

Applicant: **Wordsworth, Olivia**  
Organisation: **The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)**  
Funding Sought: **£38,611.00**

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# **CV19RR\1010**

## **Sustaining and enhancing Anlung Pring Ecotourism through Covid-19 and beyond**

This project mitigates immediate threats to Anlung Pring Protected Landscape by providing short-term support to those who may otherwise have no option but to return to unsustainable use of the wetland, and builds resilience into the previously flourishing ecotourism venture which has been severely impacted by a collapse in international tourism.

Without this support, it is likely that the ecotourism scheme will be forced to close, and the link between maintaining a healthy wetland and generating funds will be lost.

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Olivia  
**Surname** Wordsworth  
**Organisation** The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
(WWT)  
**Website (Work)** www.wwt.org.uk  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Charity/ trusts
<b>Name</b>	The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
<b>Phone (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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## Section 2 - Project Title & Previous Applications

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### Q3. Project Title:

Sustaining and enhancing Anlung Pring Ecotourism through Covid-19 and beyond

### Q4. Existing project

**Q4a. Does your organisation have an existing (or recently finished) project under either Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund?**

Yes

**If yes, please list the project reference and title of relevant projects (e.g. 25-001, DPLUS090, IWT099).**

<b>Reference of current/recent project:</b>	<b>Title of current/recent project:</b>
1) 26-009.	1) Enhancing wetland resilience for improved biodiversity and livelihoods in Cambodia.
2) 21-007.	2) Livelihoods in the balance – protecting Cambodia’s remaining seasonally-inundated grasslands.

**Q4b. Is this proposal directly relevant to one of the projects listed above?**

Yes

**If yes, please list the relevant project reference and title.**

26-009 Enhancing wetland resilience for improved biodiversity/livelihoods in Cambodia

### **Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary**

**Q5. Which Fund’s objectives will your project most directly address? (please only select one)**

Darwin Initiative

**Q6. Country(ies)**

**Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in?**

<b>Country 1</b>	Cambodia	<b>Country 2</b>	<i>No Response</i>
<b>Country 3</b>	<i>No Response</i>	<b>Country 4</b>	<i>No Response</i>

**Do you require more fields?**

No

**Q7. Project dates**

**Start Date:**

01 January 2021

**End date:**

31 March 2021

**Q8. Budget summary**

**Please note all spending must fall between 1st January 2021 - 31st March 2021**

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**Q8a. If any matched funding arrangements are proposed, please detail them here.**

WWT will provide match funding for WWT staff roles.

## **Section 4 - Project Outcome and Summary**

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### **Q9. Outcome**

**What is the expected Outcome of this project?**

Anlung Pring Community-based Ecotourism initiative generates resilient income from a wide variety of sources, with local community members benefiting from the project's Covid-support schemes rather than resorting to unsustainable practices.

### **Q10. Summary of project**

**Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on GOV.UK.**

This project mitigates immediate threats to Anlung Pring Protected Landscape by providing short-term support to those who may otherwise have no option but to return to unsustainable use of the wetland, and builds resilience into the previously flourishing ecotourism venture which has been severely impacted by a collapse in international tourism.

Without this support, it is likely that the ecotourism scheme will be forced to close, and the link between maintaining a healthy wetland and generating funds will be lost.

## **Section 5 - Project Partners**

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### **Q11. Project partners**

**Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and provide a summary of their roles. Please upload letters, emails or other confirmation of support from any new partners.**

**Lead Organisation name:** Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

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**Other partners involved:** NatureLife Cambodia (NL)

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**Summary of roles and responsibilities in project:**

WWT: As the project leader, WWT has led the project development process and will be responsible for overall project management, including financial oversight, communications, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation.

WWT will also lead on community engagement, rehabilitation of ecotourism services, providing training to the handicraft community and marketing the products. WWT will disseminate project results and learning.

NatureLife Cambodia (NL) is a national conservation organisation, registered with the Ministry of Interior in February 2017. It was established with technical support from BirdLife International and financial support from the IUCN.

NL has worked with WWT and its partners since its establishment and has led environmental awareness campaigns at the proposed project site, Anlung Pring. In this project, NL will be responsible for organising educational events on financial management and Covid-19 preparedness, and building community resilience capacity against Covid-19.





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**If you have not provided evidence of support from the Lead Organisation or partners above, please explain why:**

Please see attached Letters of Support from WWT and NL.

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**Please provide a combined PDF of letters of support from the lead organisation and partner(s) as relevant.**

-  [Letters of Support](#)
-  02/11/2020
-  16:55:12
-  pdf 285.65 KB

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## Section 6 - Project Staff

### Q12. Project staff

**Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance. Please provide a 1 page CV for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader if relevant.**

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV attached?
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Saber Masoomi	<b>Project Leader</b>	20	Checked
Bunthary Srun	Project Coordinator	50	Unchecked
Vorsak Bou	Capacity Building Advisor	20	
Sreytov Bang	Community Education Officer	100	





**Do you require more fields?**

Yes

<b>Name (First name, surname)</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>% time on project</b>
Holly Pal	Project Admin & Finance Officer	20
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0

**Please provide 1 page CVs for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader listed above as a combined PDF.**

**Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.**

-  [CV - Saber Masoomi - Project Leader](#)
-  02/11/2020
-  11:50:52
-  pdf 255.67 KB

## **Section 7 - Problem, Method and Change Expected**

### **Q13. Problem the project is trying to address**

**Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of Covid-19 and its impact on biodiversity or IWT and sustainable livelihoods. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you**

**identify these problems? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in an additional attached PDF document).**

As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government of Cambodia blocked all non-essential international travel. Approximately a third of Cambodia's GDP comes from tourism (OECD), and many conservation projects are funded through small-scale ecotourism initiatives, providing benefits to communities who live around well-managed healthy natural systems.

Compounding the challenges presented by Covid-19 international and temporary national lockdowns, in 2019-2020 Cambodia faced its most severe drought in over four decades, dramatically decreasing rice yields (FAO). These challenges drove people back towards the unsustainable use of natural resources to fill a short-term food and livelihood deficit. Such events are likely to become more commonplace in the future, and local communities are often poorly prepared for these challenges, many debt-trapped in microfinance loans.

In Anlung Pring (AP) wetland, the Darwin Initiative has supported WWT and our partners to establish a successful integrated community-based conservation project which includes Community-based Ecotourism (CBET), wetland handicraft production, natural resource management and transitions towards sustainable agriculture. The primary community conservation association at AP is funded by the CBET, which normally sees 80% of its income coming from international tourists. Covid-19 restrictions have seen a total collapse of visitors, and core operating costs are being covered by partners, which cannot be sustained indefinitely.

Without functioning community conservation institutions, and with few benefits accruing from ecotourism and other alternative livelihoods, local people are likely to revert back to unsustainable practices, including overfishing, land encroachment, overharvesting of wetland plants and amphibians for fodder and food, and increased buffalo grazing on important biodiversity habitat.

## **Q14. Methodology**

**Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome. Provide information on:**

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- If relevant, how this project links to an ongoing Darwin/IWT project.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

**Projects should also consider how best they can address inequality, especially gender inequality, as per the existing guidance for each fund.**

**Please make sure you read the Guidance Notes, particularly Section 3, before answering this question.**

Between 2014 and 2017, Darwin supported the establishment of the AP CBET. WWT also now have a Darwin Initiative project at AP to support communities to transition to sustainable agriculture and develop reserve management plans, climate change vulnerability assessments and international designation.

This proposed project provides immediate support to community conservation associations at AP, investigates approaches to build their resilience to similar future challenges, and develops technical and operational capacity to operate in the medium-long term with a lower reliance on the single income source of international tourism.

Component 1: To ensure the well-being and stability of wetland communities and conservation associations, the project will provide immediate crisis support through:

- Establishing 5 community-based savings groups managed by rural women within the community-based ecotourism scheme, allowing local people to contract emergency low-interest loans without resorting to high-interest micro-finance institutions. Interest generated will provide revenue to cover core costs for community conservation associations. [NL]
- Conducting educational events for CBET members and other interested parties to share Covid-19 preventive measures. [NL]
- Providing training on financial management to 50 households who are the most exposed groups, especially those currently tied into recently contracted microfinance loans, and those in marginalised groups with less access to other forms of finance. [NL]
- Providing sanitation equipment to the six schools surrounding AP. [NL]
- Creating a short-term rice bank offering subsidised food at the CBET centre, targeting at least 100 households most impacted by recent challenges. [NL]

Component 2: To support community associations to establish medium/long-term diverse and resilient income streams, the project will build local capacity through:

- Revising AP CBET's Business Plan, reviewing opportunities presented by the local tourism market and the potential to develop more sophisticated wetland products. [WWT]
- Providing a professional level training course to the handicraft team to improve the design and quality of their Lepironia grass products. [WWT]
- Marketing the handicraft in Phnom Penh, including an exhibition. [NL]
- Developing greater international/online sales channels, complementing a successful recent trial selling Lepironia bags at WWT shops in the UK. [WWT]
- Investing in a CBET Trust fund, generating an annual interest rate (currently 8% offered by most banks). The independent chairman of the CBET board can withdraw interest from this account every three months on receipt of a clear activity plan and budget. At least three members of the Committee must sign the bank slip to be authorised to receive the fund. [WWT]
- Developing and publishing promotional materials in Khmer language (poster and pamphlet, 1,000 copies each) to promote CBET and handicrafts in the Cambodian market. [WWT/NL]
- Re-designing the AP CBET website to include the handicrafts and support Khmer language. [WWT]
- Providing sanitation equipment to the ecotourism service providers. [WWT]

## Q15. Change expected

**Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for biodiversity/environment and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. If you are proposing building on a current or past project, be clear how additional benefits will be delivered through this project.**

**When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of**



**beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.**

Short term changes:

- 100 local women will be enabled to contract short-term loans via community-based savings groups.
- 1000 local people will hear awareness messages on the importance of maintaining a healthy wetland for current and future livelihoods and food security during crises.
- 50 households will have improved financial crisis management capacities, with support to women prioritised.
- 300 students will have safer conditions in which to learn general schoolwork and environmental education during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 100 poorest households will receive food relief packages from the CBET group.
- 10 handicraft makers (women) linked to the CBET will receive training and support to adapt products to take advantage of wider local and international market opportunities.
- Quarterly orders of handicraft group products will increase by 300% with sales resulting from a marketing exhibition in Phnom Penh and new local/international sales channels.

Long term changes:

- The Community Ecotourism Trust fund at AP generates \$ [REDACTED] per year to support ongoing CBET costs.
- 25 households directly generating income from the CBET (staff, caterers, contractors, associated businesses etc) have a secure income into the future.
- 300 national tourists visit the site in 2021, laying the foundation for upscaling domestic travel to the site in the future.
- Handicraft groups linked to the CBET generate an improved annual income at [REDACTED] with a percentage contributing to core CBET operating costs.
- Populations of sarus crane remain stable at the site as a result of no substantial increase in disturbance to the wetland.

**If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:**

*No Response*

## **Section 8 - Aims, Objectives and Exit Strategy**

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### **Q16. Aims and objectives**

**Clearly outline the aim and objectives of the project and how the achievement will be measured. Use SMART objectives if possible.**

Aim: The aim of this project is to prevent the short-term unsustainable exploitation and disturbance of Anlung Pring Protected Landscape, a threat which has emerged as a result of challenges that local people are facing due to Covid-19 restrictions. The project will also build resilience into the funding model of the Community-based Ecotourism initiative, generating income through Trust Funds, Community-Based Savings Groups, attracting national tourists, and diverse handicraft schemes.

Objectives: Within this three month project:

- CBET income is starting to be generated in three new ways by the end of March 2021; \$ [REDACTED] of quarterly bank interest from the CBET Trust Fund, \$ [REDACTED] in handicraft sales commission, \$ [REDACTED] from national tourists visiting the site.
- Community-based savings groups have been established, with 15 women contracting loans by March

2021, and a further 85 women reporting that they are able to easily access funds as and when needed and are more confident in financial management.

- Local schools and community organisations are operating in line with best international Covid-19 safety guidance, and 1,000 local people are aware of the importance of maintaining a healthy wetland for current and future livelihoods and food security during crises.

## Q17. Exit strategy

**State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”.**

This project is designed to develop resilience away from international tourism and conservation philanthropy. Trust funds, community-based savings groups and new business models will be in place and operational by the end of this three month Darwin project. It is important to note that WWT and NL also have a long-term presence at the site, including a Darwin Initiative project until March 2022, so will be able to offer continued advisory support to ensure the schemes are being implemented in accordance with original plans.

Community associations have proven their ability to operate efficiently and independently in the past, giving us confidence that these investments will be managed well into the future.

Some elements of this project are by nature not long-term interventions; the rice foodbank scheme for example. These are emergency measures to help the most vulnerable local people from suffering and resorting back to unsustainable natural resource use, which would likely have negative impacts upon biodiversity including the regionally threatened Sarus crane, the flagship species for the ecotourism project. These short-term interventions therefore help to secure the long-term feasibility of the tourism project, and have an important indirect role in maintaining 'business as usual' once restrictions are eased.

## Section 9 - Budget

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### Q18. Budget

**Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus/IWT Challenge Fund in GBP.**

See Finance for Darwin/IWT for which costs sit under which budget line.

Budget Line	Cost in £ (GBP)
Staff costs	████
Consultancy costs	████
Overhead costs	████
Travel and subsistence	████

<b>Operating costs</b>	██████████
<b>Capital equipment*</b>	0
<b>Other costs</b>	██████████
<b>Total (Must be less than or equal to £60,000)</b>	38,611.00
<b>*If you are proposing to purchase any capital items over £1,000 please detail these here and provide justification below</b>	We will not purchase any capital items over £1000.

## Q19. Financial Risk Management

**This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.**

WWT has an established project approval process, through which inter-departmental committees analyse all risk factors and complete a project risk register, also ensuring compliance with Darwin T&Cs. All projects are subject to WWT's financial management policies and procedures.

Key financial risks for this project are:

Corruption. WWT takes a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and has a robust Anti-Bribery Policy. We will clearly stipulate zero tolerance in all contracts, sub-grants and agreements and continue to monitor/enforce this tightly.

Community's capacity to manage funds. WWT has a community conservation officer with significant experience of working with the local communities and helping them to generate and manage local funds. The CBET is well-established and has clear financial policies; activities under this project will be embedded into these. This is accompanied by a regular monitoring and spot-check mechanism.

Exchange rate fluctuations. We are aware that there is a lot of uncertainty in global markets, and Brexit may also affect the Sterling value over the coming months. Most expenditure is pegged to the US dollar, so exchange rates will be carefully monitored and local (US\$) budgets adjusted accordingly.

Risks are monitored quarterly by a Project Steering Committee, which will also monitor risks for this project.

## Q20. Capital items

**If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin/IWT funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.**

We are not planning to purchase any capital items through this project.

The Operating Costs budget line includes sanitation stations and items such as hand sanitiser and PPE, which will remain in situ in the local schools and CBET centre after the end of the project.

## Q21. Value for Money

**Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.**

The project budget has been developed by WWT and NL, who have worked in the project area for several years and have a good understanding of the costs involved in working there, as well as the staff time required for different activities.

Training costs (eg. travel, subsistence, consultancy costs) are based on recent actual costs, salary costs are based on current rates, and consumable costs (sanitiser, PPE, promotional materials) are derived from current market prices.

This project builds on our ongoing Darwin Initiative Main Grants project, allowing it to benefit from staffing and infrastructure already in place. WWT will provide considerable in-kind funding in the form of staff time to support this project, particularly technical support from UK-based staff, whose salaries have not been included in this budget. Monitoring visits for this project and the Main Grants project will be combined in order to maximise efficiency.

WWT has well-established financial management systems to ensure that funds are used efficiently, and will take steps to manage financial risks through the existing Project Steering Committee. When purchasing goods and services, WWT and NL will adhere to rigorous procurement procedures to ensure best price and quality.

This project has the potential to leverage significant impact beyond the project timeframe, as it centres on enhancing local knowledge, skills and structures for medium to long term community based conservation, rather than solely focusing on immediate Covid-19 related needs.

## Section 10 - Ethics and Safeguarding

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### Q22. Ethics

**Outline your approach to meeting Darwin/IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?**

Our approach centres on:

- Meeting the relevant legal obligations in Cambodia and adhering to WWT's established policies and procedures to protect the rights, privacy and safety of project staff and participants (e.g. safeguarding, data protection, health and safety).
- Building on existing relationships and trust established with local communities, promoting equitable community participation and providing ongoing opportunities for feedback.
- Adhering to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in community engagement activities.
- Ensuring all messaging (eg. training, marketing materials) is sensitive to illiteracy and gender norms.

- Monitoring all risks through the existing Project Steering Committee.

## Q23. Safeguarding

**Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative/IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. The award Terms and Conditions set out clear requirements on safeguarding. Please confirm you have read and understand these and that you comply with them all.**

Checked

## Section 11 - Key Milestones

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### Q24. Provide an overview of your proposed project, outlining key milestones.

**N.B. This should cover the period of your requested project only and the start/end dates should match with those provided in Question 7.**

Date	Key Milestone
05 January 2021	START
15 January 2021	Trust Fund Bank Account set up and starting to accrue interest.
31 January 2021	CBET Foodbank rice scheme established for highly vulnerable community members.
15 February 2021	All CBET marketing and promotional material translated into Khmer and live online.
15 February 2021	Community-based Savings Groups set up and financial management training delivered.
15 March 2021	Handicraft training completed and first new bags being made. Proposal /brochure sent to shops in Cambodia and overseas.
No Response	Phnom Penh handicraft exhibition set for March.

No  
Response

No Response

No  
Response

No Response

No  
Response

No Response

No  
Response

No Response

No  
Response

No Response

31  
March  
2021

FINISH

## Section 12 - Certification

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### Q25. FCDO notifications

**Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin/IWT competition in the host country.**

Unchecked

**Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.**

No

### Q26. Certification

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

**I apply for a grant of**

£38,611.00

**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.**

**(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)**

- I have enclosed a CV for the Project Leader/co-PL and letters or confirmation of support (uploaded at appropriate points in application)

Checked

<b>Name</b>	Tomos Avent
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Head of International Programmes
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	 <a href="#">Tomos Avent - Signature</a>  02/11/2020  14:23:40  pdf 13.86 KB
<b>Date</b>	02 November 2020

## Section 13 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance for Darwin and IWT Challenge Fund".</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for the relevant fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for my project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader (and co-Project Leader if relevant).</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a letter or electronic confirmation of support from the lead organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 11, or an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked

**I have checked the website on GOV.UK immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.** Checked

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**I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.** Checked

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## **Data protection and use of personal data**

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).