



Submit by Friday 20 February 2009

## APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 16

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.

**1. Name and address of UK Host organisation** (NB: Notification of results will be by post and addressed to the main UK Expert listed in Section 5)

<b>Name:</b> The Zoological Society of London	<b>Address:</b> Conservation Programmes, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, NW 1 4RY, United Kingdom
--	--

**2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow** (including contact details where available)

<b>Name:</b> Jargal Jamsranjav
--------------------------------

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

Proposed start date: 25, Sep, 2009		Duration of project: 12 months	End date: 30, Sep, 2010
Darwin funding requested	2009/10 £11105	2010/11 £8600	Total £ 19165

**4. Summary of proposed Fellowship** (no more than 100 words)

<p>The proposed Darwin Fellow would use the Fellowship to fund her to study for a Masters qualification in Geographical Research at the University of Cambridge or in Conservation Science at the Imperial College of London. The comprehensive one year training provided will allow Jargal to develop research skills in natural and social sciences with particular focus on the sustainable use of natural resources and in preventing the further loss of Biodiversity in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>
--

**5. Principals in the 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. Please 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 than one overseas project partner.

Details	Main UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert
Surname	Bielby			
Forename(s)	Jon			
Post held	Programme Manager			
Institution (if different to UK Host)	Conservation Programmes, Zoological Society of London			
Department	Conservation Programmes			
Telephone				
Email				

**6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the UK Host organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)**

The Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. ZSL conduct field conservation in over 80 countries across the globe.

We strive to achieve our mission by:

- Conducting high quality conservation science and developing new approaches and tools for conservation;
- Convening experts to discuss conservation challenges and identify solutions;
- Working with governments, industry and communities on the ground to implement conservation projects;
- Raising awareness and engaging people in conservation.

We contribute to building conservation capacity and skills in the UK and abroad through educational programmes, workshops, Masters courses, and supporting PhD candidates. Around the world we have teams of conservationists working with governments, civil society and the private sector to encourage the responsible use of natural resources to underpin sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods.

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

The Steppe Forward Programme (SFP) is a collaboration between the ZSL and the National University of Mongolia, which aims to empower Mongolians to create and manage conservation programmes by providing them with the tools necessary to design and monitor their own conservation initiatives, assess wildlife populations and design ecological studies.

Between 2003 and 2006, SFP implemented a Darwin Initiative project. The project has been highly successful producing field-guides and children's books, the first Mongolian peer-reviewed scientific journal and has organised and conducted field-training for students, ecology teachers, protected area rangers, and environmental professionals. All alumni of the field course have achieved jobs or graduate degrees in conservation. Since 2006 the SFP has developed further and implemented conservation activities including building a "Mongolian biodiversity data bank", conducting and producing Regional Red Lists for all Mongolian vertebrates and improving sustainable natural resource use and livelihood improvement in South Gobi Protected Areas.

**8. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and their link to a Darwin project, including the project reference number, his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement. (200 words)**

Jargal was as a key-member ZSL's Darwin Initiative project "The Steppe Forward Programme: Training Conservationists for Mongolia's Future (162/12/029)" and advised on the Darwin scoping grant "Bats of the Steppe (EIDPR075)". Jargal is integral to the success of ZSL's work in Mongolia, which has continued and developed since the initial Darwin grant.

Since 2006, Jargal has worked as the manager and scientific adviser for SFP in developing further funding opportunities and collaborating on other projects such as the GEF funded "Community-based conservation of biological diversity in the mountain landscape of Mongolian Altai-Sayan ecoregion" United Nations Development Programme project, and the "Capacity building needs assessment of biodiversity conservation" project of the World Bank.

Jargal's capability is reflected in her being awarded the Whitley Award for International Conservation in 2004 and 2006, which enabled her to lead the project "Sustainable natural resource use and livelihood improvement in South Gobi Protected Areas". This project established eco-herder based wildlife monitoring by training students, park rangers and buffer zone council members to run participatory conservation approaches and wildlife census techniques. The project established native tree nurseries, created water sources for Asiatic wild ass and introduced fuel efficient stoves in the South Gobi Protected Areas.

**9. Provide a concept note on the Darwin Fellowship (maximum 1,000 words). This should include:**

- a clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship
- the role of the UK Host organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)
- where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards sustainable development or sustainable livelihoods

The proposed Darwin Fellow would use the Fellowship to fund her to study for a Masters qualification in Geographical Research at the University of Cambridge or in Conservation Science at the Imperial College of London. Jargal has received a conditional offer from Imperial, pending suitable funding, and has applied to Cambridge and is awaiting response. During her Masters the Zoological Society of London will provide Jargal with support in administration and supervision. Jargal has collaborated with the ZSL for six years, and has many professional contacts in the Society that she will be able to contact for support.

Both Masters courses are designed for students who have wide experience in conservation and development projects. The courses are aimed to train students in techniques in conservation science and develop a broad knowledge of the interactions between biodiversity loss and human society. They also seek to fill the gap between a first degree and a PhD and to help students to develop a relevant thesis which can be used for developing plans or research design for subsequent doctoral research.

Although Jargal has experience of leading community-based approaches to conservation, of providing the data that are needed to plan conservation through planned, directed research, and in policy formulation and implementation at both local and central government levels, she is keen to improve her knowledge-base of this subject. Conducting a Masters degree would allow Jargal to develop her knowledge and skills in both scientific research techniques, and the complex relationships between science, policy and management in the context of applied conservation. Doing so would allow Jargal to return to Mongolia with a wider, more in-depth appreciation of the issues of community-based conservation, which would allow her supplement her strong background in the subject and contribute greatly to sustainable development and livelihoods in Mongolia.

Jargal will conduct a Masters' thesis on the subject of identifying effective methods for monitoring and evaluating the success or failure of community-based conservation interventions in nomadic communities and to identify the key elements for success. It is hoped that this research will help to improve the effectiveness of community based conservation initiatives throughout Mongolia.

**Background of proposed Masters thesis:** In Mongolia almost half of the nation's people live off the land. Mongolia is unique because of the importance of nomadic pastoralism to the economy and nomadic culture forms the national identity. Whereas nomadic pastoralists are invariably a minority in other parts of the world, the landscape of Mongolia is shaped and characterised by low intensity resource dependent nomadic herding people. Mongolia has the last remaining unfenced grassland steppe that is still maintained by wild herbivores, livestock and other natural factors. Mongolia is known as the only refuge for a number of globally significant

migratory species such as Asiatic wild ass (Appendix II of CMS) and Mongolian gazelle (Appendix of CMS). This ecosystem receives very little conservation research and still poorly known by the rest of the world.

Although community-based conservation is recognised by both the government and NGOs as an effective approach to conservation in Mongolia, their effectiveness has not been monitored or assessed and there is little evidence that these initiatives are resulting in better management of biodiversity or of natural resources. Community-based conservation initiatives in Mongolia often assist local communities to develop alternative livelihoods with the hope that such interventions will result in reduced hunting or less conflict between wildlife and livestock. Such projects (e.g GTZ, WWF, World Bank projects) have been successful to some extent and in general have been well received by local communities. However, the extent to which they have been effective is unknown.

Assessing the effectiveness of community-based conservation initiatives and investigating better solutions will help in the design of further conservation work and help reverse the loss of biological diversity in Mongolia (this follows Article 10 of CBD). Most conservation research in Africa, as in most other parts of the world, is concerned with assessment of biological features (Cowling and Wilhelm-Rechmann, 2007)<sup>1</sup>. Jargal's research not only includes biological measures but also conducts social assessments. While this may be standard practice in other sectors dealing with the sustainable use of natural resources (Sayer & Cambell, 2004)<sup>2</sup>, it is certainly not so in the conservation sector (Cowling and Wilhelm-Rechmann, 2007)<sup>1</sup>.

**Conservation problems to be tackled by community-based initiatives:** Mongolia has experienced significant social and economic changes since the socialist system collapsed, and wildlife is now considered a freely accessible common resource. It has experienced rapid declines due to over-hunting. Competition for pasture, water and other resources between wildlife and livestock has increased due to the high number of livestock. The intact landscape and human security are both being threatened by the activities from environmentally irresponsible small-scale mining industries.

**Research questions:** Jargal's research will focus on an assessment of the success or failure of community-based conservation interventions in different countries including Mongolia and will then analyze existing initiatives to identify interventions that are having the intended impact. The result of the study can be applied to post-Soviet countries and pastoralist communities around the world. In order to achieve the main goal, following will be conducted:

- Examine current interactions between nomadic society and its natural habitats;
- Develop a standardized approach for assessing current and future pressure on biodiversity;
- Study literature on people's attitude towards conservation and wildlife in areas that have received donor interest, post donor interest and non donor interest
- Collate case studies on the impact of commonly used interventions such as development of alternative livelihoods, and compare them to other case studies around the world without such interventions.

Additionally, during her one year stay in the UK Jargal will participate in the 'International Student Conference in Conservation Science' hosted by the University of Cambridge, the Cambridge Conservation Forums and the Zoological Society of London's science meetings. Participating the meetings and forums will help her to make a wide network of contacts within UK conservation researchers and practitioners.

**10. 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)**

1. Cowling, R.C & Wilhelm-Rechmann, A (2007) Social assessment as a key to conservation success. *Oryx*, 41, 135-136.

2 Sayer, J.A & Cambell, B.M. ( 2004) *The Science of Sustainable Development: Local Livelihoods and the Global Environment*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

In the past Jargal has led SFP's community projects, worked as a consultant for both the WCS's 'Eastern Steppe Living Landscape Project' and the UNDP's 'Community-based biodiversity conservation project'. Jargal has presented on community-based wildlife conservation at experience sharing workshops attended by numerous organisations (GTZ, World Bank, WWF, WCS, UNDP and the Snow leopard Trust) currently active in community-based conservation. Jargal is therefore a well known figure to many conservation and development organisations in Mongolia.

Jargal has a proven track-record of disseminating her knowledge to people from a diverse range of backgrounds and has experience in sharing the benefits of awards and scholarships she received. Jargal trained students, park rangers, buffer-zone council members and eco-herders in the importance of ecological monitoring and conservation and livelihood activities through her Whitley Award project. The leaders of eco-herder groups formed by Jargal received provincial governor's prizes, and representatives of the eco-herders were invited by WCS to present their experiences to herders from other parts of Mongolia.

Studying for a Masters degree would be a natural progression of Jargal, and the legacy of the Darwin Fellowship would be Jargal's increased contribution to Mongolian conservation through such large-scale projects and the dissemination of their findings.

**11. 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 CBD/CITES/CMS? Please refer to specific Articles or cross cutting themes as appropriate. (200 words)**

Through the completion of a dissertation on community-based conservation, the fellowship follows Article 8 by promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas, and through discussion with communities emphasises the importance of protecting ecosystems, natural habitats and viable populations of species.

The research findings of the proposed fellow will be used by conservation organisations and practitioners in Mongolia (Article 8). Her research will respect the knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities (Article 8j) and will contribute the use of scientific advances in research in developing conservation measures (Articles 12 and 18). Upon returning to Mongolia, the proposed fellow will directly encourage the understanding and importance of measures required for biological conservation and will produce educational material and initiate public awareness programmes on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Article 13).

Jargal already has a strong record of leading conservation and development projects which tackle critical environmental and social problems in Mongolia (Article 10 of CBD), which will only be strengthened by the Fellowship. Additionally, Jargal will continue to supervise conservation and ecological research projects and conduct consultancy for multilateral projects (Article 12 of CBD) within Mongolia.

**12. 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)**

As a result of previous collaborations, Jargal has a number of contacts at ZSL who are familiar with the standard of Jargal's work and could provide support as necessary. These include Dr Jonathan Baillie, Director of ZSL Conservation Programmes, Dr Kate Jones, Senior Research Fellow, and Dr Jon Bielby, Programme Manager of ZSL's Mongolian activities. The latter will act as Jargal's main contact at ZSL, and has already worked closely with Jargal to produce this application. For the duration of the project, ZSL will provide administrative and supervisory support for Jargal, who will report upon her progress at bimonthly progress meetings held at the ZSL offices.

Jargal is planning to visit ZSL frequently to attend the ZSL's science meetings and further develop collaborations and project proposals on biodiversity conservation in Mongolia through Zoological Society of London's Steppe Forward Programme which she will hope to implement upon her return.

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

Should her application be accepted, Jargal would be based at the Department of Geography, at the University of Cambridge. She applied to be member of Corpus Christi college. Dr Tim Bayliss-Smith will be her supervisor. The duration of MPhil is 12 months from September 2009 till September 2010.

She received conditional offer of admission to Imperial College London, which is dependant of funding. Then she will be based at Department of Natural Science of Imperial College London. Dr E. J. Millner-Gulland will be her supervisor. The duration of MSc is 12 months from October 2009 till September 2010.

## 14. Provide a programme of work, including key milestones, through the duration of the Fellowship

Activity	Duration	2009/2010									2010/2011					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Arriving in UK and settling in.				+												
Start taking MPhil or MSc course	12 months				+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Attending to Cambridge Conservation Forum's meetings	5 days					+		+	±		+		+			
Attending International Student Conference in Conservation Science	3 days									+						
Attending Zoological Society of London's science meetings	2 times						+				+					
Meeting with ZSL's principal of the Fellow to present the progress	6 times						+		+		+		+		+	+
Taking exams after each semester, writing essays and completing the thesis dissertation							+			+						+
Developing conservation project proposal	9 months							+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

**15. Financial Aspects. Please use UK Government Financial Years ie April 2009 – March 2010 etc)**

<b>Fellow payment</b>			
	09/10	10/11	
London: £1200/month	Number of months		2009/10 £
UK (outside London): £1000/month	Number of months		2010/11 £
Overseas location £ /month*	Number of months		£
<b>Host Organisations' costs</b>			
UK: £300/month	Number of months		2009/10 £
Overseas location: £ /month*	Number of months		2010/11 £
<b>A. Total Fellow &amp; Host Organisation Costs</b>			

<b>Actual travel costs (Return journey to Fellowship location)</b>		
	2009/10	2010/11
Return airfare. <i>Details</i> Economy return ticket	£	£
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> To/from airports in home country will cost 40 £, to/from airports in UK will cost around 200 £		
Visas etc. <i>Details</i> Visa and travel insurance		
<b>B. Total Fellowship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2000 will be paid)</b>		

<b>Actual travel costs 'Additional Travel'</b>		
<b>Specify purpose. Maximum £500 within country of Fellowship location, £1500 for international travel.</b>		
	2009/10	2010/11
Airfares <i>Details</i>	£	£
Subsistence <i>Details (including number of days)</i>		
Travel to London for meetings at the ZSL <i>Contact the Darwin Applications Unit for rates</i>		
<b>Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i></b>		
Visas etc. <i>Details</i>		
<b>C. Total (Other travel) costs</b>		

\* Figures available from the Darwin Applications Unit Tel: 0131 440 5180



<b>D. ACADEMIC FEES</b>	2009/10	2010/11
<i>Details</i> The university fee will be covered by Wildlife Conservation Society's Graduate Fellowship. Costs of buying a computer, books and settling in will be also covered by he WCS.	£	£
<b>TOTAL FELLOWSHIP COSTS (A + B + C + D)</b>		

**16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts**

Wildlife Conservation Society will provide a total of 30000 USD. It will cover the costs of application fees, postage, language exam fee and books for language exam preparation. It will also cover university fees, costs of buying a computer, books, settling in costs and contribute towards to living-costs.

**FCO NOTIFICATION**

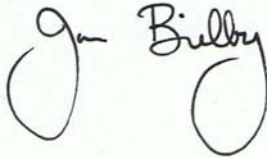
Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise details of the Darwin Fellowship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Fellow's home country

**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.

<b>Name (block capitals)</b>	DR JON BIELBY
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	CONSERVATION PROGRAMME MANAGER

**Signed**

**Date:**

20/2/2009

## Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship?	+
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	+
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?	+
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	+
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? <b>(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)</b>	+
Have you included a 1 page CV for the proposed Fellow and the UK experts listed in Section 5?	+
Have you provided the relevant letters of support?	See attached note
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? <b>An electronic link to a website is acceptable.</b>	+
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	+

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT on **Friday 20 February 2009** to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the name of the proposed Fellow 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). In addition, a hard copy of the application and any supporting documents not available electronically should be submitted to the Darwin Applications Management Unit, c/o ECTF, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL postmarked not later than **Monday 23 February 2009**.

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