



DARWIN200

EIDPS027 revised

Submit by Friday 19 February 2010

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 17

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)

Name: BirdLife International	Address: Unit 1, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road Cambridge, CB3 0NA
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2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow (include email and telephone details where available)

Nilda Maria Leticia Lopez Sosa Guyra Paraguay Gaetano Martino No 215 esq., Tte Ross, Asuncion, Paraguay

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

Proposed start date: 01 July 2010	Duration of project: 9 months	End date: 31 March 2011	
Darwin funding requested	2010/11 £ 13,815.00	2011/12 £	Total £ 13,815.00

4. Summary of proposed Fellowship (no more than 100 words) ie Purpose and expected outputs and outcome

The aim of the Fellowship is to strengthen the leadership potential of a mid-career technical staff member of a BirdLife Partner organisation (Guyra Paraguay) by enhancing her knowledge and understanding of policy analyses and advocacy with a special focus on the CBD process. This will lead to active participation of the BirdLife Partner in CBD implementation in Paraguay and thus substantially enhance the capacity for CBD implementation in the country. The Darwin Fellowship candidate who has very recently been re-designated as a Policy Officer has previously worked as a scientist for Guyra with limited exposure to the policy process.

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	Aminu-Kano			
Forename(s)	Muhtari			
Post held	Senior Adviser- Policy & Advocacy			
Institution (if different to UK Host)	Same as UK host			
Department	Science, Policy & Information Management			
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)

BirdLife International Partnership is a global network of autonomous national membership based NGOs actively working in 107 countries for the sustainable use and management of the world's natural resources. The Partners work together on shared policies and programs of conservation action and policy advocacy while exchanging skills and information across the network. The Partnership is supported by a Secretariat (the applicant herein). Activities of the Secretariat include scientific research and advocacy of conservation priorities. It also supports capacity building across the Partnership to increase required capabilities and skills. BirdLife actively demonstrates the value of biodiversity in providing ecosystem services and interconnections between the needs of poorest people and sustaining biological diversity. The Partnership brings skills and capacity to conservation and sustainable development in a democratic, participatory and transparent way. BirdLife creates collaborative relationships with the international community, with Governments, the private sector and a full range of civil society.

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)

Guyra Paraguay is widely acclaimed for its role in biodiversity conservation in Paraguay and Latin America more generally. It is one of the most active and committed partners of Birdlife International in the Americas. Its mission is to protect and defend the biodiversity of Paraguay working in concert with indigenous and local communities. Its activities include research in areas important for biodiversity, publishing environmental information as well as supporting the Government through the provision of information and management expertise. Guyra has published about 100 biodiversity related books and has identified 57 Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Guyra also owns land for conservation purpose. It has recently created three Local Conservations Groups in IBAs in Paraguay that are implementing biological monitoring and other conservation related activities. The principal approach of Guyra is to work with the central and local governments, and to implement all activities with the support of local communities.

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)

Up until February this year, Nilda Maria Leticia Lopez Sosa was a Conservation Officer at Guyra Paraguay. She was in charge of implementing wildlife conservation projects and training local communities. She had close and on-going contact with local governments providing advice and expertise in environment matters. She also developed funding proposals for projects with a principal focus on the Millennium Development Goals (especially MDG7 on environmental sustainability) with local governments. Of recent, she has been coordinating a project helping to implement the Ramsar Convention and CBD in Paraguay. Her role in the project is to gather biodiversity-related information for inclusion in CBD national reports and to undertake scoping studies on ways to implement effectively the CBD national action plan in Paraguay. Her performance in these tasks, amongst others, has led to her re-designation as a Policy Officer within the organisation with effect from February 2010. Her new role will involve working more actively with the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In her previous role, she has provided scientific information that is currently being used in the implementation of an on-going Darwin Initiative post-project in Paraguay. The project's reference is EIDPO029.

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 ie what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative

The aim of the Fellowship is to strengthen the leadership potential of a mid-career technical staff member of a BirdLife Partner organisation (Guyra Paraguay) by enhancing her knowledge and understanding of policy analyses and advocacy with a special focus on the CBD process. This will lead to active participation of the BirdLife Partner in CBD implementation in Paraguay and thus substantially enhance the capacity for CBD implementation in the country. Guyra Paraguay is a strong and leading conservation organisation that is highly acclaimed internationally.

Weak institutional and individual capacity is a major obstacle to implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources. One way in which CBD Authorities could address this is to ensure the active participation of all stakeholders especially by involving national NGOs and other groups. However, the majority of staff, particularly middle-level technical staff, in conservation NGOs such as those in the BirdLife International Partnership holds scientific qualifications and/or background but with little or no training in other aspects of NGO leadership such as policy. They are unfamiliar with the CBD and the ways in which to contribute in its implementation. It is therefore important to work to increase staff knowledge and skills so that they become familiar with the Convention and increase their confidence and ability to contribute effectively. This will both enhance the leadership potential of individual staff and also contribute significantly to the development of the Partner organisations that employ them whilst helping to increase capacity in their respective countries. Further, the participation of people with a strong scientific background will help to foster stronger science-policy links in the national CBD process.

The Darwin Fellowship candidate is Nilda Maria **Leticia Lopez** Sosa (Female, 28 years), a Paraguayan citizen employed by Guyra Paraguay as a Conservation Officer who has recently been deployed as a Policy Officer. She has worked mainly as a scientist for Guyra with limited exposure to the policy process. To achieve its objectives, it is hoped that at the end of the Fellowship the Darwin Fellow will have;

- Gained a deep understanding of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its national processes,
- Obtained and applied basic skills in policy analyses and advocacy,
- Produced a technical report and ancillary advocacy products highlighting the status and trends of Paraguay's avian biodiversity,
- Received international exposure and an increased understanding of the workings of the CBD and BirdLife International Partnership,
- Developed a network of relevant contacts in the UK and internationally.

The approach to be followed for the Fellowship is that of learning through experience; that is, learning by doing, observing and reflecting. During the period; the officer, who has qualifications and background in science but limited experience in policy advocacy, will be involved in research projects and other tasks, consistent with her own individual interests, that will increase her knowledge, skills and expertise in these areas. She will work with staff members from the Science, Policy & Information Management Department at the BirdLife Secretariat who are involved with BirdLife's engagement with the CBD. She will be supervised by Dr Muhtari Aminu-Kano, Senior Adviser- Policy & Advocacy. He leads the team responsible for facilitating and supporting the Partnership's policy analyses and advocacy work with Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). His function includes facilitating communications across the Partnership to develop positions on priority policy issues, helping to raise resources for policy advocacy and helping to develop capacity by managing policy and advocacy projects. He is also BirdLife International's focal point on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In particular she will collate, compile and analyse information held by Guyra Paraguay and other Paraguayan entities as well as data from BirdLife's comprehensive World Bird's Data Base to produce case studies that illustrate the state of Paraguay's birds, the threats facing them and the policy responses being undertaken. These case studies will then be used to produce a policy document that presents an 'Outlook for Paraguay's Birds'. Initially, readings and web study will be assigned in the early stages of the Fellowship. Secondly the Fellow will be assisted to design and conduct her research through individual supervision as she moves through the project. Thirdly she will be closely involved in BirdLife's preparation for the CBD's 10th Conference of the Parties and be a part of the BirdLife delegation at the meeting as a way of gaining hands-on experience. Fourthly arrangements will be made for her to visit other Cambridge-based conservation organisations such as the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and Traffic. Finally she will be supported to develop a personal follow-up plan for implementation on her return to Paraguay and make a presentation on this to staff of the BirdLife Secretariat.

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)

Towards the end of the Fellow's stay in the UK, she will develop a simple personal plan that will include a 6-month's workplan of what she plans to do to promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship on return to her home country. That plan shall include a presentation to staff of her employer as well as how she hopes to establish and maintain contacts with the CBD Authorities in Paraguay. In addition she will develop a strategy to keep and reinforce the contacts with other sectoral government agencies that are important for CBD implementation such as the Ministries of Agriculture and the Foreign Affairs. It shall also include an initial exploration of the ways in which her organisation can contribute more effectively to CBD implementation in Paraguay.

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)

At the final stage of the internship she will develop a personal plan where, based on the experience acquired at the Birdlife International Secretariat, she will include specific programs aimed at supporting local and central governments. She will resume in her new position as Policy and Advocacy Officer at Guyra Paraguay where she will be supporting not only governments but also key stakeholders in the Paraguayan biodiversity community such as municipalities, private industry and local communities.

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)

When the idea of applying for a Darwin Fellowship was mooted at Guyra Paraguay, the candidate participated in an organisation-wide consultation that was held to identify the most suitable candidate. Having made her case that she will be the most appropriate candidate from the organisation to benefit from such an opportunity, she led in drafting the concept of the Fellowship and initiating contacts with the UK host institution. Further, she has been closely involved in developing and finalising the current proposal.

If the proposal is approved by the Darwin Initiative, she plans to discuss its details with other stakeholders in CBD implementation in the country and get their final input and buy-in on the specific research project/s she will undertake in the UK and tailor the final outcome in such a way that will maximise their usefulness to the Paraguayan situation 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)

The Darwin Fellow will be based at the BirdLife International Secretariat in Cambridge, UK. After completing the necessary visa and immigration formalities, the Fellow will travel from Paraguay to the UK where she will be given a desk and necessary Information Technology (IT) and logistic facilities to function at the BirdLife Secretariat.

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

Activity	Duration	2010/11									2011/2011					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
1. Develop and sign internship training agreement	1 week	X														
2. Processing of Visa and travel to UK	4 weeks	X														
3. Induction with relevant staff at UK host institution	1 week		X													
4. Assigned reading and web study	3 weeks		X	X												
5. Analysis of data and development of case studies	10 weeks		X	X	X	X	X									
6. Visits to other Cambridge based conservation organisations	1 week					X		X	X							
7. Support preparations for CBD's 10 th Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan	2 weeks		X	X												
8. Participation in CBD's 10 th Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan	1 week				X											
9. Mid-term review of Fellowship	1 week					X										
10. Write-up of case studies	5 weeks			X	X	X	X	X	X							
11. Produce electronic report on 'Outlook for Paraguay's Birds'	3 weeks							X	X							
12. Design and produce electronic advocacy leaflet/ brochure	2 weeks									X						
13. Prepare and make presentation to general staff of BirdLife Secretariat	1 week						X									
14. Fellowship evaluation and post-fellowship personal plan	1 week									X						

15. Financial Aspects. Please use UK Government Financial Years ie April 2010 – March 2011 etc)

Fellow payment			
	10/11	11/12	
London: £1500/month	Number of months		2010/11 £
UK (outside London): £1000/month	8		2011/11 £
Overseas location £ /month*	Number of months		
Host Organisations' costs			
UK: £300/month	Number of months		2010/11 £
Overseas location: £ /month*	8		2011/12 £
A. Total Fellow & Host Organisation Costs			

Actual travel costs (Return journey to Fellowship location)		
	2010/11	2011/12
Return airfare. <i>Details</i> Asuncion - London Heathrow - Asuncion	£	£
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> In Paraguay (£20), In UK - LHR to Cambridge RTN (£40)		
Visas etc. <i>Details</i> Visa fees (£675), Travel to nearest Embassy in Argentina (£350)		
B. Total Fellowship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2000 will be paid)		

Actual travel costs 'Additional Travel'		
Maximum £500 within country of Fellowship location, £1500 for international travel.		
Specify purpose.		
Travel to Nagoya, Japan to attend the CBD's 10 th Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Oct 2010		
Airfares <i>Details</i> London - Nagoya - London	2010/11 £	2011/12 £
Subsistence <i>Details (including number of days)</i> 4 days at £150/ day <i>Contact the Darwin Applications Unit for rates</i>		
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> In UK only as Japan leg is free		
Visas etc. <i>Details</i> Japanese visa fees		
C. Total (Other travel) costs		

D. ACADEMIC FEES	2010/11	2011/12
<i>Details</i>	£	£

TOTAL FELLOWSHIP COSTS (A + B + C + D)		
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* Figures available from the Darwin Applications Unit Tel: 0131 440 5180

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)	DR LEON BENNUN
Position in the organisation	Director- Science, Policy & Information Management

Signed



Date:

19 February 2010

Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

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

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT on **Friday 19 February 2010** 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). 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 LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL postmarked not later than **Monday 22 February 2010**.

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.