



DARWIN INITIATIVE

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2007

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). Whilst this form is to be submitted by the host institution the proposed Fellow should be fully involved in development of the proposal. Please keep to word limits as specified and do not use a font size smaller than Arial 11pt for main text, Arial 10pt for financials.

Submit by Friday 16 March 2007

1. Contact Details

Ref. (Defra/ECTF only):
Name and address of UK applicant organisation (results will be sent to the postal address provided here) School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA.

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

Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow Anne Marie NDONG OBIANG, c/o WCS Gabon, 7847 Libreville, GABON
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3. Summary of proposed Fellowship (no more than 100 words)

<p>Undertake formal academic qualification allowing the applicant to participate fully with professional Anglophone conservationists, and organisations which are involved with the Gabonese administration in managing the National Parks System of Gabon.</p> <p>At the moment few Gabonese in the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC), part of the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forestry, have a full understanding of the issues involved in the protection of biodiversity and the management of protected areas. This is due to a lack of environmental education in Gabonese universities. Currently the only science university USTM only offers a 2 year course in Biology finishing prior to degree level.</p> <p>The applicant hopes to transmit what she has learnt to fellow civil servants in the Ministry of Water and Forestry.</p>

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4. Principals in Project. Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisations (and other institutions if relevant) who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Fellow. A 1 page CV on each must be enclosed.

Details	Main UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert
Surname	Abernethy	Bell		
Forename(s)	Katharine	Diana		
Post held	Research Fellow	Programme Director Biodiversity conservation, wildlife diseases, wildlife trade		
Institution (if different to above)	University of Stirling	University of Norwich		
Department	School of Biological & Environmental Sciences	Biological Science		
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) (150 words)

<p>Aims – To pursue research and scholarship at an international level of excellence and provide flexible and innovative programmes of teaching and learning.</p> <p>Activities – Delivery of flexible and high quality educational programmes designed to promote the self-fulfilment of students and staff. Support for research at nationally and internationally recognised levels of excellence, meeting economic, environmental, social and cultural needs.</p> <p>Achievements – Department of Biological Sciences, University of Stirling, was awarded Grade 4 in Research Assessment Exercise. Established Centre for Conservation Science (CCS) jointly with St. Andrews.</p>

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Darwin Fellow's organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)

<p>The Applicant is from the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC) part of the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forestry. The Department's role is to protect the fauna of Gabon, by controlling illegal hunting and managing protected areas It was through an initiative of the DFC that Projet Gibier was initiated.</p> <p>It is within the DFC that the point persons for Bushmeat, GRASP and MIKE are based.</p> <p>The DFC also controls CITES licenses and hunting permits.</p>

7. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and link to a Darwin project. (150)

The applicant has been a long time Civil Servant in the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forestry. Since 2002 the applicant has been the Gabonese point person on bushmeat issues, this has resulted in her working with people from B.C.T.F., CITES and more recently Projet Gibier.

The applicant has been a key person in the Darwin funded project (162-12-002) through the link she has provided with the Gabonese administration. This has helped the project to organise a meeting on the role of the administration in upholding the Gabonese wildlife law. She has also had a vital role in organising missions carried out by the Gabonese anti-poaching team.

Since the end of the Darwin funded Project Gibier the applicant has been working part time on bushmeat issues and has also become the facilitator between the NGO WCS Gabon and the Gabonese administration. This has included being the principal co-ordinator in the application stage for the creation of a UNESCO Man and Biosphere reserve in Gabon.

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

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

Maximum 800 words The aim of this fellowship is to allow the applicant, a civil servant in the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC) part of the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forestry, to gain a better understanding of conservation issues, including Biodiversity, Wildlife trade, management and statistics. Through increased understanding, she and her colleagues in the DFC will be able to participate in a more active manner when working with international conservation NGO's that have projects running in Gabon, such as WWF, CI, WCS and ZSL and represent the Gabonese Administrations position on International issues.

Through the training of the applicant the DFC will become better equipped to manage the unique wildlife of Gabon with the applicant being able to also advise her fellow civil servants in the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forestry with what she has learnt through the training she will receive through this fellowship.

The first step in the applicants program will be to complete a TEFEL English course in Gabon in July 2007. In September 2007 she will start an MSc course in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the University of East Anglia during which the applicant's progress through each module will be monitored by Dr Katharine Abernethy of the University of Stirling and Dr Diana Bell of the University of East Anglia.

Compulsory units in this course include Univariate Statistics, Multivariate Statistics, Ecological census methods and Research skills for ecologists. Optional units can include Conservation genetics, Population dynamics and modelling, Introduction to GIS, Restoration ecology and Understanding environmental change.

As part of the course work the applicant is to undertake a research project and dissertation for 4 months starting at the end of March 2008 till the end of July 2008, the fieldwork for this will be based in Gabon on Bushmeat issues with the applicant working in close collaboration with Projet Gibier, the applicant will be supervised by Dr Katherine Abernethy of the University of Stirling. During the her time in Gabon a couple of days will be set aside for the applicant to give presentations to the Ministry of Water and Forestry based on what she has learnt during the teaching part of the MSc.

Finally after the end of the MSc, the applicant will give a series of presentations on both her dissertation and modules undertaken during the teaching part of the MSc. These presentations will be given both to the Ministry of Water and Forestry and to different national NGO's.

9. Legacy. Provide information on how the Darwin Fellow will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship on return to his/her home country. Will a strategy be developed during the Fellowship to ensure this is achieved? (200 words)

The applicant will disseminate what she has learnt within the Ministry of Water and Forestry as well in the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC) by giving fortnightly presentations over a period of 3 months on what she had learnt during the course work and results from her dissertation. Talks will also be given to various NGO's working in Gabon.

With the applicant's position in the DFC she will be able to help out her colleagues by giving advice and recommendations on the different projects that the Department handles. She will also be able to help them out extract information from the Projet Gibier's bushmeat market database for her own management responsibilities.

On top of this the applicant will participate in the teaching of Dr Fiona Maisel's yearly biological monitoring course for Central Africa workers in conservation in protected areas..

10. How will the Fellowship assist the Fellow'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. (200 words)

With the knowledge that the applicant has been able to gain through the M.Sc and the dissertation on bushmeat (Article 12) the applicant will be able to improve co-operation (Article 5) between the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC) and the NGO's as well as researchers (Article 18). This co-operation will ease discussion on policies that have a direct impact on fauna, such as the wildlife laws and how to disseminate information on these policies to the general public (Article 13).

It will also help the applicant in her role as the Gabonese Bushmeat focal person for CITIES (Article 22 and 23), being able to give a picture of what is happening in Gabon (Article 17).

The applicant can also help the DFC put in place monitoring strategies in the bushmeat markets by the international community (Article 7), training them to use the Access bushmeat database (Article 16) and by searching for finances through the various Embassies and donors (Article 20).

11. What collaboration has there been with the Darwin Fellow to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Fellowship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Fellow within his/her own country. (200 words)

The applicant has been collaborating since the start of the formulation of this application for a Darwin Fellowship. She has spent time searching for appropriate courses that will be of use to the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC), as well as helping out in the writing of the application.

It was the applicant herself who gave the suggestion of what type of research that she should undertake during the MSc course in Conservation Biology.

Collaboration will continue with Project Gibier, while she is in the UK, through regular updates both by herself and her supervisors back to the Project. The applicant will then carry the needed research for the MSc on bushmeat issues in Gabon, with the help of Project Gibier and the DFC.

12. Provide details of the Darwin Initiative project (including the reference number) that the proposed Fellow was associated with, including his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement. (200 words)

Projet Gibier started in 2000 through the request of the then Director of the Department of Fauna and Hunting (DFC). In 2003 Projet Gibier received funds from the Darwin Initiative to carry out research in Gabon on the bushmeat markets and socio-economic surveys of people in different areas of Gabon via project 162-12-002.

The applicant became the point person between the DFC and Projet Gibier at the start of 2006, due to the previous point person's departure for France to carry on her studies. The current applicant has greatly helped the project, through the political contacts she has, in one of the recurring stumbling blocks that it has had in the organising of a national bushmeat meeting. It has been with her help and enthusiasm that we have finally been able to get dates, April the 16th and 17th 2007, accepted by the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forestry.

¹ Refer to the Guidance Notes for Applicants for further information

13. Duration of the Fellowship: what are the intended start and finish dates?

July 2007 to October 2008

14. Where will the Darwin Fellow be based? Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location). (200 words)

1st July 2007 to 1st August 2007 – TEFEL English course, Gabon

1st August 2007 to 30th August 2007 - Visa and preparation for trip to UK, Gabon and Cameroon to get visa to the UK, there being no UK Consulate in Gabon.

September 2007 to April 2008 – MSC in conservation biology at the University of Kent , UK

April 2008 to July 2008 – MSC field work on bushmeat in Gabon

July 2008 to August 2008 – Writing up of dissertation in UK

August 2008 to 1st October 2008 – Presentations to Ministries and NGOS in Gabon

15. Financial Aspects. Please use UK Government Financial Years ie April 2007 – March 2008 etc)

Fellow payment				
	07/08	08/09	2007/08	2008/09
London: £1200/month	Number of months		£	£
UK (outside London): £1000/month	7	2	£	£
Overseas location £ /month*	Number of months		£	£
Host Organisations' costs				
	07/08	08/09	2007/08	2008/09
UK: £300/month	Number of months			£
Overseas location: £ /month*	Number of months			£
A. Total Fellow & Host Organisation Costs			£	£

Actual travel costs (Return journey to Fellowship location)		
	2007/08	2008/09
Return airfare. <i>Details</i> Air France Libreville to London between 1 st September and 1 st April 2008.	£	£
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> Taxi to and from Libreville airport and then transport to and from Heathrow to Norwich	£	£
Visas etc. <i>Details</i> travel to Cameroon for visa at the UK Embassy	£	£
B. Total Fellowship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2000 will be paid)	£	£

* Figures available from Margaret Okot on 0207 082 8430

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Actual travel costs 'Additional Travel'		
Specify purpose. Maximum £500 within country of Fellowship location, £1500 for international travel.		
	2007/08	2008/09
Airfares <i>Details</i> Return Libreville to London between July 2008 and September	£	£
Subsistence <i>Details (90 days in Gabon)</i> <i>Contact Defra for rates</i>	£	£
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> Taxi to and from Libreville airport and then transport to and from Heathrow to Norwich	£	£
Visas etc. <i>Details</i>	£	£
C. Total (Other travel) costs	£	£

D. ACADEMIC FEES	2007/08	2008/09
<i>Details</i> MSc in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the University of Norwich. International Fees	£	£

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

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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 Fellowship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Fellow's home country

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 CVs for project principals and letters of support as requested in the Guidance Notes.

Name (block capitals)	
Position in the organisation	

Signed

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Date:

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Please return completed form to The Edinburgh Centre for Tropical Forests (ECTF) by 16 March 2007 (to arrive by midnight) by email to darwin-applications@ectf-ed.org.uk. A hard copy of the full application should also be sent to ECTF, Darwin Applications Unit, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Edinburgh EH26 OPH and should be postmarked 16 March 2007.