



APP2 223



DARWIN INITIATIVE

APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 12 COMPETITION: STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Please do not cross-refer to information in separate documents except where invited on the form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate A4 sheet if necessary. Do not reduce the font size below 12pt or alter the paragraph spacing.

Submit by 19 January 2004

Ref (*Defra only*):

1. Name and address of organisation

Earthwatch Institute (Europe), 267 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7HT

2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Establishing biodiversity monitoring networks to inform Estonian coastal wetland management.

3. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals.

Details	Project leader	Other key UK personnel	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Mitchell	Joyce	Puurmann
Forename(s)	Roger	Chris	Elle
Post held	Chief Scientist	Senior Lecturer	Environmental Manager
Institution (if different to above)	As above	University of Brighton	NGO Läänerannik
Department	Research & Education	School of the Environment	
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

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

Aims

Earthwatch Institute (Europe) is an international NGO that engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary to deliver the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Activities

Earthwatch provides field assistants and funds for scientific research projects and delivers conservation education to individuals from all walks of life through: first-hand experience of scientific field research; hosting public lectures; and producing publications. Furthermore, Earthwatch undertakes capacity building of conservation professionals and directly supports conservation practice by providing research data and by

establishing international and local partnerships. We engage people from diverse countries, cultures and organisations, inspiring them to take responsibility for the environment; support scientific research which informs decisions on important environmental issues; educate and motivate people to change attitudes and behaviour.

Achievements

In the 2003 financial year Earthwatch Institute (Europe) placed over 1,096 volunteers and fellows on 140 projects in 50 countries, sponsored over 170 individuals to start conservation projects in their local communities in the UK. Earthwatch has also placed 700 African fellows (our first 3 Darwin grants) since 1995. Recent publications of Earthwatch Institute (Europe) include *Business and Biodiversity Site Biodiversity Action Plans* in partnership with DEFRA. Joyce and his team have published two books and over 20 papers on wetlands since their research on Baltic wetlands began in 1997.

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

Yes – five times. Biodiversity Research Training for African Park Staff (awarded 1995); Capacity Building through the Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe (162/05/187); Capacity Building Fellowships in Southern Africa (162/06/101); Conservation of the African Penguin (10/005); Flamingo Conservation and Ramsar Site Management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya (12/003).

6. Please list the overseas partners that will be involved in the project and explain their role and responsibilities in the project. The extent of their involvement at all stages in the project should be detailed, including in project development. Please provide written evidence of this partnership.

The project will establish a consortium from the key stakeholders in the West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (WEABR), and support them to jointly develop, manage and deliver the project by providing training, organising workshops, disseminating results and building capacity for wetland monitoring and management initiatives. Key partners are:

- a) NGO Läänerannik – an Estonian charity dedicated to conservation and sustainable management of the Estonian west coast and responsible for key coastal wetlands on Vormsi Island. Elle Puurmann (Environmental Manager; also Scientific Officer for Silma nature reserve) and Meelis Magi (Director) will provide project management in Estonia as well as advice on priority sites in the Vormsi island study area, logistics and stakeholder networking.
- b) Silma and Matsalu nature reserves - Collaboration at these two wetland reserves in mainland west Estonia will primarily involve Tiit Randla and Ivar Ojaste (Director and Manager respectively), Silma reserve), and Kaja Lotman (Vice-director, Matsalu reserve). Partners will provide advice on site selection, and manage facilities and logistics, at the two mainland study areas.

Each of the three study areas is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA) and registered on Estonia's Natura 2000 list; Matsalu is also a Ramsar site. Project partners at each of the sites initially identified the need for a substantial expansion of wetland monitoring, and have played a fundamental role in the development of this proposal, particularly over the last two years through their active involvement with the Earthwatch project. The consortium will manage the project in Estonia as it develops, including appointing and mentoring Estonian Darwin Fellows, nourishing the stakeholder network (including local communities), participating in workshops, conducting field work, contributing to reports and monitoring plans, co-authoring papers, maintaining the GIS, publicising the project within Estonia and internationally, and participating in project steering meetings.

7. What steps have been taken to (a) engage at all appropriate levels within the host country partner organisations to ensure full support for the project and its outcomes; and (b) ensure the benefits of the project continue despite staff changes in these organisations?

The key in-country partnerships, which are well-established, complementary and have a reputation for delivering conservation, have been working to build the foundations for this project since 1995. The support from the three Estonian partner organisations includes commitment at a senior level thus ensuring full collaboration for the duration of the Darwin supported project and beyond. This programme of research, initiated by a successful Darwin project (95-97), has previously involved workshops, partner exchange and joint publications. WEABR stakeholders have been actively engaged over the last two years through the

Earthwatch project, and include local government officers and nature reserve managers, who participate in land restitution management and planning forums, as well as local communities. Staff at Silma and Matsalu nature reserves are supported by the Estonian government and European Union. NGO Läänerannik has a developing portfolio of projects funded by such organisations as UNESCO, the GLOBE program, the European Union and Worldwide Fund for Nature.

8. What other consultation or co-operation will take place or has taken place already with other stakeholders such as local communities. Please include any contact with the government of the host country not already provided.

Development of the project in partnership with NGO Läänerannik, Silma and Matsalu Nature Reserves ensures that local land owners and managers are fully involved in the delivery of the project through their participation in workshops and the ongoing Earthwatch project. Estonian partners (e.g. Puurmann, Magi, Ojaste) are representatives on local councils and committees and thus provide a conduit for bringing together the local communities and stakeholders (e.g. amateur naturalists, land owners) to achieve the outcomes of this project. Other Estonian partners (e.g. Randla, Lotman) participate in relevant political fora (e.g. with the Estonian Ministry of the Environment), such that the stakeholder network developed during the project will also involve national and local government. The network will be sustained via email, the project website, meetings, site visits (including to the Darwin demonstration monitoring sites), report dissemination, and workshops.

PROJECT DETAILS

9. Define the purpose of the project in line with the logical framework.

Establishment of a network of stakeholders and sites for coastal wetland monitoring to inform management plans and environmental policy for sustainable use and monitoring of biodiversity in coastal wetlands in west Estonia and the Baltic states. Vitaly, the project will obtain the scientific data needed to inform management by identifying key ecosystem indicators for monitoring and comparing change in managed and neglected coastal wet grasslands, and disseminate these data through stakeholder fora, the world wide web and publications.

In addition, the project will increase the capacity for wetland monitoring in Estonian institutions; improve understanding and awareness of wetland biodiversity issues in Estonia, and other Baltic states; establish monitoring sites for long-term use by all WEABR stakeholders beyond the life of the supported Darwin project; promote wetland management and monitoring within the Estonian Ministry of the Environment's development of agri-environmental policies; enhance the network of public and private sector stakeholders and facilitate information exchange; and train Estonian scientists in wetland monitoring skills (e.g. taxonomy, data acquisition/collation, reporting).

10. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

This is a significant development **from** an existing Earthwatch-supported project that primarily collects baseline wetland biodiversity data from Vormsi Island during the summer months, **to** a co-ordinated ongoing monitoring programme of biological and abiotic conditions at three internationally important wetland sites on the coast of Estonia: Vormsi Island (IBA), Silma (IBA) and Matsalu Nature Reserves (Ramsar) to inform sustainable wetland management..

11. How will the project assist the host country in its implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity? Please make reference to the relevant article(s) of the CBD, thematic programmes and/or cross-cutting themes (see Annex C for list and worked example) and rank the relevance of the project to these by indicating percentages. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD national focal point in the host country? Further information about the CBD can be found on the Darwin website or CBD website.

This project assists in the implementation of two of the three over-arching objectives of the CBD: conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biodiversity. By training and establishing a network of stakeholders for monitoring to inform management plans and policy for sustainable use of coastal wetlands, this projects particularly supports the implementation of Article 7 & 12 (20% each) and 10, 14 & 17 (10% each) as well as 5, 6, 8j,13,18 & 22 (5% each). In addition, the project is particularly relevant to the following crosscutting themes: agricultural biodiversity, biodiversity and tourism, climate change,

ecosystems approach, indicators, coastal biodiversity, protected areas, public education and awareness, sustainable use and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

The Estonian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (EBSAP), which recognises the particular importance of the habitats targeted in this project, was prepared by key environmental organisations as a response to ratifying the CBD. The project will nourish collaboration between these organisations by encouraging them to participate in the stakeholder network, including workshops. This will include liaison with the Ministry of the Environment, who monitor the implementation of the CBD in Estonia. Furthermore, key personnel (e.g. Randla) and organisations involved in initiating and developing the EBSAP (e.g. Matsalu Nature Reserve, WEABR) are partners in this project and provide established links to encourage synergy between the EBSAP and the Darwin project.

This project will provide a strong foundation for a coordinated programme of biodiversity monitoring which is yet to be implemented in Estonia. Recommendations and findings from this Darwin project will be disseminated to the Estonian Government Ministry of the Environment officials to inform their development of policies that affect wetlands (e.g. agri-environmental schemes under EU models). Monitoring information and recommendations will feed directly into revisions of the management plan for Matsalu (a Ramsar site) and inform development of management plans for Silma (an IBA) and Hullo-Sviby Bays on Vormsi Island (an IBA).

12. How does the work meet a clearly identifiable biodiversity need or priority within the host country? Please indicate how this work will fit in with National Biodiversity Strategies or Environmental Action Plans if applicable.

A priority for Estonia is to develop a strategy for, and implement sustainable management of its biodiversity at a time of profound political, economic and social change, arising from its accession to the EU in 2004. The Estonian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (EBSAP) recognises that the need for “active land management” is an “important problem”, specifying the abandonment of grazing as a “primary threat” to coastal wet grasslands. Thus there is a particular need within the country to encourage effective management of its internationally important wet grassland resource, which has been largely neglected for up to 50 years as a result of Soviet policies. Crucially, EU accession not only brings unique opportunities to develop agri-environmental policy for biodiversity conservation, but also the threat of agricultural intensification and consequent loss of biodiversity. This project will inform Estonian policies for environmental management by establishing a network of sites and stakeholders for monitoring the effects of management and environmental change at three key Estonian wetlands. This is wholly consistent with the EBSAP that aims to promote an ecological network of protected sites and identifies the need for a coordinated programme of biodiversity monitoring to provide data on ecological change, which it notes is almost completely absent in Estonia due to lack of funds.

13. If relevant, please explain how the work will contribute to sustainable livelihoods in the host country

The coastal wetlands in Estonia (and elsewhere in the Baltic states) are being returned to ancestral owners following years of Soviet collective ownership. The project will encourage sustainable use, contributing to the livelihoods of new owners inexperienced in wetland management, by: disseminating scientific information on good harvesting and grazing practice to landowners and managers; guiding emerging eco-tourism opportunities through the provision of data, advice and creating a stakeholder network; and informing agri-environmental and other environmental policies during EU integration.

14. What will be the impact of the work, and how will this be achieved? Please include details of how the project outputs will be disseminated and put into effect to achieve this impact.

For the first time, stakeholder and site networks for monitoring biodiversity in coastal wetlands in west Estonia will be established – an initiative that will serve as an example to other Baltic states. Three internationally important wetlands will be equipped with robust instrumentation to produce long-term monitoring data to inform management decisions. Monitoring plans for the study sites will be produced and used to develop existing, or initiate new, management plans for the study areas. A manual showing good monitoring practice as part of management planning will be produced. Four Estonian scientists will be trained in planning and implementing monitoring.

Outputs (including reports, monitoring plans and management manual) will be disseminated amongst the

stakeholder network and on the project web site, the development of which are integral components of the project. Monitoring stations will serve as demonstration sites and educational resources. Further outreach will be achieved via scientific papers, publicity, and organisation of, and participation in, international workshops and conferences.

Outputs will also be used to influence agri-environmental policy for Estonia in order to achieve sustainable management of biodiversity within the coastal wetland resource. The stakeholder network will include policy makers and government officials who will be invited to participate in key aspects of the project, such as workshops, demonstrations of monitoring sites, and web-based discussions.

15. How will the work leave a lasting legacy in the host country or region?

The project will leave a lasting and enhanced capacity for Estonia to monitor the biodiversity of key wetlands by establishing a network of monitoring sites, equipment, information, and stakeholders - designed for effective and efficient maintenance and operation by the host country. Research will identify key indicators of biodiversity so that monitoring can proceed efficiently. Monitoring equipment will remain in Estonia after the Darwin project and Estonian stakeholders will have been trained in their use and maintenance. Data will be stored and disseminated in a GIS that has been co-developed and managed by the Estonian stakeholders involved in the current Earthwatch project. The Darwin field sites will serve as demonstration and training sites for educational use and the Darwin management manual for good monitoring practice will be widely disseminated throughout the Baltic states.

Future Earthwatch expeditions will also serve to enhance the Darwin project legacy. The facilities, data, and knowledge generated during the Darwin project will continue to be utilised by future Earthwatch expeditions. For example, the Darwin monitoring sites will form the basis of Earthwatch field locations and volunteers will participate in monitoring research at these sites, supported by Estonian staff trained during the Darwin programme.

Legacy will be further sustained by using information gained from the Darwin supported project to develop monitoring plans at the study sites and to direct management planning at these internationally important wetlands. The project will also influence attitude and culture in respect of ensuring a sustainable environment as well as developing environmental policies to integrate sustainable management for biodiversity and agriculture in Estonia.

16. What steps have been taken to identify and address potential problems in achieving impact or legacy?

Monitoring equipment (purchased from the Aviva grant) will be tested in a pilot field study in Estonia in summer 2004 to ensure its effectiveness. Data collation and storage has been developed in partnership with Estonian stakeholders to ensure compatibility of information systems (including software). Field sites that offer long-term opportunities for instrumentation and research have been identified. A programme of stakeholder communication and training in Estonia has been embedded in the project. The main project partners in Estonia occupy senior roles in key organisations. Furthermore, the ongoing Earthwatch volunteer programme is planned as a long-term study benefiting from, and adding to, the capacity generated by the Darwin project (e.g. stakeholder knowledge, monitoring sites, and biodiversity data).

17. How will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

The project will be promoted as a Darwin project in Earthwatch public lectures and publications, including the Earthwatch website, as well as all project specific publications (e.g. workshop material, management manual, monitoring guides) and the project's wetland biodiversity monitoring website (also with links to the Darwin Initiative web pages). Promotional and educational material will feature the Darwin logo, and the Darwin Initiative will be prominently displayed on each of the permanent monitoring stations at the three key wetland sites in Estonia (Vormsi Island, Matsalu and Silma Nature Reserves).

Furthermore, the Darwin Initiative will be promoted in all outreach to the Baltic wetlands stakeholder network, including emails, workshop displays and other fora, as well as to the wetlands and biodiversity scientific community at national and international conferences, such as the INTECOL conference in Canada in 2005. Darwin Initiative support would be acknowledged in all scientific publications arising from this project and in press releases, TV and radio interviews.

- 18. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations carrying out similar work? Are there completed or existing Darwin Initiative projects which are relevant to your work? Please give details, explaining the similarities and differences and how your work will be distinctive and innovative. Show how the outputs and outcomes of this work will be additional to any similar work, and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with such work for mutual benefits.**

At present, monitoring of Estonian wetlands is based upon uncoordinated and inconsistent site surveys carried out by a variety of individuals (e.g. ornithologists, amateur naturalists, nature reserve staff, academics) from a range of organisations such that comparative analysis is compromised. In west Estonia, such surveys are carried out by Silma and Matsalu nature reserves (key partners in this project), local bird clubs, and scientists from Tartu and Tallinn universities. All of these stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in the project through the Darwin network, including contributing and having access to data, in order to develop good monitoring practice. The data collected the ongoing Earthwatch expeditions will be shared with the Darwin project so that effective monitoring at priority locations can be developed.

A previous Darwin project (involving Joyce and Puurmann, 1995-7) conducted national surveys of the wet grassland resource in Estonia and the Czech Republic. This project was a springboard for subsequent research and the present proposal, as it indicated that west Estonian coastal wetlands are of international importance for biodiversity. The proposed project will benefit from this previous experience and contextual data, but represents a substantial new initiative towards sustainable use and management of the wet grassland resource. Baltic participants in the current Darwin project (Building capacity in wetland biodiversity conservation, ref. 162/10/008, which concludes March 04) will also be invited to be part of the stakeholder network, including participation in project workshops.

This project will complement site-based management presently implemented in Estonia (e.g. at Matsalu and Silma nature reserves) and will enhance restoration management opportunities (e.g. through EU Life funds recently awarded to Silma nature reserve).

- 19. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate who the trainees will be and criteria for selection. How many will be involved, and from which countries? How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length and dates (if known) of any training course. How will trainee outcomes be monitored after the end of the training?**

The project will involve development through mentoring and training in the host country and the UK. One full-time Estonian Darwin Fellow will be appointed at post-graduate level following an application and interview process and will be mentored during the project by the Estonian and UK project team. Three further Estonian staff will be appointed to provide part-time outreach, field, and technical support in the host country, also being mentored during their responsibility to the project. Field-based training in Estonia will take place during the summer (April-August) each year, including three annual training courses of 12 days each, supported by two Darwin workshops during the project. A 14 day training course will also take place annually in the UK at the University of Brighton and Earthwatch offices in Oxford. It is envisaged that the course will take place each winter and the content will be designed to meet the needs of the four Darwin Fellows and the project as they develop. The course content is likely to include taxonomic and research skills, Geographic Information Systems, networking, database management, communication and teaching skills, field equipment installation and maintenance, and Information Technology skills. Estonian Fellows will be able to take advantage of laboratory and teaching facilities, lecture programmes and Staff Development opportunities (e.g. in Information Technology) whilst they attend the University of Brighton.

The effectiveness of the training will be monitored through 6-monthly reports, annual oral presentations to peers, and written and oral feedback following the Earthwatch field expeditions. By the end of the project, the trainees will be able to train others in wetland monitoring, and will have the capacity to fulfil this role for the ongoing Earthwatch project. Earthwatch volunteer feedback will be used to provide additional monitoring of staff performance.

- 20. How are the benefits and/or work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? Please provide a clear exit strategy.**

The exit strategy has two mutually supportive elements, namely the enhanced capacity within Estonian partners to continue effective monitoring and Earthwatch volunteer support to provide long-term field support.

The project will deliver sufficient facilities and stakeholder network support, complemented by monitoring and management data, to the WEABR consortium so that monitoring of priority wetlands in west Estonia can be continued efficiently. Project partners will be able to develop existing (or produce new) management plans, and will be able to use information gained during the project to support educational and publicity materials (e.g. leaflets, maps, guides), raising awareness for visitors longer-term. Research on biodiversity indicators, disseminated via the project web site, reports and in scientific publications, will enable NGO's and other organisations working in wetlands to prioritise their monitoring efforts.

Earthwatch's unique model of volunteer funding has proven to be a sustainable means of supporting long-term monitoring programmes. Thus, following development and establishment of methods and practice during the Darwin project, monitoring will be sustained through the volunteer funding mechanism in partnership with Estonian stakeholders. Training of four Estonians during this project also provides a nucleus of stakeholders capable of becoming Earthwatch project leaders in future years.

21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year:	Key milestones
	Apr-Mar 2004/5 Apr-Mar 2005/6 Apr-Mar 2006/7	
Jun-Aug 04	Apr-Mar 2004/5	3 Earthwatch teams fielded and monitoring equipment tested
Sep 04		Darwin Fellow recruitment (in Estonia).
Oct-Dec 04		Collation and review of past monitoring efforts.
Oct 04-Mar 05		Development of stakeholder network via email, site visits and meetings.
Oct 04		Produce first 6-month report for Darwin.
Jan 05		Baltic wetlands biodiversity monitoring website designed and uploaded.
Apr 05		Workshop 1 organised and hosted.
Apr 05		First year annual report submitted to Darwin.
Throughout year	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Stakeholder network sustained by email, web site updates, meetings and site visits.
Jun-Aug 05; then ongoing		Monitoring stations set-up; monitoring data collected
Jun-Aug 05		3 Earthwatch teams fielded.
Oct 05		Produce second 6-month report for Darwin.
Apr 06	Apr-Mar 2006/7	Project team review meeting
Apr 06		3 draft monitoring plans produced.
Apr 06		Second year annual report submitted to Darwin.
Throughout year		Stakeholder network sustained by email, web site updates, meetings and site visits.
Throughout year		Monitoring data collected
Jun-Aug 06		3 Earthwatch teams fielded
Oct 06		Produce third 6-month report for Darwin

Jan 07	Draft management manual produced
Jan 07	Workshop 2 organised and hosted.
Feb 07	3 final monitoring plans produced
Mar 07	Final management manual produced
Apr 07	Third year annual report submitted to Darwin
July 07	Final report submitted to Darwin

22. How will the most significant outputs contribute towards achieving the purpose of the project? (This should be summarised in the Log Frame as Indicators at Purpose level)

The significant outputs which will contribute to building the capacity to enhance management, including monitoring the effects of management, at coastal wetlands within the WEABR, will be: i) the website and workshops, which facilitate the stakeholder network to encourage data sharing and knowledge exchange; ii) monitoring stations at three wetland reserves to provide information on biodiversity indicators, and monitoring practice and wetland management; iii) monitoring guidelines and the management manual to disseminate effective practices.

23. Set out the project's measurable outputs using the separate list of output measures

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month (starting April)	Standard Output Number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc)
April, and June to August each year.	4C & 4D	57 training weeks provided to 3 Estonian postgraduates
Throughout project.	5	1 Estonian trained over 32 months
April 05 and Jan 07.	6A	30+ Estonian and Baltic stakeholders attending workshops
April 05 and Jan 07.	6B	2 workshops of 3-days each
Jan 05 (website) and Mar 07 (manual).	7	2 types of training material for use in Estonia (website and manual)
Jun to Aug each year; Apr 05 and Jan 07.	8	60+ weeks spent in total by UK project staff in host country
Feb 07	9	3 practical monitoring plans for use by all WEABR stakeholders
Mar 07 (manual) Feb 07 (plans)	10	1 manual of management practice and 3 monitoring plans
Throughout project	11B	5 papers submitted to peer reviewed journals
Jan 05	12A	1 website with integrated database as focal point for wetland monitoring
Mar 07	12B	1 database of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem indicators to be enhanced
Mar 07	13B	1 species reference collection enhanced
Apr 05; Jan 07	14A	2 workshops organised
Throughout	14B	4 conferences attended
Jan 05; Apr 05; Jan 07	15A	3 local press releases (Estonia)
Jan 05; Jan 07	15B	2 national press releases (Estonia)
Apr 04; Mar 05	15C	2 national press releases (UK)

Mar 07	17A	1 dissemination network of Baltic stakeholders established
Mar 07	17B	1 dissemination network of Estonian stakeholders enhanced
Jun – Aug 06	18C	1 local TV programme
Jun – Aug 06	19A	1 national radio broadcast (Estonia)
Jun – Aug 05	19C	1 local radio broadcast (Estonia)
Mar 07	20	£35,600 in assets will be handed to Estonia (e.g. monitoring equipment, reference material)
Aug 05	22	6+ integrated permanent wetland monitoring stations (inc. 96 permanent vegetation plots, hydrological recording equipment)
Mar 07 (in total)	23	£75,058 in cash and £127,375 in kind.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

24. Describe how the progress of the project, including towards delivery of outputs, will be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please make reference to the indicators described in the Logical Framework.

The project logical framework provides the primary tool for monitoring and evaluating the project. An initial project review will take place in the field in August 2004, involving all of the project partners, to ensure an effective start and identify any unforeseen issues. Annual reviews of progress will take place each year as part of the Darwin reporting process, including at the project conclusion. Also evaluation by the Estonian partners will take place with UK partners frequently, via email, by face to face meetings between partners at least three times a year (during Earthwatch field teams and Darwin training courses), and formally by workshops (years 1 and 3), review meetings (year 2) and Darwin annual reports. The project web site will have a Discussion/Comments forum inviting feedback and use of the site will be monitored. The annual review of the Earthwatch project, and an additional three assessment visits by Earthwatch staff will be an integral part of the evaluation procedures. Key project outputs will use the scientific peer-review process, including the manual and monitoring plans at the project conclusion.

25. How will host country partners be involved in monitoring and evaluation of the project?

Host country partners are an integral part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation at all stages of the project. Estonian and UK partners will meet in Estonia to initiate the project and will then meet to discuss the project at least three times a year during Earthwatch field visits and Darwin training courses; a formal meeting to review the project will take place in spring each year in Estonia. In addition, host country partners will be included in the Earthwatch evaluation process, which includes a standard feedback form that invites comments (in confidence if preferred) on project performance and suggestions for improvements. The project web site will also encourage feedback and discussion from host country stakeholders.

26. How will you ensure that the project achieves value for money?

Earthwatch's unique model means that the support from Darwin will leverage additional funding from volunteers and corporate fellows who contribute to their participation on the existing field project on Vormsi Island. The project will achieve value for money as the £177,765 requested from the Darwin Initiative will unlock a further £202,433 in cash or kind from individuals, Earthwatch, Diageo Foundation, HSBC Holdings plc, and the University of Brighton. Furthermore, the project will make use of existing equipment and facilities generated by Earthwatch expeditions whenever practicable.

The project will be resourced wherever possible in Estonia, not only to achieve good value for money but also to benefit local communities. For example, as much field and office equipment as possible will be sourced from environmentally-responsible suppliers in west Estonia. Capital items over £1,000 will be subject to a competitive quotation process, and items over £10,000 to competitive tender, in keeping with University of Brighton guidelines. The project will also optimise resource use by utilising electronic information dissemination and communication whenever possible.

27. Reporting Requirements. All projects must submit six monthly reports (by 31 October each year) and annual reports (by

30 April each year). Please check the box for all reports that you will be submitting, dependent on the term of your project. You must ensure that you cover the full term of your project.

Report type	Period covered	Due date	REQUIRED?
Six month report	1 April 2004 – 30 September 2004	31 October 2004	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005	30 April 2005	Yes
Six month report	1 April 2005 – 30 September 2005	31 October 2005	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006	30 April 2006	Yes
Six month report	1 April 2006 – 30 September 2006	31 October 2006	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2006– 31 March 2007	30 April 2007	Yes
Six month report	1 April 2007 – 30 September 2007	31 October 2007	No
Final report	1 April 2004 – project end date	3 months after project completion	Yes

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

28. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex B of the Guidance Note. This should not have substantially changed from the Logical Framework submitted with your Stage 1 application. Please highlight any changes.

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose</p> <p>A network of people and sites for coastal wetland monitoring established to inform Estonian (and Baltic) management plans and environmental policies</p> <p>Key ecosystem indicators identified for effective monitoring and comparing change in managed and neglected coastal wetlands</p> <p>Coastal wetlands conserved through sustainable use and informed management</p>	<p>Research findings and monitoring data shared amongst Estonian (WEABR) stakeholders</p> <p>Monitoring guidelines adopted in WEABR management plans</p> <p>Wetland monitoring database and information on key indicator species from field stations incorporated into website</p> <p>Attendance of Estonian stakeholders at workshops</p> <p>Management manual disseminated to extended network (Baltic stakeholders)</p> <p>Enhanced management on WEABR coastal wetlands</p>	<p>Wetland management plans in use by WEABR & Estonian Ministry of the Environment</p> <p>Final project report and evaluation</p> <p>Wetland monitoring website regularly accessed by users (access statistics)</p> <p>Workshop reports used by stakeholders</p> <p>Manual used by stakeholders</p> <p>Landowners practising/re-instating sustainable management (e.g. cattle grazing) on coastal wetlands</p>	<p>Stakeholders at WEABR remain committed to project in face of changing political and economic pressures in Estonia</p> <p>Landowners being willing to adopt informed management on wetlands</p>
Outputs			

<p>People network and monitoring sites established and integrated for sustained monitoring programme</p> <p>Effective practice for coastal wetland monitoring (including key biodiversity indicators) disseminated</p> <p>Biodiversity indicators for coastal wetland ecosystems identified</p>	<p>Monitoring equipment in place at three reserves; 3 monitoring plans produced</p> <p>Stakeholders contacted by email</p> <p>Vegetation data collated from 96+ quadrats annually</p> <p>Bird and small mammal species and activity recorded annually</p> <p>Management manual produced</p> <p>2 annual and 1 final report</p> <p>Website launched in year 1</p> <p>2 workshops held</p> <p>Scientific quality of output evaluated by peer-review of submitted papers</p>	<p>Monitoring database up and running with hydrological, habitat, bird, plant and mammal data</p> <p>Manual disseminated to Estonian stakeholders</p> <p>3 annual Darwin reports</p> <p>Wetland monitoring website uploaded and functional online (including images and project news) – available to general public worldwide</p> <p>2 workshop reports</p> <p>5 scientific publications by Darwin project partners</p>	<p>Extreme flooding does not constrain field data collection and impact on recommendations for effective monitoring</p> <p>Monitoring equipment functions reliably</p> <p>Earthwatch can sustain funding and volunteers for long-term monitoring beyond three year grant</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Establish monitoring stations</p> <p>Field research</p> <p>Produce monitoring plans</p> <p>Educate and publicise (building stakeholder network, informing wetland management)</p>	<p>Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)</p> <p>Install monitoring stations at three sites (Matsalu, Silma and Vormsi Island reserves) by the end of year 1.</p> <p>3 Earthwatch teams each year of the project – 12 days each of 10 volunteers and 2 staff. At least 96 4m² plant quadrats set up by the end of year 1 and monitored each year. 50+ bird transects conducted and 1,800+ small mammal traps checked (90 over 20 nights) each year. Continuous monitoring (climate permitting) of hydrology throughout the project. Detailed habitat maps created for each of the monitoring stations by end year 2.</p> <p>Integrate all field data into a GIS each year. Submit three initial monitoring plans by end of year 2 and updated plans by end of year 3 to WEABR stakeholders.</p> <p>Run workshop 1 (introduction) by end of year 1 and workshop 2 (dissemination/review) in year 3. Upload website online in year 1, add data and review in years 2 and 3. Produce draft coastal wetland monitoring manual in year 3 for review at workshop 2 and disseminate final version at end of year 3.</p>		