above; 3) having raised over £4 million for biodiversity projects; and 4) having raised two endowed chairs in Biodiversity Management and Biodiversity Law.

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Darwin Scholar's organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

The overall goal of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) is mutually and sustainably securing the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf and its Afroalpine habitat, and the social and economic well being of local human communities.

This is achieved primarily through 1) securing the conservation of the Afroalpine ecosystem to which the wolf is inextricably linked, 2) assessing, addressing and counteracting the threats to the wolf, and 3) involving local communities in all aspects of the Programme. The EWCP operates under agreement with the relevant Ethiopian government authorities at both federal and regional levels.

The EWCP is arguably the most active and successful conservation organisation in Ethiopia today. Therefore, it has a pivotal role in the country not only for the conservation of the wolf and its Afroalpine ecosystem but also as a rare example of conservation in a country with a unique and diverse fauna and flora. Finally, the recent downgrading of the Ethiopian wolf from Critically Endangered to Endangered may be taken as a measure of its success.

7. Describe briefly the proposed Darwin Scholar's current role within their organisation.

The proposed Scholar is the EWCP's Project Excitant in the north of Ethiopia. He is based in Woldia and is responsible for the programme's management and activities in the five wolf ranges in this area.

His responsibilities include the co-ordination of a team of eight people who carry out a variety of tasks including the monitoring of the wolf ranges, and executing the a vaccination campaign for domestic dogs, primarily against rabies, to prevent the transmission of these diseases to Ethiopian wolf populations. He represents the EWCP in the area and deals with all matters with the regional, and when necessary, the federal governments.

8. Provide a concept note on the Darwin Scholarship. This should include:

- a clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Scholarship
- the programme of work, including key milestones through the duration of the Scholarship and their timing
- the role of the UK applicant organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)
- where appropriate, how the Scholarships will contribute towards sustainable development or sustainable livelihoods

The aim of the Scholarship is:

The continued professional development of the proposed Scholar, who can justifiably be considered as a national leader of conservation in Ethiopia, with his key role not only in the EWCP but in the country at large. He remains an outstanding example among an emerging cohort of young and dynamic Ethiopian nationals in the field of conservation.

The objectives of the Scholarship are:

- To extend the proposed Scholar's previous work conducted under a Darwin Initiative grant, to include carrying out monitoring work that determines changes in resource use and attitudes in the Guassa area of Menz since the previous study. Based on the results of the previous and proposed work, the applicant will prepare papers for publication in the international and national scientific press.

- To further extend the professional training of the proposed Scholar in the development and implementation of a management plan for conserving the Guassa area with the implicit participation of local communities, whose already existing indigenous natural resource management system will be strengthened and enhanced through this process.

The programme of work:

September 2003 - February 2004: the proposed Scholar will prepare the necessary background information for the management plan. This will include collecting relevant data from the local communities to assess changes from the work previously conducted in the area. In addition, background information will be built up for the management plan. Much of this information can only be assimilated in Ethiopia, primarily because it only exists in unpublished 'grey' literature. Therefore, it will be necessary for the proposed Scholar to remain within Ethiopia for this period.

March - May 2004: The proposed Scholar will spend three months with the applicant organisation, where he will finalise the preparation of papers for submission to international and national scientific journals. In addition, he will prepare the draft management plan for the area. This will include preparation of funding proposals for the implementation of the management plan.

June 2004 (key milestone): Five papers will be submitted to scientific journals. The draft management plan will be submitted to the local communities and the Amhara National Regional Government. The Amhara government will consider gazetting the area as a regional protected conservation area. Funding proposals will be submitted to the appropriate donor organisations.

July - August 2004: Initiation of the implementation of the management plan.

The role of the UK applicant organisation:

The UK applicant organisation will provide guidance and supervision in the preparation of papers for publication, and in the process of preparing a management plan. The main UK expert served as PhD supervisor of the proposed Scholar, and so knows the work intimately, and also has considerable experience in management planning, having served in the 1990s as Chief Technical Advisor to the Director of Wildlife for Government of Tanzania, where his duties were concerned management planning. The strides made by the proposed Scholar from finishing his Darwin Initiative grant with the Zoological Society of London, and completing his PhD based upon the data collected during the Darwin project were considerable. This was evidenced by a first class thesis that received outstanding comments from both examiners, and the award to the proposed Scholar of the annual prize for the best postgraduate thesis submitted by a DICE student.

The contribution to sustainable development and local livelihoods:

The project aims specifically to strengthen the indigenous natural resource management system used by the local community in the Menz area. By working through this existing institution, the project will ensure its sustainability. The management system has been developed and is wholly owned by the local community, so its chances of success are greatest if the system is encouraged and incorporated into plans to conserve the area's biodiversity.

In addition, the development of a community-based tourism venture (providing overnight accommodation, guiding and artefact sales), which will be part of the management plan, will provide an invaluable off-farm source of revenue for the local community. This will help offset the costs of the conservation of the area and of coexisting with wildlife.

9. Legacy. Provide information on how the Darwin Scholar will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Scholarship on return to his/her home country. Will a strategy be developed during the Scholarship to ensure this is achieved?

The proposed Scholar is already a leading figure in, and spokesperson for, biodiversity conservation in Ethiopia. As such, he is regularly approached by the national media for information regarding this field. His position within an NGO and outside government allows him to speak freely on conservation issues without being constrained by hidden agendas.

He already teaches the Wildlife Management module for MSc students at the Wondo Genet Forestry College. He participates in the EWCP's training component, which includes two MSc students from Addis Ababa University. He provides ongoing training to EWCP staff. Thus, providing further professional development opportunities for the proposed Scholar will have a lasting legacy through passing on his knowledge to the many Ethiopians with whose training he is currently involved

Given that the above roles are part of the work of the proposed Scholar, no strategy needs to be developed for their implementation.

10. How will the Scholarship assist the Scholar's organisation and/or local communities and/or home country in working towards the objectives (or implementation) of the Convention on Biological Diversity? References to the Convention should be specific, for example, by referring to articles, cross-cutting or thematic issues¹.

The Scholarship will directly assist with the development and implementation of a management plan for the Guassa-Menz area. This will assist the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme fulfil one of its objectives - the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf and its Afroalpine ecosystem. It will also enable the proposed Scholar to develop further management plans in the future to extend the conservation area network in Ethiopia to all wolf ranges.

Moreover, the Afroalpine ecosystem is home to the majority of the endemic plant and animal species of Ethiopia and the Scholarship will therefore make a significant contribution to the conservation of biological diversity of international, national and regional importance.

Finally, the development and implementation of the proposed conservation area in Guassa/Menz will have a profound impact and leave a lasting legacy within Ethiopia. It will be the first conservation area to be developed in over thirty years, and as the first to incorporate a traditional indigenous resource management system, will be subject to profound interest and scrutiny.

The Scholarship will therefore assist directly in implementing several key articles in the Convention, for example Article 5 on building links, Article 7 on planning, Article 8j on traditional practices, Articles 8a, 8b and 8d on protected areas, Article 8f on key species, and Articles 10 and 11 on ecotourism and sustainable resource harvesting.

11. What collaboration has there been with the Darwin Scholar to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Scholarship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Scholar within his/her own country.

The proposed Scholar prepared a completed first draft of the proposal.

The proposed Scholar will take a lead in developing the management plan and the publications for scientific journals. The applicant organisation will facilitate the process and provide access to resources, supervision and guidance, as and when necessary. It is seen as critically important that the proposed Scholar develops the ability to work independently and in relative isolation as is the reality when working in Ethiopia, but equally that he maintains links that allow to remain up-to-date with modern developments.

The proposed Scholar has already initiated the necessary collaborations to develop the management plan for the Guassa-Menz area in conjunction with the Environmental Protection and Land Use Authority and Agricultural Bureau of the Amhara National Regional State, the local administrative bodies and the local communities living adjacent to the area of focus. Discussions will be held as and when necessary with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation, the federal organisation with the mandate for regulating wildlife conservation in Ethiopia.

¹ Refer to the Guidance Notes for Applicants for sources of further information

12. Provide details of the Darwin Initiative project that the proposed Scholar was involved in, including his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement.

The proposed Scholar was the Project Executant for the Guassa Biodiversity Project, funded by the Darwin Initiative from 1996 - 1999, and managed by the Zoological Society of London. The project formed the basis for a collaboration between ZSL and DICE, in which the Project Executant remained based at DICE for his PhD, which used the extensive data collected during the Darwin Initiative project. The proposed Scholar/former Project Executant has no ongoing involvement with any current Darwin Initiative project, although the training he received at both ZSL and DICE is used extensively in his current work. Thus, this proposal seeks to combine the proposed Scholar's ongoing work with EWCP with implementing some of the unfinished business in the key and very interesting Guassa area, which is managed through an indigenous resource management system, while also bringing that same work to wider public attention through its publication.

13. Duration of the Scholarship: what is the intended start and finish date.

12 months, September 2003 - August 2004

14. Where will the Darwin Scholar be based? Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location).

When in the UK:

At the DICE, within the Department of Anthropology in the University of Kent, from March to May 2004.

When in Ethiopia:

In Ethiopia for the remainder of the proposed Scholarship. Dr Ashenafi is normally based in Woldia but will travel regularly to Bahir Dar, the administrative centre for the Amhara National Regional Government and to the Guassa-Menz area. A minimum of three weeks every two months will be spent in the latter area. The Scholar will also travel occasionally to Addis Ababa to consult with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation.

15. Financial Aspects.

Scholar payment		
London: £1200/month	Number of months	Total £
UK (outside London): £1000/month	Number of months	Total £
Overseas location £ /month*	Number of months	Total £
Host Organisations' costs		
UK: £200/month	Number of months	Total £
Overseas location: £ /month*	Number of months	Total £
A. Total Scholar & Host Organisation Costs		£

* Figures available from Darwin at darwin@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Actual travel costs	
Return airfare. <i>Details</i> Economy fare Addis Ababa - London return	£
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> Travel from London Heathrow to Canterbury, coach	£
Visas etc. <i>Details</i> UK entry	£
B. Total Scholarship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2000 will be paid)	£

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP COSTS (A + B)	£
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16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme will provide logistical support and will cover the Scholar's travel and administrative costs when he is in Ethiopia.

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 Scholarship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Scholar's home country

Field Code Changed

CERTIFICATION

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.

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)	KATE FERGUSON
Position in the organisation	Research Adminsitrator Research Office

Signed

Date:

Please return completed form to The Edinburgh Centre for Tropical Forests (ECTF) by **22 April 2003** by e-mail to stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk

Where it is not possible to send the full application in electronic form (for example if signed references are not available electronically), a hard copy of the full application should also be sent to ECTF, Darwin Monitoring & Evaluation Project, Stefanie Halfmann, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd, Edinburgh EH9 3JK.