



EIDPS040 ref Fellow App 3078



Submit by 27 October 2014

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 21

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 email and addressed to the main UK Expert listed in Section 5)

UK Organisation & Address:	RBGE, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR
Project Leader Name:	Anthony Miller
E-mail:	
Phone:	

2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow (include email and telephone details where available)

Name:	Awara Muhammad Hamakhan
Address:	House Number 24, Street Number 106, 45 Ashty / Sulaimanyah
E-mail:	
Phone:	-

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

Proposed start date Sept 2015 Duration of project: 12 months End date: August 2016			
Darwin funding requested	2015/16 £11,350	2016/17 £6,500	Total £17,850

4. Summary of proposed Fellowship i.e. Outcome and expected outputs and impact

(Max 100 words)

The mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan fall within the Irano-Anatolian Biodiversity Hotspot and are a Centre of Plant Diversity. They are home to important alpine genera such as *Primula*, *Dionysia* and *Iris*.

The fellowship will consist of a 12 month mentoring and training programme. This will raise awareness of this important but poorly known element of the flora and increase capacity for its conservation.

Outputs will be an ex-situ collection of Iraqi alpine plants, conservation action plans for selected species and a policy document addressing issues of access to genetic resources and CITES for the national Botanic Garden of Kurdistan.

5. Principals in the Project. Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisation (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 project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Other expert	Other expert	Other expert
Surname	Miller			
Forename(s)	Tony			
Post held	Director, CMEP			
Institution (if different to UK Host)				
Department	Science			
Telephone/Skype				
Email				

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

(max 150 words)

RBGE's mission statement is 'to explore and explain the world of plants'. It has an international reputation as a centre for excellence in plant taxonomy and horticulture. RBGE has wide-ranging education activities which include PhD, MSc, BSc, HND courses as well as diverse public education programmes. Its Centre for Middle Eastern Plants has a long standing interest in the flora and vegetation of the Middle East and expertise in botany, education and conservation.

Capacity building is a major component of activities both in the UK and abroad. In recent years successful Darwin projects have been completed in Bhutan, Chile, Congo, Laos, Nepal, Peru, Turkey and Vietnam. The other main achievements, apart from training and capacity building, are: publications, developing the collections to support biodiversity research and increasing access to the collections.

A copy of the annual report and accounts can be found at the following website:

<http://www.rbge.org.uk/about-us/corporate-information/annual-report-and-accounts>

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

(max 150 words)

The Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research (MoHESR) aims to help Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Kurdistan to achieve excellence in teaching and research. It is actively engaged in a major reform of education and research in Kurdistan.

Sulaimani Botanic Garden (SBG) is part of the Kurdish Ministry of Agriculture. It is currently being planned and established on a 60ha site just outside Sulaimani. CMEP has been working with the garden's committee to establish a botanical masterplan for the garden. It will feature an alpine area and the national ex-situ collection of alpiners.

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

(max 200 words)

Awara works for the MoHESR lecturing on subjects including ornamental plant production. Prior to this he worked as a researcher for the Ministry of Agriculture. Here he was engaged on a number of plant based programmes including major field collecting programs across Kurdistan linked to the National Herbarium and the new botanic garden of Kurdistan. He is currently on leave from the Ministry and studying for an MSc in tissue culture at the University of Kahramanmarash in Turkey.

Awara was co-opted from his Ministry to take part in the ongoing Darwin Project in Iraq (19-007). He has also used holidays from the Ministry in order to continue work on the project. He has demonstrated good taxonomic knowledge and has been responsible for generating some excellent data. He is now one of a small handful of people in Iraq motivated and competent at field identification.

He maintains close links and collaborations with the DI project partner Nature Iraq, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Sulaimani Botanic Garden. These links put him in a unique position to disseminate the results of the project and pass on skills gained. He has already demonstrated himself to be a natural and enthusiastic communicator and teacher.

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

9a. A clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship

(Max 300 words)

The mountains of Kurdistan are included by Conservation International within its Irano-Anatolian Biodiversity Hotspot; one of a network of sites throughout the world which are rich in biodiversity but threatened by human activity. Kurdistan is also considered a Centre of Plant Diversity with a rich diversity of endemic species. Little is known about the endangered alpine vegetation of Kurdish Iraq. Many species are narrow endemics only found on a single mountain and are threatened by factors such as climate change and exploitation.

Kurdistan is in the process of developing a national botanic garden in Sulaimani. The garden's living collection will focus on the native flora including alpine plants. This will be the first ex-situ conservation collection of Kurdish alpiners, most of which have not previously been cultivated. It also represents a wonderful opportunity to showcase, interpret and inform people about the native vegetation.

However, there is a danger that the increased profile of native species and their potential as ornamental plants, particularly in the case of alpiners, could lead to increased exploitation. As was seen in Turkey where the over-collecting of bulbs for the horticultural trade is well documented.

There is therefore a need to put measures in place to ensure that these species are effectively conserved. In tandem, a framework is required within which the plants can be cultivated and used equitably. Raising awareness of international protocols for exchange and accession towards Iraq fulfilling objectives of the Nagoya Protocol and CITES. The Sulaimani Botanic Garden is a good platform to raise the profile of these issues at policy making levels.

Aims:

- 1/ Create an ex-situ collection of Iraqi alpiners
- 2/ Develop conservation action plans for selected species
- 3/ Develop a policy document exploring access to genetic resources and CITES for the Sulaimani Botanic Garden.

9b. The role of the UK Host organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)

(Max 300 words)

The RBGE is a centre of excellence for biodiversity research and conservation in the Middle East and SW Asia, and builds upon a long tradition of research in the area. Tony Miller and his team at the CMEP build upon decades of experience in the region tackling environmental and conservation issues based upon sound scientific knowledge. Awara will be based within the CMEP, supervised by Tony and supported by other members of the team.

Tony Miller has 40 years of experience of working in the Middle East and South West Asia and has been involved in numerous capacity building and conservation initiatives. He has worked in Iraq since 2009 and is project leader on the Darwin project Darwin Initiative project 19-007 *Developing capacity for in-situ conservation in Iraq*. Awara will also be supervised closely by John Mitchell who is Alpine supervisor at RBGE. He has extensive experience in the cultivation of alpine plants from across the region and has supervised and trained many young horticulturalists. Awara will also work with other RBGE staff with a wide ranging experience of policy relating to access and benefit sharing and CITES.

9c. Where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards biodiversity conservation and, where relevant, poverty alleviation i.e. what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative.

(Max 300 words)

The outcome of this fellowship will be the increased awareness of the value of the alpine flora of Iraq and enhanced capacity for its conservation. It will provide a baseline study demonstrating the process of implementation of practical conservation strategies for target groups from a poorly known vegetation type. In so doing it makes connections between horticulture, taxonomy and conservation that don't currently exist in Iraq and therefore represents a change in the way of thinking about conservation. It will highlight the role that different organisations can play in delivering practical conservation actions and provide practical guidelines for these.

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?

(max 200 words)

The legacy of the project will be via a number of physical outputs; the ex-situ collection, horticultural notes, conservation action plans and policy documentation. The results of the fellowship will be widely disseminated and freely available through the strong botanical networks in Iraq and as written reports / papers where appropriate.

Outputs will be developed by Awara in collaboration with a number of organisations within Iraq (e.g. the Botanical Foundation of Kurdistan, Sulaimani Botanic Garden, and Sakran Halgurd National Park). These partnerships build upon existing ones developed over the course of the Darwin project 19-007. By choosing a fellow who is employed in an educational capacity as well as having strong collaborative links to multiple stakeholders that the project has the potential to have a significant impact and reach. On his return Awara will be well placed to continue to pass on the knowledge and skills gained during the fellowship.

An ex-situ collection of alpine plants will be generated and ready to be transferred to the Sulaimani Botanic garden as its nursery is completed. Awara will be in a position to work with and support the horticultural staff at the garden to continue to care for and develop this collection.

- 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.

(max 200 words)

The fellowship will make significant contributions to Iraqi Kurdistan's ability to work towards objectives of a number of international conservation initiatives. The creation of an ex-situ collection of alpine plants and the development of skills to grow and curate the collection more effectively in Kurdistan contribute to Article 9 of the CBD and target 8 of the GSPC. The species conservation action plans will contribute to in-situ conservation of species contributing to article 8 of the CBD and target 7 of the GSPC. As well as article 12 and targets 15 and 16 of the GSPC. The immediate outputs of the project and the legacy of enhanced capacity will help Iraq meet its national target to document and publish an action plan for the conservation of priority species by 2020.

Iraq is the most recent signatory to CITES with the convention coming into force in May 2014. A policy document exploring issues of access to genetic resources and CITES for the Sulaimani Botanic Garden will help raise awareness of and meet obligations under the convention. It will also raise awareness of international protocols towards Iraq fulfilling objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.

- 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 or her own country.

(max 200 words)

We have been working with Awara during the course of the Darwin Initiative project in Iraq (19-007) and have developed this fellowship proposal out of face-to-face discussions as well as through email and skype conversations. The Fellowship is based at RBGE and Awara will be mentored throughout its duration.

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

(max 200 words)

Awara will be based at the RBGE, with time split between the horticulture and science divisions. He will also spend a short time carrying out field collections in alpine areas of Iraq.

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

Activity	Duration	2015/16									2016/2017					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Arrival in UK, induction and detailed project planning				X												
Fieldwork										X						
Alpine Plants training and development of ex-situ collection developed	PT 12			X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	
Conservation action plans for selected species							X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Policy document ABS & CITES												X	X	X	X	

15. Costs. Using UK Government Financial Years ie April 2015 – March 2016 etc), please set out your budget for the Fellowship

	Unit cost	No of months		Total	Total
		2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
Fellow's Subsistence contribution					
Arrival allowance	£300	NA	NA	200	
London based	£1,200 pcm				
UK (outside London)	£1,000 pcm	7	5	7,000	5,000
Overseas	£tbc*				
Host organisation's costs					
UK	£300 pcm	7	5	2,100	1,500
Overseas	£tbc*				
Total Fellow and Host costs				9300	6500
Travel costs to Fellowship location (up to £2,000)					
Return airfare	Details: Sulaimani to Edinburgh			800	
Travel to/from airports	Details:			50	
Visas, insurance, medical cover etc	Details: Travel to Erbil to apply for Visa			600	
Additional travel costs (up to £500 local travel OR £1,500 for international travel)					
Purpose of additional travel	Details: Alpine field collection			600	
Airfares/train fares	Details:				
Travel to/from airports/stations	Details:				
Subsistence costs (inc number of days and rates)*	Details:				
Visas etc	Details:				
Total travel costs				2050	0
Fees and training costs					
Academic fees	Details:				
English language training costs**	Details:				
Total fees					
TOTAL REQUEST FROM DARWIN £				11,350	6,500

*for advice on rates please call the Darwin Application Unit 0131 440 5181

**these costs are ringfenced and should be surrendered if not used.

16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts

Additional funding will be applied for from the Scottish Rock Trust c. £2000

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. Our most recent audited accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at (*delete as appropriate*):

Name (block capitals)	Anthony Miller
Position in the organisation	Director Centre for Middle Eastern Plants

Signed



Date:

27/10/2014

Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship?	Yes
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	Yes
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?	Yes
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable. Please do not type your name)	Yes
Have you included a 1 page CV for the proposed Fellow and the experts listed in Section 5?	Yes
Have you provided the relevant letters of support?	Yes
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	Yes
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	Yes
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	yes

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT at the end of **27 October 2014** to 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).

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.