DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 10 COMPETITION

DEFRA

Department for
Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

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. Although you may reproduce this sheet in a reasonable font, you should not expand it beyond an A4 sheet (leaving the allocated space for DEFRA comments to be made) as additional information will not be taken into account.

1. Name and address of organisation

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Cen	orld Conservation Monitoring Cent	NEP World Co	UNE
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2. Principals in project

Details	Project leader	Other UK personnel (if working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co- ordinator in host country
Surname	Newton		Bajracharya
Forename(s)	Adrian Christopher		Siddhartha
Post held	Programme Head		Director, ACAP Project
Institution (if different to above)			The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
Department	Forest, Dryland and Freshwater Programme		Annapurna Conservation Area Project
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

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

3. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Building capacity for biodiversity monitoring and assessment in Nepal

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

The Annapurna Conservation Area is the largest protected area in Nepal, and is of international importance for biodiversity. Annapurna is also exceptional in that the protected area is managed by an environmental NGO (KMTNC), with the direct involvement of local communities. This project aims to build capacity of the protected area managers through the provision of tools for biodiversity assessment and monitoring, supported by training both in the UK and Nepal. This will be accompanied by a programme of field research, enabling the methologies developed to be tested and adapted to local conditions. The results of the research will also enable the effectiveness of current protected area management to be assessed, regarding benefits both to the conservation of biodiversity and the livelihoods of local people.

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

1st April 2002, for three years

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

Aims

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre manages and delivers information for policy and action to conserve the living world. Now an office of the UN based in Cambridge, UK, the Centre's work is an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Centre's aim is to help decision-makers recognise the value of biodiversity and to apply this knowledge in all that they do. The Centre's challenge is to transform complex data into policy-relevant information, and to build tools and systems for assessment, analysis and harmonisation, towards meeting the needs of decision makers.

Activities

The Centre's activities address three main objectives:

to provide early warning of emerging challenges in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, the Centre collates, analyses and presents scientific data needed for assessment and monitoring of environmental change

to increase everyone's access to information on the living world, including its conservation status, value and use to humankind, the Centre cooperates with a wide range of data providers to place biodiversity information in the public domain

to enable decision-makers to make wider use of knowledge on the world's biological diversity, the Centre communicates policy relevant information to key regional and international organizations, in particular the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements

Achievements

The Centre has existed for more than 20 years and has an extensive track record. Relevant recent projects and publications include:

'Global Biodiversity' (2000): A key text providing a comprehensive overview of information about Earth's biological variety and its importance for human societies.

'Assessing Biodiversity Status and Sustainability' (1996): a guide developed for use by developing countries

'World Database of Protected Areas': developed by UNEP-WCMC in conjunction with the World Commission on Protected Areas, this database of maps and information records and characterises the world's protected areas, and constitutes the principal source of such information available worldwide.

'Commercialisation of non-timber forest products: factors influencing success': a major research programme currently underway, funded by DFID, focusing on sustainable development of forest resources by local communities in developing countries

7. Has your organisation received funding under the Initiative before? If so, please give details.

Yes. For details, please see attached sheet

8. Which overseas institutions, if any, will be involved in the project? Please explain the responsibilities of these institutions.

The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), the largest environmental NGO in Nepal, will be involved in the project. The Trust manages two major protected areas in the Himalayan region, including the Annapurna Conservation Area that will be the focus of this project.

The Trust will be the host institution for conducting this project. The Trust will provide staff for training activities, and will also be primarily responsible for undertaking the programme of field research, in collaboration with UK staff. In addition the Trust will provide logistical support for training and research activities in Nepal, and will assist in dissemination of results (eg by organization of a project workshop). The Trust will also be responsible for financial management within Nepal and reporting to UK institutions.

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PROJECT DETAILS

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

The main objective of the project is to improve the effectiveness of the management of protected areas in Nepal. This will be achieved by building the capacity of managers of protected areas, to assess status and trends in biodiversity. The project will focus on the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA), which is the largest protected area in Nepal. The KMTNC pioneered the involvement of local communities in protected area management, and the project is now one of the best-known examples of community-based conservation in the world. However, the effectiveness of the protected area in delivering conservation benefits has not been investigated in detail. This arises from a lack of capacity in the managers of the protected area to assess the status of biodiversity. The project therefore aims to build such capacity, through the development of tools appropriate for use in Nepal, and the provision of training in their use. These tools will then be field-tested through a programme of field research. The field research will focus on two aspects: (i) assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity within the Annapurna Protected Area, including methods involving the participation of local people; and (ii) assessment of the impact of protected area designation on the livelihoods of local people, involving a cost-benefit analysis using participatory research techniques. In each case, particular attention will focus on both the positive and negative impacts of tourism within the conservation area.

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

This is an entirely new project

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?

The idea for the project was conceived by staff of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) in Nepal, who contacted the proposed partner institutions in the UK, requesting assistance in the areas detailed in this proposal. Although ACAP has been extremely successful in involving local people in the management of the protected area, there has been no formal attempt to monitor its effectiveness in delivering conservation benefits. The importance of assessment and monitoring approaches for the effectiveness of protected area management, together with the need to build capacity in use of such techniques among protected area managers, was highlighted by the recent global analysis by the World Commission on Protected Areas.

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

Nepal is considered a leader among developing nations with respect to conservation legislation; it was among the first Asian nations to sign CITES, and develop a national conservation strategy with supporting legislation. The development of an effective network of protected areas is central to the conservation strategy for the country, and now includes eight national parks, four wildlife reserves and three conservation areas, totalling more than 11% of the total area of the country. Early legislation focused mainly on strict preservation of areas, culminating in the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1973. Subsequent legislation has evolved towards greater involvement of local people, amendments to the 1973 act recognising increased rights of rural villagers, and the designation of conservation areas such as Annapurna in which local communities participate directly in conservation management. Annapurna is of exceptional importance among the protected areas of Nepal; for example the avifauna is the most diverse of all Himalayan protected areas in the country. Increasing the capacity of protected area managers within Annapurna will therefore contribute directly to achievement of the principal conservation objectives of the host country.

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

Articles 8(a) and 8(b) of the CBD state that a system of protected areas forms a central element of any national strategy to conserve biological diversity; 8b also states that contracting parties should develop guidelines for the management of protected areas. At the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the decision IV/15.6, calls upon the Executive Secretary to "foster good management practices in areas such as ...approaches to deal with protected areas". It is this component of the Biodiversity Convention that this proposal has been explicitly developed to address. The project will also contribute to implementation of the CBD Programme of Work for Forest Biological Diversity; COP 4/7/5A.2 refers to the need to analyse the adequacy of protected areas for forest biodiversity. Development of methologies to assess the effectiveness of protected areas has also been identified by the IPF/IFF proposals for action, which are supported by the CBD Programme of Work. The project will also support implementation of COP decisions IV/15, which requested Parties to submit information on threats to biological diversity from tourism activities; and oV/25, which endorsed the assessment of the interlinkages between biological diversity and tourism. CBD SBSTTA and the CSD also encouraged relevant activities in support of the International Year of Ecotourism and the International Year of Mountains (both to be observed in the year 2002) to which the proposed project will be directly

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12. 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?

The project fulfils all of the Darwin objectives. Nepal is exceptionally rich in biodiversity, partly as a consequence of the high variation in elevation and topography. A total of some 7,000 species of plants, 175 species of mammals, 861 species of birds, and 143 species of reptiles and amphibians have been recorded from the country. However Nepal faces severe ecological and environmental problems. Out of the population of 18 million, 90% are subsistence farmers and 40% are living below the poverty line. These people depend on the already depleted forests for fuel, fodder, timber and medicine. This project will examine whether involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas has contributed to the alleviation of poverty, through a programme of field research. In particular around 375,000 tourists visit Nepal every year, yet the costs and benefits to local communities have not been analysed in detail. The project will draw on British expertise through the close involvement of senior scientists, including researchers of post-doctoral and professorial level, thereby ensuring scientific excellence. The project will be collaborative, involving the development of a link between two institutions based in the UK, and an environmental NGO in Nepal (KMTNC), who collaborate directly with local communities in the management of the Annapurna. The project will directly assist Nepal in achieving its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention. The project is highly novel; we are unaware of any previous initiatives to directly assist protected area managers in assessing biodiversity, either in Nepal or elsewhere in the region. The project is also innovatory in attempting to develop an integrated approach to biodiversity assessment and conservation in the area, involving sustainable development of local communities. The project will also be entirely additional to existing programmes. The project will also include the following elements: (i) capacity building, through the provision of facilities and practical tools to the host institution, (ii) provision of training to staff of the host institution both in Nepal and the UK, involving both courses and workshops, (iii) research involving the development of tools to measure biodiversity change, and the impacts of conservation initiatives on local people. The project is designed to act as a catalyst for further funding; for example by seeking support for the expansion of training activities and the wider dissemination of the outputs and findings of the project to other protected areas in the region. The senior scientists involved in the project have internationally recognized research credentials and an excellent record in attracting funding for collaborative research. The Darwin logo will be used on reports, publications and communications, and in particular on the project website which will be created to disseminate project

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

PROJECT OUT	PUTS	
Year/Month (starting April)	Output Number (see standard output measures)	Description (include numbers of people involved, numbers of publications printed or produced and days/weeks where applicable
2004	5	One Nepali staff member to undertake fieldwork and analysis in the host country with extensive training and guidance from UK partners; plus a minimum of six months spent in the UK receiving intensive training.
2002, 3, 4	6A 6B	Five Nepali staff trained in biodiversity monitoring and assessment techniques. The training will be achieved first by a 3 week training course in the UK [Year 1] followed by training workshops held in Nepal each of three weeks duration in each of [Years 2 and 3]; 45 weeks in total
2002,3, 4	8	One manual developed, tested and published by the project, providing practical tools for biodiversity assessment and monitoring. A total of three weeks each year will be spent by each of two UK staff in
2004 2004	9 11B	the host country; giving a total of 18 weeks over the whole project Report produced for ACAP giving specific recommendations for management of Annapurna Protected Area,
2004 2004	14B 20	A minimum of two manuscripts for publication in international scientific journals produced during the project One workshop to be organised for dissemination of results in Nepal £4350, computing and field equipment
2004 2004	22 23	A minimum of 15 field plots will be established £51,000 in stafftime donated by Univ. of Edinburgh & KMTNC

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Key Milestones	
Year/Month	Description
(starting April)	(include travel dates, drafts and other processes that support the delivery of outputs)
2002 July	Draft biodiversity assessment manual produced
2002 July	Two UK staff visit Nepal to initiate fieldwork and provide initial training
2002 July	Field research programme initiated in Nepal
2002 November	Five Nepali staff visit UK for attendance at training course at UNEP-WCMC
2002 November	One Nepali staff visits UK for intensive training provided by University of Edinburgh
2003 January	Field plots established
2003 March	Progress report on field research produced
2003 July	Visit by UK staff to Nepal; training workshop held in Nepal testing implementation of manual
2004 March	Progress report on field research produced
2004 November	Visit by UK staff to Nepal; training workshop held in Nepal finalising manual in light of field-testing
2004 November	Publication and dissemination of manual
2004 November	Two manuscripts of scientific papers produced in draft
2005 March	Workshop disseminating results held in Nepal
2005 March	Report produced incorporating management guidelines for ACAP
2005 March	Final report produced

14. Do you know of any other individual/organisation carrying out similar work? Give the details of the work, explaining the similarities and differences.

The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has recently published a detailed framework for assessing the management of protected areas, supported by WWF / World Bank Alliance and the IUCN/WWF Forest Innovations Project. The current project is designed to help implement this framework, which currently gives little detailed information regarding how the capacity of protected area managers to assess and monitor biodiversity might be increased. Although biodiversity assessment manuals have been developed by a number of different institutions (eg Smithsonian Institution /MAB, as well as UNEP-WCMC itself), none are available that have been designed specifically to address the needs of protected area managers in developing countries. In particular, such managers need to be able to identify and respond to threats to biodiversity occurring within protected areas, and to monitor the impact of their management interventions.

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 Activity	Dates	Who will participate, how many will participate and for how long?
Project inception workshop in Nepal	2002 July	2 UK staff; minimum of 6 Nepali staff; three weeks
Training course in UK (UNEP-WCMC)	2002 November	5 UK staff, 5 Nepali staff, three weeks
Training course in UK (Univ. of Edinburgh) Training workshop in Nepal Training workshop in Nepal	2002 November - March 2003 2003 July 2004 Nepal	1 UK staff, 1 Nepali staff, six months (training will focus on methods of participatory socio-economic research, and will continue for duration of project by supervision of field research) 2 UK staff, 6 Nepali staff, three weeks 2 UK staff, 6 Nepali staff, three weeks

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16. How will trainee outcomes/destinations be monitored after the end of the training?

The Nepali trainees are all employees of a non-governmental environmental organization (KMTNC) responsible for managing the Annapurna Conservation Area. The impacts of training on their performance and outcomes will therefore be monitored on an ongoing basis by KMTNC. In addition, we envisage that the collaborative link to be established between KMTNC and institutions in the UK as part of this project, will continue beyond completion of the project, providing opportunities for ongoing monitoring by UK staff.

17. How is the work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? A clear exit strategy must be included.

The project aims to deliver completed outputs within the three-year timespan, most importantly the manual of biodiversity assessment and monitoring techniques, developed and tested in collaboration with protected area managers in Nepal. The main objective after completion of the project will be to disseminate the manual to managers of other protected areas in Nepal, and to organise training workshops in its use, an activity for which additional funds will be sought by both UK and Nepalese partners. In future, there will also be scope for extending the use of the tools and approaches to be developed by this project in other protected areas, both in southern Asia and in other parts of the world. A second key long-term objective is to use the methodology developed during this project to assess whether the current management of the Annapurna protected area is effective in delivering positive benefits both to conservation, and to local communities living within the area. This will be addressed by the collaborative field research to be undertaken during the project. Evaluating the effectiveness of the protected area is of critical importance for determining whether this novel approach to protected area management, involving local communities and an NGO, is being successful. The results of the project will therefore provide an indication of whether current management approaches are appropriate and should therefore be replicated in other areas of Nepal, an issue of key consideration at present. Part of the exit strategy of the project will therefore be to advise on whether current management approaches in Annapurna should be promoted more widely, in Nepal and beyond.

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?

The key to successful management of this project will be the formulation of clear, mutually agreed targets with an associated schedule, and effective channels of communication. A set of objectives has been agreed between the participants. Progress towards these objectives will be monitored by the project coordinator (Newton) through regular (i.e. at least monthly) email contact with the partner institution, and through annual three-week visits to Nepal by UK staff. Within Nepal, the project will be managed by the senior scientist involved (Bajracharya), who will be actively involved in the project on a full-time basis. Expenditure will be monitored by both senior scientists, supported by the administrative sections of both UNEP-WCMC and KMTNC. The former will produce monthly outturns describing expenditure. Scientific results will be disseminated in annual reports and scientific publications, which will be peer-reviewed, and through the establishment of an internet site at UNEP-WCMC. Outputs (such as the manual) will also be disseminated through existing UNEP networks (eg UNEP.Net) and those of the host country. Value for money will be ensured by careful financial monitoring preventing overspend, and by the pledging of substantial infrastructural support (including the salaries of some scientists involved from both partner organizations). The views of clients of UNEP-WCMC's web site are routinely monitored.

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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		The effectiveness of the protected area network in Nepal improved, as indicated by the improved conservation status of threatened species and habitats	The tools that are developed by the project are effective, are adequately communicated to counterpart staff, and are then adopted widely
Purpose To improve the effectiveness of protected area management in Nepal by improving the capacity of managers of protected areas to assess status and trends in biodiversity	Tools for biodiversity assessment appropriate for use by protected area managers in Nepal developed and tested Nepali protected area managers trained effectively in the use of biodiversity assessment tools	Reports describing field testing of manual and associated biodiversity assessment tools Reports assessing the implementation of biodiversity assessment tools by protected area staff	Manual produced on schedule, describing tools appropriate for use by counterpart staff Training workshops are effective in developing, testing and disseminating methodologies for the assessment of biodiversity Field research is successfully completed
Outputs Tools for assessing biodiversity developed Capacity to undertake biodiversity assessments increased Impact of community involvement on biodiversity conservation assessed Costs and benefits of participation in protected area management on local communities analysed	Manual produced for biodiversity assessment Minimum of six Nepali staff trained in biodiversity assessment techniques Publications produced describing impacts on biodiversity Report produced describing effectiveness of protected area management	Manual published by end of project Reports of training workshops held in each year of the project Papers published in international scientific journal Report submitted to protected area administration	Manual publication occurs according to schedule Training workshops held as planned, involving Nepali participants Results of sufficient scientific standard obtained Results of sufficient scientific standard obtained
Activities Manual written describing biodiversity assessment techniques Training courses held in UK for Nepali staff Workshops held in Nepal for	Annual and quarterly progress reports Training course reports	Annual and quarterly reports produced on schedule Training course reports produced within 1 month of course completion Workshop reports produced	Staff available for writing of manual Staff available for attendance at training course Staff available for attendance at workshops
implementation of biodiversity assessment tools Field research programme undertaken in Nepal, assessing impacts of protected area designation	Workshop reports Annual and quarterly reports describing progress in field research	within one month of completion Annual and quarterly reports produced on schedule	Logistical support required for field research made available; field sites accessible and local communities willing to participate

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FINANCIAL ASPECTS

20. Please state gross expenditure on the programme of work. Please work by financial year (defined as April to March) using 2001/2002 prices throughout - do not include any allowance for assumed future inflation. Indicate salary costs on Table A and total costs on Table B. For programmes of less than 3 years' duration, enter 'nil' as appropriate for future years. It would be helpful to highlight (by bold, italics or underlining) the areas for which Darwin funding is requested. Show Darwin funded items separately; do not include with other funding

Table A Salary costs

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
	(£)	(£)	(£)
List each member of the team and their role in the project			
a) UK			
Dr Adrian Newton (UNEP-WCMC) - project coordinator			
Dr Brian Groombridge (UNEP-WCMC) - author of manual			
Dr Igor Lysenko (UNEP-WCMC) - trainer in GIS			
Philip Bubb (UNEP-WCMC) - trainer in assessment methods			
Phillip Fox (UNEP-WCMC) - information management			
Prof. P. Furley (Univ. of Edinburgh) - trainer in the field and UK			
b) collaborators			
Siddharta Bajracharya - Director and Project Manager			
Ram Chandra Nepal - Senior Conservation officer			
Bhim Poudel - Natural Resources Conservation Assistant			
Narendra Lama - Conservation officer			
Sabita Khatiwada - Natural Resources Conservation Assistant			
Navraj Chapagain - GIS Officer			
J 1 C			
* = Darwin funded items			
Show the % of time each person would spend on this work			
Dr Adrian Newton			
Brian Groombridge			
Igor Lysenko			
Philip Bubb			
Phillip Fox			
Prof. Peter Furley			
Siddharta Bajracharya			
Ram Chandra Nepal			
Bhim Poudel			
Narendra Lama			
Sabita Khatiwada			
Navraj Chapagain			
Total cost of salaries			

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Table B Other costs (Please highlight or underline the areas for which Darwin funding is requested)

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Rents, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning or overheads			
Office costs eg. postage, telephone and stationery			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars etc			
Capital items/equipment (please specify)			
Other (please specify)			
Sub-total			
Cost of salaries (from previous table)			
Total of spend*			

^{*} Grants may be limited to a percentage of the total cost of the project. The Department will look for balancing income from non-public sources (eg. private sector funding, subscriptions, donations, fees).

21. How is your organisation currently funded?

On 8 June 2000 the World Conservation Monitoring Centre transferred the management of its activities to the United Nations Environment Programme.

The financial report from 8 June 2000 to 31 December 2000 shows the following sources of income:

26% UNEP; 19% Corporate sector; 18% Intergovernmental sector (including European Commission); 12% International non governmental organisations; 9% Governmental organisations; 7% Treaties and Conventions; 9% other (NGO, charities and foundations, programme support).

22. Please give details of resources you have sought from the host country partner institution(s) for this project. Include donations in kind eg. accommodation with these costed where possible. Indicate any income or donations which are confirmed.

The host country partner institution will provide all the necessary logistic and administrative support to implement the project in the field. The partner institution will provide resources such as communication facilities (fax, telephone and e-mail/internet), transport, office space for the project team and institution's accommodation wherever it is available. The host partner institution will also cover salaries of most of the staff involved in the project. However, field expenses for those staff will be covered by the project itself.

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any income from other public bodies, private	sponsorship, trusts, fees or	trading activity).	, , ,
Contributions in-kind from UNEP-WCMC include infrastructure support eg server space, band width		and ArcGIS £25,000	plus technical
Spatial data maintained at UNEP-WCMC, will be represent hundreds of thousands of pounds.	available to the project without ch	arge. The cost of assem	bling these data
24. Please deduct any confirmed income or o	lonations from elsewhere (wh	nere these may be co	osted) and indica
in Table C the amounts of grant requested u		.o. o oo o uy .oo o	
Table C Darwin funding request			
	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Income to be deducted	17000	17000	17000
Amount of Darwin Initiative funding reques	ted 75496	35930	36785
CERTIFICATION On behalf of the trustees/company (delete as	appropriate) trustees		
I apply for a grant of	n respect of expenditure to be	e incurred in the fina	incial year
ending 31 March 2003 on the activities specification. I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and the information provided is correct. I enclose a copy of the organisation's most records.	d belief, the statements made		ation are true and
Name (block capitals)			
Position in the organisation			
Signed	Date:		

23. Please state all other sources of income and amounts to be put towards the costs of the project (including

Please return completed form to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 4/A2 Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street London SW1E 6DE.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs August 2001