DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 9 COMPETITION

Please read the accompanying Guidance Note before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Applicants are asked not to use the form supplied to cross refer to information in separate documents except where this is invited on the form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate sheet if necessary. Copies of this form are available on disk or by e-mail on request. You are asked also to complete the summary sheet attached at the end of this form. Although you may reproduce this sheet in a reasonable font, you should not expand it beyond an A4 sheet (leaving the allocated space for DETR comments to be made) as additional information will not be taken into account.

1. Name and address of organisation

The Society For Environmental Exploration
77 Leonard Street
London
EC2A 4QS
UK

2. Principals in project

Details	Project leader	Other UK personnel (if working more than 50% on project)	Main project partner or co- ordinator in host country
Surname	Stanwell-Smith	Barnes	Le Xuan
Forename(s)	Damon	David K A	Canh (written as Dr Le Xuan Canh)
Post held	Research manager	Marine Ecologist	Deputy Director
Institution (if different to the above)	-	UCC Cork	Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources
Department	Research	Zoology	Ecology and remote sensing
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals.

3. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

BAI TU LONG BAY BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS PROJECT

4. Abstract of study (in no more than 750 characters)

TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE STAFF AND LOCAL COMMUNITY OF BAI TU LONG BAY NATIONAL PARK, QUANG NINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM TO THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES, MONITORING AND CONSERVATION.

AN INTERPRETATION CENTRE WILL BE ESTABLISHED AS A FOCUS FOR BUILDING BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS IN THE PARK. A SERIES OF 6 WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD, INVOLVING UK TAXONOMIC EXPERTS, WORKING WITH FULL-TIME PROJECT STAFF AND LOCAL PARTICIPANTS. TRAINING WILL INCLUDE BIODIVERSITY MONITORING, SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND IDENTIFICATION. FOLLOWING EACH WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WILL ASSIST IN PRODUCING 5 CONCISE TAXONOMIC PARK FIELD GUIDES.

THE CENTRE WILL HOUSE INFORMATIVE DISPLAYS AND HOST BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

OVER 3 YEARS, TRAINING OF PARK MANAGEMENT AND INCREASED AWARENESS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY WILL AID IN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF BAI TU LONG BAY'S BIODIVERSITY

5. Timing. Give the proposed starting date and duration of the project.

To start in July 2001, for three years.

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (<u>Please note that this should describe your unit, institute or department within a university.</u>)

Aims:

To undertake field research into environmental issues and implement practical projects contributing to the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources and habitats in developing countries. To promote and develop links between scientists in the host country and elsewhere, and to provide training and field research opportunities to students and technicians from developing countries and from the UK.

Activities:

Development and implementation of research programmes and conservation projects in collaboration with national research institutions, government departments and scientists in the country of operation. Scientists and students from local institutions participate in fieldwork with scientists and research assistants from the UK.

Structure:

The Society is based in London with seven full-time office staff, it has field offices in Tanzania and Vietnam and country representatives in Madagascar. 42 field staff and approximately 200 volunteer research assistants participate in overseas projects each year.

Achievements

- To date the Society has produced 154 technical reports and 107 publications (as of October 2000)
- In January 1999, The Society received the status of "sponsoring establishment" of the Open University, enabling us to confer higher degrees (Bphil/Mphil/PhD) to participants undertaking appropriate research on "Frontier" projects.
- In May 1999, The Society was admitted as a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as a National NGO.
- Over 40 Tanzanian and 16 Mozambican fisheries officers, volunteers and students have been trained in marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment techniques on various projects of the Society's Marine research programmes (1989 present).
- To date, over 80 Vietnamese students and scientists have been trained in field survey techniques on The Society's on going forest research programme (1993 to present) in Northern Vietnam; and 45 Tanzanian forestry officers have been trained in assessment and monitoring techniques.
- Over 2200 graduate and undergraduate students from the UK and elsewhere have participated in The Society's field research
 programmes. All have received training in biodiversity survey techniques, working in collaboration with host country
 scientists.
- 7. Has your organisation received funding under the Initiative before? If so, please give details.

Yes:

In 1995, for the period January 1996 to April 1998: The Society, in collaboration with the Tropical Marine Research Unit of York University, received funding for a programme of marine research and training in the Quirimba Archipelago, Northern Mozambique.

The project was completed successfully, with the production of 6 technical reports for the Ministry of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique (MICOA), nine internationally peer-reviewed scientific papers and the training of 20 Mozambican students/ministry staff in marine ecological monitoring techniques and SCUBA.

The Quirimba Archipelago is now the focus for an 8 million US\$ coastal zone management initiative, funded by the GEF/World Bank, its strategy and aims entirely facilitated by the Darwin Initiative funded reports produced by the Society.

- 8. Which overseas institutions, if any, will be involved in the project? Please explain the responsibilities of these institutions.
 - 1) Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI): The proposer of National Park, Mr Vo Tri Chung is a senior expert [sic] in Forestry and Forest Ecology within FIPI. Frontier-Vietnam has been included in the proposed initial management plan of the proposed National Park, which is being ratified by government authorities in Ha Long City on 20th-25th October 2000. FIPI will source and provide the staff for the National Park, and will identify most of the participants (96 of 120 total) for the Biodiversity Workshops. They will also be providing in-kind support, as a building for the Biodiversity Interpretation Center.
 - 2) Institute of Ecology and Biological resources (IEBR): Main collaborator of The Society for Environmental Exploration, for the past five years. IEBR will arrange staff visas and work permits, and provide in-country support in Hanoi. Some of the workshop participants (24 of 120 total) will be post-graduates from IEBR, and The Institute of Oceanography (listed below).
 - 3) National Institute of Oceanography, Hanoi/Haiphong (IoO): The institute responsible for marine and coastal research in

Vietnam. IoO will provide marine technical advice for preparing the Biodiversity Interpretation centre.

PROJECT DETAILS

9. Define the purpose (main objective) of the project in line with the logical framework.

To develop a Biodiversity Interpretation Centre for Bai Tu Long Bay National Park. This centre will focus to biodiversity awareness and biodiversity training activities in the park.

The centre will be stationed alongside National Park Management buildings on Minh Chau Island and will work in collaboration with the park management authorities. Activities will include bi-annual training workshops for national park staff, at which UK taxonomic experts will provide biodiversity training on their taxonomic specialty. **A total of six workshops will be held over the funding period**.

Following workshops SEE will continue to work with participants, encouraging them to be involved in the collection and collation of biodiversity data. These data will be compiled, by the centre-staff, into **concise taxonomic field guides** specific to Bai Tu Long Bay National Park. A series of five "Darwin field guides" will be produced each based on related taxa as guided by visiting UK specialists. Guides will be scientifically precise, reviewed by both visiting experts and national taxonomic specialists, using a simple morphotype dichotomous key. Both English and Vietnamese common names will be included.

The Centre will also be home to an ongoing **biodiversity awareness programme**. The programme will include biodiversity awareness education for the Minh Chau community and for the itinerant fishing families who live on houseboats within the National Park. Following visits by UK specialists permanent **Biodiversity Resource Information Boards** will be developed for the Biodiversity Centre. The information will relate to the taxa covered in each workshop. These displays will be in both Vietnamese and English language.

10. Is this a new project or the continuation of an existing one?

This is a **new** project.

The Frontier-Vietnam Forest Biodiversity Research project has been active in Vietnam since 1993, and our biodiversity and environmental education work has evolved over this period. The proposal is at the core of an exciting new development in Frontier-Vietnam's Biodiversity Programme.

11. What is the evidence for a demand or need for the work? How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country(ies)? How would the project assist the host country with its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

How was the work identified?

In July 2000 the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute, in conjunction with the Quang Ninh Provincial Forest Protection Department, proposed to upgrade the status of Ba Mun Island from Nature Reserve to National Park. Ba Mun Island, in Bai Tu Long Bay, Quang Ninh Province, was one of the first nature reserves declared in Vietnam in 1977. Since then a number of pilot biodiversity surveys have highlighted the biological and geological significance of Bai Tu Long Bay. Its marine environments include valuable mangrove forests and the most northerly distribution of coral reefs in the Tonkin Gulf. In recognition of this biogeographic wealth, the Vietnamese Government has accepted the proposal to protect both the marine and terrestrial environments of Bai Tu Long Bay, increasing the total protected area from 2000ha to 13000ha.

In recognition of Frontier-Vietnam's broad experience in biodiversity research, and the potential for sound technical and financial assistance, two senior staff members were invited to join the working party for development of the management plan for Bai Tu Long Bay National Park. From $28^{th} - 30^{th}$ September 2000 the working party undertook an investigative field trip to Bai Tu Long Bay. This proposal is the result of working party discussions held during, and subsequent to, this field trip.

How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country?

The Biodiversity Action Plan for Vietnam: Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Decision No. 845/TTg, 22 December 1995), Section 3. Main contents of the Action Plan, identifies the following as conservation priorities: (i) establishment and management of protected areas, in particular integrated management of marine and coastal areas; (ii) improving public awareness about biodiversity conservation; (iii) capacity building and training of management staff involved in biodiversity-related work; and (iv) International cooperation, to provide practical technical training, exchange of information and financial assistance, to work together to protect and develop Vietnam's biodiversity.

More specifically, Bai Tu Long Bay lies within the North Tonkin Gulf Archipelago, and shares its southern boundary with Ha Long Bay, Vietnam's first natural World Heritage Site. The National Environment Agency, recognising the artificial nature of a 'map boundary' within a marine environment, has identified the whole North Tonkin Archipelago as a priority for Marine and

Coastal Management in Vietnam.		

How will the project assist the host country meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

A recent report by the World Bank, Vietnam, highlighted lack of policy development and institutional capacity as two main weaknesses leading to unsustainable management of Vietnam's natural resources (World Bank Vietnam, Environment Sector Update, October 2000).

In particular, despite being identified as one of the most urgent environmental problems facing Vietnam (Report of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Brazil 1992, page 29), marine and coastal management is currently very poorly developed in Vietnam. The following is an extract from the Biodiversity Action Plan for Vietnam:

(Page 125) Section 3.4 Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme

Although the need for marine and coastal conservation has been identified repeatedly with several national documents such as the Vietnam National Conservation Strategy (1985), Report on the Review of the Nature Conservation System, National Parks and Protected Areas (1990) and the National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development 1991 – 2000 (1991), there is not yet a marine and coastal conservation programme in Vietnam.

By providing high quality training for National Park management staff, and for young ecology graduates from IEBR and the Institute of Oceanography, and a forum for long-term biodiversity awareness education for the entire community, this project directly addresses these weaknesses.

In what ways can this project be considered a Darwin project? How does the project relate to the Darwin principles? How would the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

Together, the biodiversity centre, workshops and field guides will provide a forum for increasing biodiversity awareness in an exceptionally biodiverse part of the world, but also one which is substantially financially and technically under-resourced. According to UNDP's 1999 Global Human Development Report, Vietnam ranks 110 out of 174 countries.

i) The **Darwin Biodiversity Interpretation Centre** will be a tangible and sustainable legacy of the proposed project, enhanced by expertise provided from visiting UK taxonomic experts.

Use of the Darwin name and logo will provide far-reaching advertising for the Darwin Initiative. The presence of the centre will provide a positive, progressive public profile for the National Park, and will lead to increased visitation to the area by both local and foreign tourists. Situated just north of Ha Long Bay, Vietnam's first natural World Heritage Site, the new National Park will be widely advertised on Vietnamese television and in the printed press.

- ii) The series of **five Darwin Field Guides** of Bai Tu Long Bay National Park will both increase public awareness of the Darwin Initiative and generate income for the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre (with subsequent print-runs being sold to the predicted eco-tourists visiting the Park).
- iii) The Darwin logo will be used in conjunction with all project work conducted by Frontier-Vietnam, and will be prominently located on the website of The Society for Environmental Exploration (www.frontier.ac.uk), which receives some 15,000 hits annually.
- iv) The World Bank representative office of Vietnam has offered free use of its conference centre, including worldwide live video link up facility whenever we are launching aspects of the proposed Darwin Project.

An Australian film company (Food for Thought Productions Ltd) has already successfully bid for funding from the Australian Broadcasting Commission to film the activities of Frontier-Vietnam during 2001. The Darwin Biodiversity Interpretation Centre will be a major component of the film. Distribution has been agreed to include UK television.

13. Set out the proposed timetable for the work, including the programme's measurable outputs using the attached list of output measures.

Code number	Output	Output description	Notes
4C	20	post-grad students receiving training	20% of workshop participants
4D	40	Number of post-grad training weeks	Workshops
6A	80	Other individuals receiving training	Park managemnent staff
6B	160	Number of training weeks	Workshops
7	12	Training materials	Interpretation centre boards, education notes
8	312	Weeks spent in host country by UK staff	Centre staff and specialist taxonomists
10	5	Field guides for National Park	
11A	2	Peer-reviewed papers	Anticipated at least 2 from presence of UK experts
14A	6	Workshops/seminars	
14B	2	Conference attendance	Anticipated at least 2, to present status of project
15A	30	Press releases in National papers	Each workshop announced to the 10 Vietnamese daily
papers			
15C	Unknown	Press releases in UK papers	Press releases will be sent, wide advertising aimed for.
16A	6	Newsletters	Bi-annual
16B	5000	Circulation in Vietnam	
16C	Unknown	Circulation in UK	Will be on Frontier Website (15,000+ hits/year)
18A	2	National TV programmes	News item will be invited, and Australian film (see 19B)
18B	1 (+)	UK/international TV programme	Film being made (see sect.12)
19 A,B,C,D	Unknown	Radio interviews/features	Will aim to get wide coverage
20	£15680	Physical assets for host country	
21	1	Permanent educational facilities	Biodiversity interpretation centre
23	£31744	Value of other resources	Matched funding from SEE

- 14. Do you know of any other individual/organisation carrying out similar work? Give the details of the work, explaining the similarities and differences.
 - 1) Flora and Fauna International (FFI) have developed a visitor's centre in Cuc Phuong National Park. This has provided a focus for eco-tourism in the park, and is run as an environmental education centre for the park staff and of Cuc Phuong. The success of the center has helped to improve the public profile of Cuc Phuong National Park, and conservation in general in Vietnam. However, the project focuses on general environmental education, and does not include practical biodiversity training.
 - 2) IUCN are currently developing a marine resource management training centre on Hon Mun Island (proposed Marine Protected Area), Southern Vietnam. Course content focuses on practical day to day management skills, rather than providing an understanding of marine biodiversity. These courses would be highly complimentary to the training workshops held in Bai Tu Long Bay, and it is anticipated that following participation in workshops funding would be sourced to enable study tours to Hon Mun Island.
 - 3) Frontier-Vietnam: An integrated environmental education programme is running in both Sa Pa District, Lao Cai Province and Que Phong District, Nghe An Province. Information, experience and skills will be shared between staff of the Integrated Environmental Education Project, and staff of the proposed Biodiversity Centre.

15. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate how many trainees will be involved, from which countries and what will be the criteria for selection. How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length of any training course.

Training

Each workshop will focus on a particular group of related taxa, depending on the expertise of visiting UK scientists. Activities will include

- 1) General introduction to ecological principles and habitat/wildlife conservation.
- 2) Introduction to the relevance of species monitoring.
- 3) Practical training sessions within the national park participants will have the opportunity to collect, identify and preserve specimens, learn how to establish monitoring sites, and learn the importance of accurate reporting.
- 4) Principles of ecotourism (eg. ethical guiding, sustainable tourism activities)

Following each workshop, participants will be actively encouraged to assist in the collection and collation of data for inclusion in field guides, and for development of biodiversity resource information boards in the biodiversity interpretation center.

The biodiversity centre will provide informal training whenever required, for example in the effective use of the field guides, and center staff will offer practical assistance and advice as required.

<u>Development</u>

- the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre will provide a permanent educational facility for the local community and management of Bai Tu Long Bay National Park.
- ecotourism potential to Bai Tu Long National Park will be increased, providing opportunity for income generation.

Workshop participants

- Workshop participants will be Vietnamese nationals.
- Of 120 participants, 84 places will be provided for Park management staff (it is anticipated that some staff members will participate in more than one workshop).
- The 24 remaining places will be provided for post-graduate students, identified by The Institute for Ecology and Biological Resources and the National Institute of Oceanography.
- 16. How will trainee outcomes/destinations be monitored after the end of the training?
 - Trainees will complete post-workshop evaluation form. Representatives from Frontier-Vietnam, FIPI, IEBR and the Institute of Oceanography will evaluate these forms.
 - Level of enthusiasm for participation in the development of field guides post workshops will be used as an indicator of the success of generating interest in biodiversity resource management, monitoring and conservation.
 - Towards the end of the project period park visitors will be invited to fill in feed back forms relating to the knowledge level of park staff and their ability to inform on biodiversity values of the national park.
- 17. How is the work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? A clear exit strategy must be included.

At the end of the three-year period Bai Tu Long Bay National Park Management Board will consist of well trained staff, with a thorough understanding of the biological diversity of their park. They will have acquired the practical skills necessary to ensure that future development of the park occurs in a sustainable manner. This will be particularly important as the level of visitation to Bai Tu Long Bay National Park increases. Improved community awareness of the biodiversity value of Bai Tu Long Bay, following participation in community activities at the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre, will aid implementation of sustainable management decisions by National Park by authorities.

Over the funding period National Park Management staff will have ongoing input into the activities hosted by the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre. The final six months of the project will be a 'handing over' period, during which time relevant management staff will be trained in the future management of the centre. At the end of the project, management of the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre will be handed over to the National Park. However, if requested by park authorities, Frontier-Vietnam will source further funding to enable continued biodiversity training and management assistance as required.

The Biodiversity Interpretation Centre will thus remain as an invaluable community resource. Educational standards of Quang Ninh Province are relatively low, with particularly low levels of adult literacy amongst itinerant fishing families of Bai Tu Long Bay. The presence of the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre provides a permanent facility enabling further community 'educational' activities, such as adult literacy and numeracy lessons and English language teaching.

The presence of the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre will increase the national profile of Bai Tu Long Bay National Park, and the presence of well trained staff will encourage visitation by foreign ecotourists. Increased visitation will provide a continued source of income for the National Park, and a welcome injection of funds into the local community.

Future print runs of the National Park Field Guides will be sold to park visitors and other interested parties. This will provide an

additional source of income for the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre.

All equipment purchased by Darwin funds (centre equipment, boat, motors, life jackets, chandlery) will be passed on to the management of Bai Tu Long Bay National Park. By this time, participation by staff in the practical sessions of Training Workshops will mean that they will be well practiced in its use and maintenance. This will facilitate practical day-to-day management of the National Park, and enable continued monitoring of marine resources.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

18. Describe how progress on the project would be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its aims and objectives, both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. How would you ensure that it achieves value for money? What arrangements will be made for disseminating results? If applicable, how would you seek the views of clients/customers?

- 1) Following each workshop an internal evaluation session will cover all aspects of the training. Both successes and any difficulties faced will be highlighted, and post-workshop evaluation forms, filled in by trainees, will be discussed. Representatives from all in-country collaborative institutions will be invited to participate. These internal monitoring sessions will enable continual improvement over the course of the funding.
- 2) Regular meetings will be held between full-time staff of the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre and National Park Management to ensure all cooperating parties maintain open lines of communication.
- 3) Biodiversity Interpretation Centre evaluation forms will be kept in the centre, and visitors to the park will be encouraged to fill in these forms when they visit the park. This will ensure that the Interpretation Centre continues to improve and develop.
- 3) Timely, cost effective production of field guides will ensure project is working to schedule and to budget. A widely advertised launch will be held for each field guide at the World Bank Conference Centre (use is free of charge for NGOs). These launches will receive widespread press publicity, improving capacity for sales of each guide. Field Guides will be available for purchase from the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre in Bai Tu Long Bay, the Frontier-Vietnam Office in Hanoi, and via the Frontier website (www.frontier.ac.uk). Income from sale of guides will be fed back into the Biodiversity Interpretation Centre, improving long-term cost effective running of the centre, and allowing some overflow for contingency.
- 4) Appropriate external evaluator will be identified. External evaluation will occur two years after onset of the project. The timing of this is to enable lessons learnt from the evaluation to be incorporated in the final year of the project. External evaluation will also include a thorough examination of project budgets, ensuring value for money.
- 5) All projects run by The Society are monitored routinely, with a system of comprehensive reports produced quarterly by field staff, together with a complete budget appraisal.

19. Logical framework. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex B of the Guidance Note.

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
Goal "To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention"	Within 3 years the project outputs are integral to management for the National Park	Biodiversity training incorporated into National Park Management Plan	Darwin Initiative support project National Park Management produce Management Plan
Purpose To raise biodiversity awareness and to facilitate conservation measures in Bai Tu Long Bay National Park, Vietnam	Increased awareness of biodiversity and conservation in Bai Tu Long Bay National Park. Biodiversity conservation measures are included in the Management Plan for Bai Tu Long Bay National Park, within 3 years.	Internal and external evaluation during project (after 2 years) Biodiversity training incorporated into National Park Management Plan	The local community and National Park management staff recognise the importance of biodiversity resource conservation
Outputs Training of 120 participants in biodiversity monitoring and conservation Biodiversity Interpretation Centre. Field Guides	120 participants in workshops over 3 years Biodiversity Interpretation Centre utilised by National Park Management, Park visitors and the local community. Publication of 5 National Park Field Guides	Post-workshop evaluation reports from participants. Records of visitor numbers National Park Field Guides submitted to Darwin Secretariat	Suitable workshop participants are sourced Venue for centre is suitable
Activities 6 Biodiversity awareness/ taxonomy workshops Preparation of Biodiversity Interpretation Centre Collection of information and production of illustrations for 5 Field Guides	Budget summary (£) Salaries 79 800 Subsistence 43 920 Logistics 7 690 Int. Centre 9 720 Workshops 12 400 Evaluation 2 000 Administration 17 142 Project total 188 562 SEE contribution 33 191 Request from D I 155 371 Other inputs Building from FIPI Technical assistance IEBR ,IofO	Workshop reports submitted to Darwin Secretariat Audited accounts of expenditure on project External verification of Biodiversity Interpretation centre	Indigenous intellectual property rights are not infringed by commercial exploitation; which will result in governmental embargos on biodiversity education work by non-Vietnamese organisations