



APP2 235

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.

Submitted on 19 January 2004

Ref (Defra only):

1. Name and address of organisation

BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom

2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Strengthening Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa

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

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	Fishpool		Ngeh
Forename(s)	Lincoln		Paulinus
Post held	Global IBA Co-ordinator		Coordinator
Institution (if different to above)			
Department	Science & Policy		Africa Partnership Secretariat
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

BirdLife strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards the sustainability in the use of natural resources. The Science & Policy Department uses the best of British and international science to lead, co-ordinate and support research, to maintain data management, and to develop policy and advocacy for global biodiversity conservation.

The Africa Programme aims to build the capacity of national NGOs to achieve sustainable biodiversity conservation, through networking, awareness-raising initiatives, using UK expertise to build capacity through training, guidance, site visits and project development.

Activities

(1) Science & Policy: BirdLife's scientific research includes; reviewing threat status of bird species; identifying conservation sites and actions; synthesising and analysing global priority-setting data; refining the use of birds as indicators; links with other biodiversity and socio-economic databases; co-ordinating scientific standards and criteria; providing training and disseminating information. Data management includes; the creation of systems and tools; creation and management of databases; collaboration; provision of tools and training. BirdLife's policy & advocacy work includes: facilitating global and regional policies through participative consensus; networking across and outside the partnership (for example with CBD); promotion of data and solutions; collaboration and training.

(2). Africa Programme activities include working with people and governments to protect, species, sites and habitats through

- the identification and conservation of threatened bird species in Africa. This is largely taking place through the implementation of Species Action Plans. Currently a network of 17 national 'Species Coordinators' are working together to design and implement 15 national and seven international Species Action Plans throughout the continent (funded by the Darwin Initiative through the RSPB);
- the identification and conservation of sites of global importance for birds and biodiversity (Important Bird Areas - IBAs) through a cycle of site identification, prioritization, monitoring and conservation action;
- the identification of significant bird habitats in the Africa region; taking action to agree common policies and plans for these key habitats; and advocating the ratification and implementation of conventions/agreements for key habitats (including the CBD and UNCCD);
- strengthening and growing a network of people who value wild birds, other biodiversity and the wider environment (mainly through capacity development at all levels), working with people to maintain and improve livelihoods while preserving the environment.

Achievements

In Africa, the following achievements have been made;

- ⇒ Development of six International and seven National Species Action plans for threatened species in Africa; development of a standardised action planning process and format for Africa; training of more than 150 Government and NGO personnel in species action planning.
- ⇒ Development of environmental resource books and guides for schools and their integration into the formal education curriculum in selected African countries (South Africa, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe); collaboration and support to over 500 wildlife clubs involving more than 20,000 schoolchildren across Africa.
- ⇒ Identification and documentation of IBAs in the 58 African countries and associated islands with publication of a directory entitled "Important Bird Areas in Africa and Associated Islands: Priority Sites for Conservation" in 2001. This book, which lists 1,230 sites of global conservation importance, has had a profound impact on the biodiversity conservation programme in Africa.
- ⇒ Attainment of, or improved legal Protected Area status for 50 IBAs through action by BirdLife Partner NGOs during the last five years. In addition, several African governments now recognize IBAs nationally as areas of special conservation significance and some have been included in national conservation plans. For example, in Tunisia, hunting was prohibited in all IBAs in the Annual Hunting Decree of 2002.
- ⇒ Development of a standardized regional IBA monitoring framework; continuous IBA monitoring by ten BirdLife NGOs and development of national IBA monitoring frameworks by six countries. Monitoring involves local communities (often by Site Support Groups, ie site-based community groups taking action for 'their' IBAs). Preliminary analyses already show improvements in site condition (e.g. regeneration of forest at Afadjato in Ghana, increasing numbers of breeding Sharpe's Longclaw at Kinangop in Kenya).
- ⇒ A total of 60 site-based conservation projects are underway across Africa, run by Site Support Groups and by Partner NGOs themselves. Over 70 Site Support Groups are actively involved in the conservation and monitoring of IBAs across fifteen countries.
- ⇒ Identification and documentation of candidate Ramsar sites throughout Africa, leading to a publication in 2002 entitled "Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar Sites in Africa".

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

BirdLife was awarded Darwin funding for the "Directory of key sites for the conservation of Philippine birds" (April 1996 to March 1998 - £75,100).

BirdLife was awarded Darwin funding for the project "Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP" (July 02 to March 05 - £131,000).

BirdLife was awarded Darwin funding for the project "Building constituencies for site based conservation in Myanmar (Burma)" (April 03 to April 06 - £158,000).

- 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.**

Ghana Wildlife Society - Ghana, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone - Sierra Leone, SOS-FORETS - Cote D'Ivoire, Guinée Ecologie - Guinea, Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia - Liberia. The first two NGOs are BirdLife Partner NGOs and the other three are BirdLife contact NGOs. These NGOs worked with BirdLife in the project development and will lead in its implementation. The organisations were consulted and provided information during all stages of project development and they have reviewed and commented on previous drafts. They will be responsible for the designation of national coordinators within their organisations, identification of relevant stakeholders to collaborate in the project, trainers and trainees, establishment and/or strengthening of relationships with government, organisation of national training, in country travel and logistical support for UK professionals. Working with the support of BirdLife's technical UK staff they will also co-ordinate the field data collection and analysis and be responsible for the communication and dissemination of the project information. The overseas partners will also collaborate in the leveraging of action and funds to sustain the project's achievements, and will take an active role in the monitoring and evaluation of the project. Letters of support from these NGOs have already been sent separately to Darwin.

The project will be co-ordinated by the Project Leader and Global Important Bird Areas (IBA) Co-ordinator, Dr Lincoln Fishpool, who has extensive experience in West Africa (see cv attached) and who is the main editor of the African IBA directory. Conceptualisation of the project implementation will be undertaken by Dr Fishpool in collaboration with the other UK experts, supported by the technical staff at the BirdLife office in Cambridge and the BirdLife sub-regional co-ordinator in Accra, Ghana. The sub-regional office in Ghana will also deal with most of the logistics of the project in the sub-region, especially with relation to all sub-regional activities such as the sub-regional training workshop for trainers, including the required travel, accommodation and logistics for the UK professionals when they travel to the sub-region during the three years of the programme.

- 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?**

(a) The national NGOs listed in Section 6 have been working with BirdLife for a number of years, hence excellent relationships exist with staff at all levels. During 2003 country programme officers of BirdLife and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) discussed this project with the senior staff of the host country partners and obtained input from competent technical staff during periodic country visits. The letters of support express the overseas partner NGOs' commitment to the project.

(b) The NGOs are already monitoring some IBAs and have IBA monitoring teams of at least 4 people which will benefit from the project, thus the knowledge will not be restricted to single individuals. Tangible outcomes of this project such as National Liaison Committees, national IBA inventories, updated databases, etc., are not dependent on individuals but will be institutionalised within organisations.

Relations between the African partner NGOs and British experts that are initiated or strengthened through this project will be ongoing independent of staff turn-over.

- 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.

At IBAs where action is ongoing or planned, the national BirdLife Partner NGOs have organised local community members with interest in natural resource conservation into groups called 'Site Support Groups (SSGs)'. These groups assist in site activities and are a mechanism to ensure the ownership and the sustainability of the biodiversity conservation process. This approach will be strengthened and promoted by including members of these groups in the project's training programmes as and when appropriate.

During the implementation of earlier BirdLife projects in the sub-region, these NGOs, with the support of BirdLife, established National Liaison Committees (NLC) with representatives from key stakeholder groups including government agencies. These NLCs oversee the implementation of national IBA programmes and provide a forum where issues related to the programme are discussed and information is made available to the key stakeholders for broader dissemination within their organisations. These NLCs will help oversee the implementation of this project and will constitute BirdLife's main contact with the governments of the five West African countries included in this project.

The BirdLife Partner NGO in Ghana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ghana government for collaborative conservation of biodiversity in IBAs in the country. In Sierra Leone, the BirdLife Partner NGO has an agreement with the government for conservation of the largest remaining tract of rainforest in the country (Gola forest) and discussions are underway to broaden this agreement to a national scale.

PROJECT DETAILS

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

The purpose of the project is to improve the capacity for biodiversity surveys and monitoring of BirdLife Partner and contact NGOs, other organisations, research and academic institutions and nationals in five countries (Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cote D'Ivoire) in the Upper Guinea Forest zone of West Africa. To achieve this objective, the project will train a total of 150 nationals, from the five countries, in techniques of tropical biodiversity (birds, plants and mammals) identification, surveys and monitoring. Fifteen nationals, three from each of the five countries, will be trained as trainers by a team of UK experts (see paragraph 29). These trainers will then train 135 other nationals in the sub-region (27 in their respective countries). The project will train nationals and technical staff at as many different IBAs as possible starting with the most threatened ones (35 IBAs will be surveyed/monitored; for 25 of these, recommendations for conservation action will be produced).

The project will start with an in-depth training needs assessment of the 15 nationals who will be trained as trainers. These nationals already have a basic knowledge of biodiversity survey and monitoring techniques on which this project will build. The training will consist of an initial training course of about 5 weeks, followed by additional training and mentoring throughout the 3-year period of the project. The UK experts will develop the training course based on the needs assessment but it is foreseen that it will include:

- the identification of key endangered species at IBAs (plants, mammals, birds);
- appropriate counting and censusing techniques, encompassing sampling methods and detection techniques for various taxa;
- data handling and the refinement of existing IBA monitoring frameworks and recording techniques (also building on the experiences from the Darwin-funded RSPB project on community-based IBA monitoring in Kenya).

Priority during training will be given to ground truthing techniques that can be applied at low cost as opposed to expensive satellite and aerial imagery techniques. During the later stages of the project (years 2 and 3), UK experts will continue to provide on-the-job support, supervision and additional transfer of knowledge, which will make the training programme most flexible in how it deals with gaps in knowledge and experience of the recipients in the Upper Guinea Forest. This approach is considered both most effective and most cost-efficient.

Through the training, UK experts in ornithology, primatology, botany etc. will be able to transfer the most up-to-date knowledge and skills for biodiversity conservation to technical staff in the relevant institutions in

the Upper Guinea Forest. Training manuals will be produced for future use by national institutions, including partner NGOs, local site support groups and universities. This project will build on the commitment and long-term intervention of UK experts and organisations in biodiversity conservation in collaboration with governments and NGOs in Ghana and Sierra Leone. Through this project the accumulation of experience and information will be shared across a much larger network of people through the five West African countries involved hence contributing to the present and future conservation initiatives in the region.

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

This project builds on and complements the existing work funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The CEPF project, which started in January 2002 and will end in December 2004, focuses on institutional capacity building, with limited site action activities, of the same NGOs to be involved in this project. The field training to be undertaken by UK experts in this project will complement the institutional capacity being developed by the CEPF project and render these NGOs more capable of undertaking the site based biodiversity conservation which is so critical to the conservation of the threatened biodiversity of the Upper Guinea Forest.

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.

The project will develop technical capacity of 30 persons in each of the implementing countries to collect and provide high-quality biodiversity data and information that will lead to the production of quality reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Contribution of project to the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity will differ from one country to another rendering ranking difficult. However, we expect overall that the project will contribute to the articles on: *7 Identification and monitoring (100%), 8 In-situ conservation (75%), 17 Exchange of information (75%), 12 Research and training (50%), 18 Technical and scientific cooperation (50%), 13 Public education and awareness (50%), 5 Cooperation (40%), 10 Sustainable use of components of biodiversity (25%), 22 Relation with other international conventions (25%), Reports (25%), 20 Financial resources (10%).*

The project will also contribute to the following CBD themes: *Biodiversity and tourism, Forest biodiversity, Indicators, Inland waters biodiversity, Marine and coastal biodiversity, Mountain biodiversity, Protected Areas, Public education and awareness.*

The CBD focal points are members of the National Liaison Committees that will help oversee the project implementation in all of the participating countries, hence they will be informed of the project and contribute to the project results.

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.

The Upper Guinea Forest (UGF) which extends from Guinea to Togo in West Africa has the world's highest diversity of mammals, is one of the 25 global hotspots for biodiversity and coincides with a BirdLife International Endemic Bird Area (see also Annex 1). Among the 240-250 forest-dependent species in the region, over 25 are threatened, of restricted range or rare. The remaining forest is highly fragmented and spread across national borders. Only 3% of forest in the high-biodiversity areas is protected. The need to reduce the current high rate of forest biodiversity loss in the sub-region is clearly recognised in the National Environment Action Plans and NBSAPS of the project countries and by recent actions of the Governments. For example, the Government of Liberia last year pledged to increase the Protected Area network in the country by 10% and in Sierra Leone, the government has declared a moratorium on logging in the largest tract of forest in the country.

The availability of reliable information generated by skilled people and the initiation of sub-regional action (both of which will be addressed by this project) are some of the means by which the current trend of high biodiversity loss can be stopped and/or reversed. Training in biodiversity conservation also figures

prominently in all the NBSAPs (either completed or under preparation) of all the countries. This project therefore falls well within the aspirations of these documents which are yet to be implemented in any of the countries. All the implementing NGOs were involved and/or are still involved in the NBSAP process in their countries.

In 2001, BirdLife International published a regional directory of Important Bird Areas of Africa and Associated Islands (see annexes 2-6 for the relevant chapters of the IBA book for Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). It was observed that data and information used during the preparation of the book, especially in countries where no BirdLife Partner existed, was generally scanty, lacking or old. This was partly due to the lack of capacity in the region to survey and monitor these sites. Three of the countries involved in this project had no BirdLife Partner or contact organisation when the book was published. In the other two countries, expertise was merely available within BirdLife NGOs but not beyond.

The identification of sites is the first step in the IBA process which is, *'the application of internationally agreed criteria to define the global importance of sites for biodiversity conservation at national level, followed by a cycle of monitoring, action and advocacy to ensure conservation of the sites in perpetuity'*. The need to monitor these sites in all these countries cannot be overemphasized. The training to be provided by this project will go a long way to meet this need.

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

Many people in the rural communities in the Upper Guinea Forest depend upon natural ecosystems and on the goods and services these ecosystems provide. The people who use and rely on these natural resources are amongst the poorest in the sub-region. The direct and very high dependence of these local communities on natural resources, especially biodiversity, for their livelihoods means that depletion of these resources directly affects their livelihoods. This project will generate information on the status and trends of biodiversity which is required for the better management and rational use of biological resources of the sites, both by government and local communities. The availability of accurate information will enable government and the local communities, organised in Site Support Groups, to put in place policies, laws and regulations to sustain biodiversity production and consequently guarantee the long-term availability of these resources for the livelihoods of the people (please see Annex 1 to this application).

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.

The project will result in:

- (1) 150 nationals in five countries who will be trained by UK experts, during three years, in biodiversity surveys and monitoring; training manuals, materials and tools for tropical biodiversity survey and monitoring will be produced. This will lead to an increased pool of skilled personnel in these five countries to survey and monitor sites of globally important biodiversity. A body of knowledge will have been generated which will be used to underpin further conservation action in the region.
- (2) Five National IBA inventories will be produced, the World Bird DataBase will be populated and regularly updated, and at least 35 of the most critical IBAs will be surveyed/monitored. This will lead to improved quality of biodiversity data and information, and should result in better decisions being made for biodiversity conservation by the competent authorities (both nationally, regionally and internationally) based on reliable data and information from the surveys.
- (3) Communication and advocacy plans will be developed, publicity materials produced and disseminated, and high-quality reports to the Convention of Biological Diversity delivered. This will lead to the widespread availability of information throughout the Upper Guinea Forest area, and to an increased public awareness on the status and trends of biological resources in this region (using press releases, radio and other media).
- (4) Recommendations will be made for site conservation projects at 25 IBAs, appropriate conservation projects will be designed, proposals developed and funds raised to implement these projects, and NLCs and SSGs will be functioning more effectively in each country; leading to improved sustainability for biodiversity conservation.

Project outputs will be disseminated and put into effect to achieve impact as follows:

- Trainees will be used to collect and analyse data to obtain information that will be disseminated to the appropriate target groups.
- The updated World Bird Database will be available to users worldwide via the BirdLife website
- Recommendations for conservation action at specific sites will be produced in site specific reports and disseminated to the relevant authorities.
- Training materials produced and distributed to relevant research and academic institutions to contribute in the improvement of their capacity and to harmonise data collection process for example,.. training methods will be documented into training manuals and distributed to appropriate institutions such as universities.
- Species inventory information will be distributed to relevant research and academic institutions for use by governments, for inclusion into reports to the CBD and to be included as contributions to the NBSAP process.
- Publicity and advocacy materials will be widely distributed using various means (radio, TV, internet both within the Upper Guinea Region and internationally) to raise awareness on the status and trends of biodiversity throughout the Upper Guinea Forest Region.

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

The project will create a network of skilled individuals within implementing NGOs and other participating national organisations that will benefit biodiversity conservation in these countries far beyond the project period. Additionally, it will provide a basis for enhanced collaboration in the sub-region for the long-term conservation of biodiversity in the Upper Guinea Forest.

The project will produce national IBA inventories, updated biodiversity databases and sustainable structures (such as NLCs) and it will lead to ongoing periodic monitoring and documentation of critical IBAs and Protected Areas. BirdLife is supporting the implementing NGOs to institutionalise IBA monitoring so that it becomes a permanent activity of their organisations and not a project activity with a beginning and an end (for example, by means of the World Bird DataBase (WBDB) and the regional IBA directory for Africa that was produced in 2001, which is expected to be updated every 4 years with contribution from the different countries). These mechanisms will help make IBA monitoring a permanent activity in all the participating NGOs. This means that the work will leave a lasting legacy in the implementing countries and the subregion in that biodiversity information from the Important Bird Areas and Protected Areas will be readily available and more reliable. The availability of reliable information will permit national, regional and international decision-makers to take appropriate measures and will allow conservationists to design realistic site action projects that will help conserve biodiversity at critically threatened sites.

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

The outputs of the project are all aimed at achieving long-term impact and leaving a sustainable legacy. Monitoring of the project will focus on potential stumbling blocks in achieving those goals and in ways and means of dealing with them. The Project Steering Committee and the NLCs will serve as fora for identifying and addressing any unforeseen problems. The Country Programme Officers (within BirdLife and the RSPB) will actively support these processes.

Sustainability of the project results are a critical element for the success of the project and are therefore built-in into all project activities. This includes institutional sustainability (within NGOs, in national partnerships, and at the sub-regional level - for example, by integrating the project into the wider BirdLife African Partnership) and financial sustainability (through leveraging additional funds via the wider BirdLife International network of Partners).

The risk of training programmes being affected by political instability is very low as the periods in which UK experts visit the sub-region during the 3-year programme are concentrated to discrete, limited time spans (which, to a certain extent, can be moved in time). Strategies are in place to help nationals dealing with such problems, may they occur, based on previous experiences with political unrest in the sub-region (e.g. activities will be restricted to the safe parts of the country, suspended if the whole country is unsafe or project staff will be moved to other countries if feasible.)

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 officially launched with members of Government, British/FCO staff, collaborating partners and other relevant institutions in each of the host countries. This will offer an opportunity to advertise Darwin as the main sponsor. A bilingual (French and English) brochure summarising the project will be produced carrying the Darwin logo and in which Darwin will be acknowledged as the main sponsor. The brochure will be given to the implementing NGOs for distribution to relevant people and institutions and for display in their offices and during relevant events. There will also be presentations at all the training workshops about the Darwin Initiative and its objectives. All project documents and information sheets, like press releases, will acknowledge Darwin as the main sponsor and will also carry the Darwin logo. Darwin's support for the project will also be acknowledged on BirdLife International's international website, annual reports and membership magazine. Extraordinary events resulting from the project (for example the discovery of new species or increased protection for an area of a species) will be broadcast to the UK press via BirdLife International's Communications Department based in Cambridge, UK.

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.

BirdLife International, in collaboration with the RSBP and with financial support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), is implementing a project aimed at building the institutional capacity of the same NGOs who will be involved in this project. This project mainly deals with capacity development in the areas of strategic/business planning, communications, project development, fundraising, report writing, PRA, etc. This project is limited to 1 or 2 individuals per participating BirdLife Partner or contact NGO.

Conservation International (CI) has conducted a series of rapid biodiversity surveys at 10 sites in Ghana (3), Guinea (4) and Liberia (3). These studies were done mainly by expatriate professionals in association with local counterparts. CI has representatives in Ghana, Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire who are already collaborating with BirdLife in the implementation of the CEPF project. CI will also participate in this project.

Fauna and Flora International (FFI) has undertaken biodiversity studies in some of Liberia's IBAs, however although this involved national staff it included very little training. FFI is one of the UK organisations who will be helping BirdLife to facilitate this project.

The proposed project will build on the above previous projects by increasing the pool of skilled people in each country (training in the previous projects was limited to very few individuals); identifying and mentoring key individuals as trainers themselves; documenting the training methods used so as to remove the need for external help in designing such training in the future and by augmenting information already collected during previous projects. An emphasis will be on data collection and at sites not covered by previous projects.

This project is innovative in that it seeks to empower the countries involved to be fully responsible for the identification, survey and monitoring of their own biodiversity. This will be achieved through the transfer of skills and knowledge from UK professionals to 15 selected nationals who will then be responsible for future training within their countries. This will broaden the beneficiaries of the results of the project and guarantee the continuation of project results after the grant period.

All collaborating organisations (UK, other international and in-country) will benefit through; the training of their staff, access to information from a wider range of sites within the involved countries and the sub-region, and the increase in their network of conservation partners.

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?

This project focuses on the training of nationals in five countries to undertake biodiversity identification, surveys and monitoring in IBAs. A total of 150 people will be trained, 30 from each of the five countries, namely Ghana, Sierra Leone, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea. Trainees will mainly be staff of implementing NGOs, government technicians at Important Bird Areas, staff of other relevant NGOs already involved in IBA work, academic and research institutions (e.g. universities) and Site Support Group members.

The training will be conducted in three stages

There will be a total of 16 training sessions during the project, one subregional and 15 national (three per country).

Stage one

UK experts led by the project leader will conceptualise, develop and deliver a sub-regional course designed to meet the needs of individuals already practicing conservation in the field that address gaps in their knowledge and techniques for identifying endangered plants, mammals and birds, censusing and population estimation and bio-monitoring methods. The course will be designed after careful consultation with identified trainees to be trained as trainers. It is expected that the course will build on the knowledge these individuals already possess, hone their field skills and thereby put them in a position to act as trainers at a national level. The subregional training will be undertaken by five UK professionals and will involve 15 trainees who will be trained as trainers, three from each of the five countries. The sub-regional training is estimated to last approximately 5 weeks, followed by a database/management training of approximately one week.

Stage two

The 15 (three from each of the five countries) trained as trainers by the UK professionals will then train 135 other nationals in their respective countries (27 per country). Three national training sessions will be organised per country (one in the first year and two in the second year) under general supervision of the UK experts. Forty five people will be trained during each of the national training sessions (nine per country). National training sessions will be organised and coordinated by the national implementing NGOs. Each national training session will last four weeks.

Stage three

In the third year trainees will undertake surveys and annual monitoring of biodiversity at critical IBAs under the supervision of the national trainers, who again will be under supervision and continuing mentoring of the relevant UK experts. They will also carry out periodic data input and processing involving the WBDB. This will be hands-on training and the final phase of the capacity development process.

Selection criteria: individuals selected for training will already have some field experience in biodiversity conservation (working either for a conservation NGO, a relevant Government agency, being a field officer, etc.), will be less than 40 years old, enthusiastic, hardworking and committed to biodiversity conservation. The 15 trainers for stage one, who will be learning to train the other trainees should hold at least a first degree in science or its equivalent.

Trainees will be selected for the different training sessions mainly from personnel involved in conservation work in and around IBAs. IBAs from which technicians will be selected will be identified using the list of IBAs prioritised for action by BirdLife contact NGOs in Ghana and Sierra Leone and through discussions with contact NGOs and other collaborating partners in Guinea, Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire.

It is expected that technicians and field staff from at least 35 IBAs (7 per country) will be involved in the training during the project.

In addition to planning and delivering the sub-regional training of trainers (stage one of the training plan), the UK professionals will supervise national level training delivered by the trainers (during stage two of the plan), whilst the trainers will supervise the trainees in the field as they apply the techniques to collect biodiversity data. The length of supervision of the trainers by the UK professionals will vary but it is estimated they will each spend an additional 20-25 days over the duration of the project for supervision of the trainers. A plan for the supervision and mentoring of the trainers will be developed at the start of the

project. Additionally, UK experts will provide support in the dissemination of project results, development of training manuals and the organisation of some of the field work. Support will also be delivered towards the identification and formulation of recommendations for site-based conservation action at the selected 25 IBAs, followed by project development and fundraising. This will be through the Science and Policy Department as well as the Communications Department (development of communication and advocacy plans) at the BirdLife Global Secretariat and the BirdLife sub-regional office in Ghana.

The effectiveness of the training will be measured by the quality of data and information and the reports produced by the trainees.

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 national candidates who will be trained as national trainers by the UK professionals will be selected from staff of the BirdLife implementing NGOs, other reliable NGOs, universities and research institutions. This will broaden the outreach of the project and ensure that the benefits of the project continue well beyond the period of the grant as the project is not relying on one organisation nor one individual.

The field technicians who will be trained as trainees by the national trainers will be selected from government and NGO staff who are already working at IBAs. In the main these people, although responsible for the survey and monitoring of IBA's, lack the full technical knowledge that they require to monitor and survey the IBA's effectively. Trainees will also be selected from SSG members who are assisting either the government or the BirdLife Partner/contact NGO to conserve the IBA sites. Strengthening the skills of these crucial groups of people will also ensure that that the project benefits continue after the grant period.

The institutionalisation of the IBA monitoring process both at the regional level by BirdLife International and at the national level by its contact Partners and other organisations will facilitate the continuation of project benefits. As described before, the need for countries to produce and update their national IBA inventories and for BirdLife to update the regional directory after every four years will ensure the continuation of the project activities at the end of the grant period. The project will be fully integrated within the programme of the BirdLife Africa Partnership and these are key activities in the BirdLife Africa Programme Strategy for 2005 - 2008.

With regards to the exit strategy the project management team will ensure that the data and information collected from the IBAs will be used by the BirdLife Partners and contact NGOs to leverage actions and funds for the conservation of at least five IBAs (one per country) before the end of the project and further IBA's once the project has been completed. Firstly rather than the use of expensive inappropriate technology this project's success focuses on building the technical and institutional capacity of the people and organisations involved to allow them to better survey, monitor and protect their rich biological resources without huge expense.

Secondly as this work forms one of the key components to BirdLife's Programme Strategy for Africa, the BirdLife International network will endeavour to provide any further technical support required to ensure the protection of IBAs in the Upper Guinea Forest region. It is expected that after this project the national NGOs will need much less support than at the present time thanks to their increased capacity in the relevant fields.

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	
May	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Project procedures established and agreed by various UK experts and other team members. Contracts signed with implementing NGOs.
May	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Meeting held by UK experts to agree on training programme and contents; selection of 15 trainers-to-be-trained, training needs assessment
May	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Bilingual brochure (French and English) summarising project and its objectives.
June	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Press release on project launch and programme, project launch
June/July	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Training of 15 trainers for 5 weeks by UK professionals on techniques of tropical biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring
July	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Training in database management and reporting, data management process agreed
July/Aug	Apr-Mar 2004/5	National planning workshops in each country
August	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Surveys framework and other relevant field tools produced and distributed to NGOs by UK professionals
August	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Training report with update of biodiversity information of sites used for training
Sept/Oct	Apr-Mar 2004/5	First set of 5 national training workshops to train 45 nationals on techniques of tropical biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring, organised by the trainers
November	Apr-Mar 2004/5	5 National training reports with biodiversity information on sites used for training in each country
Mar	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Second set of 5 national training workshops to train 45 nationals on techniques of tropical biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring, organised by the trainers
April	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Second set of 5 national training reports with update of biodiversity information of sites used for the training
April	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Reports from sites surveyed/monitored by the first team of trainees.
Sept/Oct	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Third set of 5 national training workshop by trainers of 45 nationals on techniques of tropical biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring, organised by the trainers
Nov	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Third set of 5 national training reports with update of biodiversity information of sites used for the training.
Dec	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Reports from sites surveyed by the second team of trainees
February	Apr-Mar 2005/6	Communication and advocacy plans developed
May	Apr-Mar 2006/7	Poster of project results produced

June	Apr-Mar 2006/7	National IBA inventories completed and/or published by all implementing NGOs
August	Apr-Mar 2006/7	Conservation activities identified at 25 IBAs and project proposals developed / fundraising commenced
September	Apr-Mar 2006/7	Reports from sites surveyed by the second team of trainees
January	Apr-Mar 2006/7	National annual monitoring reports on status of IBAs in each country
March	Apr-Mar 2006/7	Project closure

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 most significant outputs will contribute to the achievement of the project purpose in several ways. The 150 persons trained in the 5 participating countries will increase capacity of the contact NGOs and the other organisations that benefited from the training. This will boost both national and regional capacity for biodiversity conservation through the exchange of reliable biodiversity information and subregional collaboration. The increase in the number of skilled technical and local staff at sites will improve the quality of data and information collected from these sites and consequently:

- Facilitate the enactment of better policies and laws for biodiversity conservation
- Permit the design of realistic conservation projects
- Lead to the production of quality national reports on biodiversity
- Contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP
- Confidence within the contact NGO and other collaborating organisations in their information dissemination and public awareness campaigns

The documentation of information by means of the WBDB and the publication and/or updating of national IBA inventories will provide a good baseline and a lasting legacy for the results of the project.

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)
June 2005 to Oct 2006	4C	150 postgraduates trained in tropical biodiversity survey, identification and monitoring techniques, 15 of them as trainers
	4D	The training will be done in 5-6 weekly sessions, one sub-regional training for the trainers in Ghana and 15 national trainings (3 per country) for other nationals
	7	Training materials on techniques for the identification, survey and monitoring birds, plants and mammal produced.
June 2006	10	National Important Bird Area inventories published/updated by each partner organisation
June 2005	12B	World Bird Database to be further developed and used to train trainees and trainees.
June to project end	13B	Species inventories (bird plants and mammals) done and used to update the WBDB and IBA inventories.
August to project end	14B	At least 30 national conferences and/or biodiversity meetings (six per country) will be attended at which project findings will be disseminated
Jan 2005 to project end End 2006	15	About 80 press releases will be made during the project to highlight results of each training and subsequent work by trainees
August to project end	16A	Production of at least one newsletter on the project and other biodiversity matters in the countries involved.
	19	About 20 radio broadcasts and interviews (4 per country)
March 2007	20	£100,000 physical assets mainly from leveraging as result of the project acquired by NGOs
April to project end	23	About £150,000 will be leveraged from BirdLife, CEPF and other sources

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.

Plans for the monitoring and evaluation of project activities will be developed using the indicators outlined in the logframe, including a mid term review and evaluation at the end of the project. The plan will be distributed to NGOs to encourage internal monitoring and evaluation by senior staff. Verification of progress with project activities will be done through review of reports of progress and other required support documents, field visits to assess progress on the ground against information in reports and other documents, interviews of third parties especially other non-collaborating NGOs in the country. Since the WBDB is on the web, information from the different countries can easily be verified to see if it has been updated. The BirdLife Africa Partnership subregional office, based in Accra, Ghana, will play a very important role in the implementation and consequently the monitoring and evaluation process of the project. A Project Steering Committee comprising key stakeholders will be formed and meet annually to review progress with the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. Financial disbursement will be linked to satisfactory implementation of project based on the monitoring.

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

National Partners will be represented on the Project Steering Committee (see Section 24). The host country partner will be given the role of national coordinator of the project. The candidates trained as trainers will preferably be selected from among implementing NGO staff members. The trained trainers will be responsible for training other nationals and supervising them in the initial phase of their field work after the training. These will therefore make the NGOs directly responsible for the project in the country. They will ensure the day to day running of the project ensuring reports and other targets are achieved and on time. The NGOs will report progress and any problems to the BirdLife sub-regional coordinator who will oversee project implementation in the sub-region and report to the team leader.

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

To obtain value for money, a careful selection of staff to be trained will be essential. Enthusiastic and hard working candidates who have demonstrated a commitment to biodiversity conservation will be selected to be trained as trainers mainly from the staff of the BirdLife contact NGOs, universities / academic and research institutions and other reliable NGOs.

Targeting government technicians at IBAs and members of other relevant NGOs and SSGs will strengthen the collaboration between these organisations at site level and foster collaboration at national level established through the NLCs.

All relevant stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in all aspects of project implementation so that maximum information can be obtained for project implementation and errors minimised.

Low and cost effective means, such as the use of local facilities, cheap but efficient field techniques, will be used to implement all project activities.

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
Goal:			
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 <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 			
Purpose To improve capacity for biodiversity surveys and monitoring in Important Bird Areas in the Upper Guinea Forest of West Africa.	All participating institutions increased their pool of skilled personnel/volunteers by 20% National IBA monitoring programmes are institutionalised for at least 20% of IBAs in each country All participating countries make use of IBA information (derived from inventories / WBDB etc.)	Training reports Annual reports of institutions IBA status reports Reports produced using IBA inventories / database Government and other relevant reports mentioning IBA information	Political stability in the sub-region Governments are willing to collaborate with civil society There is proven national commitment to biodiversity conservation
Outputs Regional/national training programme for biodiversity survey and monitoring established and implemented Improved quality of data available Biodiversity information published and disseminated Capacity to deliver sustainable activities at / for IBAs is enhanced	150 nationals trained Training manuals, materials and tools produced 5 National IBA inventories produced WBDB populated and regularly updated At least 35 IBAs surveyed/monitored Communication and advocacy plans developed Publicity materials produced and disseminated. Reports to the CBD delivered Recommendations made for site projects at 25 IBAs Funds raised to implement these projects NLC and SSGs functioning in each country	Training reports Training tools, manuals and materials available Inventories available Periodic review of the WBDB Survey/monitoring reports Species lists Publicity materials produced; Advocacy plans available Distribution list, radio broadcasts, interviews etc. CBD reports Site action recommendations Project proposals NLC/SSG minutes	Political stability in the sub-region Other NGOs and institutions are willing to use data from IBA inventories / database Co-funding will be secured to print/publish inventories Cooperation with Governments and other institutions for the production of the advocacy plan is ensured

Activities	Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)
Workshops	Yr1: Project procedures / design of programme by UK experts (May 04), Training of trainers (June/July 04), Database training (July 04), National planning workshops (July/Aug 04), National training workshops, 1 st (Sept/Oct 04), 2 nd (Feb-Mar 05), 3 rd (Sept-Oct 05), with on-hand additional support/ training by UK experts throughout the project
Biodiversity surveys and monitoring	Yr 1: Survey and monitoring framework and protocols produced (August 04), Yr 1, Y2, Y3: Survey and annual monitoring of biodiversity at critical IBAs
Data management	Yr 1: Data management process agreed (July 04), Yr 1, Yr 2, Yr 3, Periodic data input and processing and dissemination; support from UK experts throughout the project
Production and dissemination of information and other activities	Yr 1: Project launch (May 04), Brochure on project description (May 04): Yr 1, Yr 2, Yr 3, Reports, radio broadcasts, Yr 2, Yr 3: Compilation and publication or updating of IBA inventories, Yr2, 3, Communication, Advocacy, Project development, Fundraising (with support from UK experts)