



Submit by 21 January 2005

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT ROUND 13 COMPETITION: STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form and you should give a full answer to each question. Please do not cross-refer to information in separate documents except where invited on this form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required. Please do not reduce the font size below 11pt or alter the paragraph spacing. Keep within word limits.

1. Name and address of organisation

Name: University of Oxford	Address: University Office, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD, UK
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Youth participation in protected area management in Rodna Mountains, Romania
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: 1 May 2005		Duration of project: 3 years		
Darwin funding requested	Total	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	£163,691	£ 56814	£ 50069	£ 56808

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

<p>To develop and implement in collaboration with park management authority, local experts, local communities and students a participatory management plan for the Rodna Mountains National Park and Biosphere Reserve (PNMR) and promote the methodology as a model of regional significance.</p> <p>Crucially, as requested by the Park Authority, the innovative approach will involve 10-18 year old students from local schools – the future decision-makers – in all stages in the research, planning and implementation, through establishment of “Darwin Volunteers for PNMR” student clubs and training in nature guiding; thereby providing a real focus for them to apply environmental education, both to conservation and to local livelihoods.</p>
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5. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Lawrence		Iusan
Forename (s)	Anna		Claudiu
Post held	Senior Research Fellow and Human Ecology Programme Leader		Biologist
Institution	University of Oxford		Regia Nationala a Padurilor – Romsilva Directia Silvica Bistrita
Department	Environmental Change Institute, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS, UK		Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park (APNMR) Str. Principala 1445,

			Rodna, Jud. Bistrita-Nasaud, Romania
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

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

Dr. Anna Lawrence was awarded in 2004 a grant for “Participatory forest management for medicinal plant production in Peru”. She also led from Reading University: “Strengthening biodiversity capacity in the forest curriculum, Visayas, Philippines” (Oct. 1996 for 2 years 6 months) and “Agroforestry manual using native species, Vallegrande, Bolivia (April 1997 for 2 yrs) – highlighted in the Fourth Darwin Report as “exceptional value for money”. She collaborated on “Participatory impact monitoring of invasive species in farming systems of Ghana” (May 2001 for 2 years).

Within ECI, Dr. Terence Dawson led “Towards sustainable development of south eastern Madagascar’s biologically unique littoral forests” (April 2000 for 2 years).

7. [not applicable]

8. Please list the overseas partners that will be involved in the project and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. What steps have been taken to ensure the benefits of the project will continue despite any staff changes in these organisations? Please provide written evidence of partnerships.

The Romanian partner is the Administration of the Rodna Mountains National Park (APNMR).

APNMR have been directly involved in defining the aims and objectives of this project and in the drafting of proposals, through meetings with Alina Szabo in September 2004, and subsequent correspondence. They will spearhead the development of an integrated and participatory management plan for the Rodna Mountains National Park (PNMR) and will ensure its approval and implementation. For this purpose, and under the guidance of the UK partner, APNMR will work with local experts, Scientific and Consultation Councils of PNMR, members of local communities, students, and other interested parties, and organise workshops for analysis of results and methodology. They will be responsible for communication with all stakeholders and for advertising the project within Romania.

This project will result in a medium-term management plan that will guarantee that benefits will continue even in the unlikely event of staff changes. The plan will incorporate the concept of adaptive management with built in opportunities for monitoring and adjusting of objectives, ensuring continued relevance and flexibility. Moreover, the methodology used will be documented in a model to be disseminated both nationally and to neighbouring countries, which will also contribute to ensuring continuity. Finally, support for the project has already been secured from several regional and national bodies that will be closely involved in the implementation of the project (*please see attached letters of support*).

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

Since its establishment (March 2004) APNMR has been in continuous dialogue with local communities and local government representatives with the aim of initiating a management planning process; they have also approached local schools and discussed their participation in this project. APNMR also has links which enable it to ensure cooperation with NGOs with an interest in the area and in biodiversity conservation (such as the Mountain Speleology Club, the Maramures Ecological Society, Unesco ProNatura, the Focal Centre for Monitoring and Biodiversity Conservation, and WWF), as well as with the Romanian Government, in particular the National Focal Point for CBD, Ms. Adriana Baz, who has expressed interest and commitment to the project (*please see attached letter of support*).

PROJECT DETAILS

10. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source?) Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations carrying out similar work, or of any completed or existing Darwin Initiative projects relevant to your work? If so, please give details explaining similarities and differences and showing how results of your work will be additional to any similar work and what attempts have/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

This is a new initiative with an **original approach to protected area management** that takes into account local needs and the desire to ensure long term local support for the park through youth participation. A recently finalised undertaking "Biodiversity Conservation Management Project" that benefited from GEF-World Bank assistance has promoted the development of management plans in three other Romanian protected areas. The two projects differ markedly in their objectives and methods of implementation. Romania, in line with other former communist countries does not have a tradition in participation and more often than not participation in environmental decision making is used in the weaker form of 'consultation'. This project will take a step further and will

- a) incorporate strong participation through direct involvement of local people and students from an early stage in the planning, research and monitoring activities
- b) Support students in the application of environmental education for the benefit of both biodiversity and local people. Thus environmental education will be brought to life as young people will gather the rewards of using what they learned in situations where they will affect the outcomes.

Both of these aspects are completely new in Romania, and indeed innovative at a global level. Consequently, this project aims to develop a model of regional significance. The project leader is in contact with the World Bank representative for Romania, and lessons from the two programmes will be shared through the workshops proposed and the final conference.

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 contributes to the implementation of the CBD through:

- elaboration of a management plan (**Articles 6 and 10**) 10%;
- publishing a guide and establishment of permanent monitoring plots (**A7**) 9%;
- *in-situ* conservation (**A8**) 9%;
- research by and training of local people (**A12**) 10%;
- the use of participatory techniques (**A13**) 10%;
- technical and scientific cooperation between UK and Romanian collaborators (**A18**) 5%;

the following *thematic programmes*:

- forest biodiversity 5% ;
- mountain biodiversity 9%;

as well as the *cross-cutting themes*:

- biological diversity and tourism 9%;
- protected areas 12%;
- and public education and awareness 12%.

The national focal point for CBD, Ms. Adriana Baz has already been contacted regarding this project. She will be informed on all developments throughout the implementation in order to facilitate rapid integration of findings into relevant policy.

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

Much environmental policy has been adopted in anticipation of Romania's accession to the EU within the next 5 years. Whilst welcome, this approach has been found lacking in the implementation, owing in part to a lack of human resources to manage protected areas to the standard Romania aspires to. This project will provide an appropriate methodology for relating planning and practice to new environmental policy opportunities, and because developed in collaboration with Romanian partners will leave the capacity in place to apply the experience in other protected areas.

This project meets priorities set out in Romania's **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** and the **National Environmental Action Plan** through:

- ensuring efficient and adequate management within protected areas;
- *in-situ* conservation of species and habitats;
- training of specialists and the general population in techniques for biodiversity conservation;
- participation of all stakeholders, in particular of local communities in actions for biodiversity conservation;
- research and monitoring.

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

Through involvement of local schools and communities in developing the management plan local needs and livelihoods will be addressed, particularly through the development of nature tourism and the sustainable use of wood in this area with a traditional 'wood culture'.

All this will result in a coherent strategy for generating sustainable alternative income for local people while at the same time conserving natural resources.

Our work with the students (through the establishment of the "Darwin Volunteers for PNMR" clubs), in particular the skills transferred through participatory research and monitoring and training for tourist guiding, will have a strong and positive impact on the local livelihoods and will improve future income options of local people (thereby also reducing urban migration). It is expected that some of the students will go on to become the future park managers and rangers.

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

At local level: the development of a management plan through the participation of all stakeholders, and especially school students, will ensure a long-term impact which will:

- make possible the fulfilment of the protected area's role;
- promote long-term and participatory monitoring;
- improve local livelihoods through the inclusion in the plan of activities such as nature tourism and sustainable use of forest resources;
- enhance communication between park staff and local people;
- increase the capacity of park staff and local people through training in participatory research, monitoring and protected area planning as well as in the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
- strengthen the local student's relationship with nature and develop their skills through the organisation by them of a workshop for peers from other schools in which to disseminate results.

At regional level: the methods used in this project will be developed into a model of participatory protected area management planning and implementation. The Rodna Mountains National Park is close to Romania's border with Ukraine with potential for expansion into a transboundary protected area, and consequently for the replication of this model.

The project outputs will be disseminated to all stakeholders through scientific papers, newsletters, training materials, websites, local and national press releases and radio programmes in the UK and Romania. In addition, three workshops are budgeted for, which will ensure dissemination of results at national level. Together with the final conference with international participation, these will guarantee that project experience is taken up by those working in relevant fields.

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

The project will develop local capacity through training and through the application of the skills acquired during training. Through our close relationship with both the park authorities and the CBD national node, we will promote increased awareness at national and regional levels on participatory protected area planning and management by involving government and NGO stakeholders and through the model developed. Probably our most lasting legacy will however be through the school volunteer clubs, which in the course of their work will develop a stronger sense of ownership in the protected area and are expected to become PNMR's key supporters. In addition to being involved in research and monitoring, the Darwin volunteers will have an active role in developing the field guide and, following training, in interacting with tourists visiting PNMR. One member of APNMR staff will oversee all activities involving the Darwin volunteers and will ensure the continuation of collaboration beyond the timeframe of this project.

Finally, as mentioned in point 12 above, in Romanian environmental policy *development* has outstripped *implementation* and this project provides methods to address this need. Promoted as such, it will be of interest to a wider range of government departments with relevance to the CBD.

16. Please give details of a clear exit strategy and state what steps have been taken to identify and address potential problems in achieving impact and legacy.

a) This project will result in a management plan that will provide the basis for decisions concerning activities undertaken in the park in the medium-term. The processes employed during its elaboration will ensure a good cooperation between stakeholders after the termination of this project. Moreover, the project will provide a strong opportunity for leveraging additional funds to permit the continuation of monitoring and of working with the local communities and schools.

b) The project builds in key workshop opportunities for reflecting on experience and relating it to the management plan and wider lessons (a speciality of the project leader). The key moment in the exit strategy is the final workshop, at which the lessons distilled will be shared with national government agencies and NGOs, and with representatives from neighbouring countries, and which will conclude with identification of responsibilities for taking forward the work of the project.

c) A continuous threat for conservation projects in a transition country such as Romania is the lack of funding and/or of fundraising skills. Through the involvement of the APNMR in the developing and writing of these proposals, such capacity is being transferred to the Romanian partner; moreover, during the implementation of this project practice in project management and in applying for additional sources of funding will be gained.

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 publicised as a Darwin project through:

1. ECI and APNMR's publications and websites;
2. Newsletters and annual reports;
3. Press releases and radio broadcasts;
4. Peer-reviewed journal papers;
5. Workshops and the final conference entitled: "Darwin Conference on Participatory Protected Area Management";
6. The "Darwin Volunteers for Rodna Mountains National Park" student clubs.

The Darwin logo will appear on all outputs, e.g. field guide, reports, workshops and conference advertisements and materials and on all correspondence and other materials relating to the project.

18. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate who the trainees will be and criteria for selection and that the level and content of training will be. 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?

Training Activity	Dates	Participants and duration	Measure of effectiveness
1. Training in participatory biodiversity surveys and monitoring techniques	July 2005; July 2006	Participants: 5 members of staff and 30 local participants Duration: 3 weeks in year1 followed by 1 week in year2.	Success of inventory, creation of database, monitoring plots, and field guide.
2. Training in participatory adaptive management techniques	May 2005; October 2005	Participants: 5 members of staff. Duration: 1 week for participatory planning; 1 week for specific advisory inputs to writing management plan	Incorporation of adaptive approaches into management plan, allowing for participatory objective setting, monitoring and adjustment of management actions to reach objectives.
3. Training in the use of GIS for protected area management	May 2005; October 2005; 2006; and 2007	Participants: 3 members of staff Duration: 1 planning and 3 training workshops of one week each	Creation of GIS database and maps.
4. Training in tourist guiding services	June 2006	Participants: 5 members of staff and 30 local participants Duration: 2 weeks	Number of people to provide tourist guiding and tourist feedback in questionnaire surveys.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

19. 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. Changes are highlighted in italics.

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 benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
Purpose To develop and implement in collaboration with park authority and local and national stakeholders a participatory youth-led management plan for the PNMR that will work towards improving local livelihoods and to promote this method as a model of regional relevance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline and monitoring systems established (end y1); - Management plan developed and approved (end y2) and implementation commenced (end y2 and y3); - Experience evaluated, model developed and promoted (end y3); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports; - Datasets and maps; - Management plan; - Publications; 	Stakeholder commitment to active participation in the programme.

Outputs 1. Baseline and monitoring systems established.	Workshops and training for 35 participants; 1 database created; 2 lists of species and habitats prioritised for management; 1 list and 1 map of monitoring sites; development of an attractive and popular field guide to the wildlife of PNMR.	List of participants; training materials; field reports; datasets – maps and inventory results; field guide compiled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustained interest and participation of the stakeholders; - Commitment of partner institution to fulfilling the programme and continuity of its staff; - No major changes in the legal requirements with respect to protected areas; - Funding available for the whole duration of the project.
2. Management plan developed and implemented.	Workshops; training; management plan approved; annual work plan developed; 6 student clubs ‘Darwin volunteers for PNMR’.	List of participants; workshop documents; draft and final version of management plan; comments from interested parties; letters of approval from the competent institutions; work plan for the first implementation year; statute and plan of activities for student clubs.	
3. Experience evaluated, model developed and promoted.	Newsletter; at least 2 academic papers written; 1 model for participatory protected area management developed; 1 conference to present findings; annual presentations of results to local communities and schools; website development.	Issues of the newsletter; acknowledgement of submission of papers; document detailing methodology used; list of participants and conference proceedings; project web page.	
Activities	Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)		
1. Baseline and monitoring systems established.	Planning workshop (May 05) Collect information and studies on Rodna Mountains biodiversity (May-Jul 05) Collect information on traditional use of natural resources (May-Jul 05) Collect information on stakeholders’ perception of the protected area and the role of its administration (Jul-Aug 05 and Jun-Jul 07) Purchasing of equipment needed for field surveys (May-Jul 05) Training workshop on participatory biodiversity surveys and monitoring (Jul 05 and 06) Training in the use of GIS techniques for protected area management (May and Oct 05, Oct 06, Oct 07) Systematic participatory inventories and monitoring (Jul 05-Apr 08) Field guide compiled (Sep 07)		

2. Management plan developed and implemented.	2.1 Planning workshop (May 05) 2.2 Memorandum of Understanding signed (<i>Apr 05</i>) 2.3 Identification of priority areas and formation of work teams (May 05) 2.4 Workshops (3) to analyse and synthesise findings (<i>May & Sep 05 and Feb 06</i>) 2.5 Establishment of 'Darwin volunteers for PNMR' student clubs (<i>May 05</i>) 2.6 Training in adaptive management techniques (<i>May and Oct 05</i>) 2.7 <i>Training in tourist guiding skills (June 06)</i> 2.8 Management plan drafted and distributed for comments (Mar 06) 2.9 Management plan finalised (May 06) 2.10 Annual work plans developed (July 06) and implemented (06-08)
3. Experience evaluated, model developed and promoted.	3.1 Design of Newsletter (Aug 05 – issued twice per year <i>Aug & Feb</i>) 3.2 Project web page creation (May 05 – updated continuously) 3.3 Presentations in local communities and schools (Sep 05, 06, 07) 3.4 Workshops (3) to analyse results and develop model (<i>Aug 06 & Mar and Sep 07</i>) 3.5 Conference to disseminate results (Nov 07) 3.6 Conference proceedings, final report written, academic papers submitted (Mar 08)

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

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year	Key milestones
0. Project planning and agreements		
April	Apr-Mar 2005/6	0.1 Memorandum of understanding signed.
May	Apr-Mar 2005/6	0.2 Project plan finalised, priority areas identified and work teams formed.
May	Apr-Mar 2005/6	0.3 "Darwin Volunteers for PNMR" student clubs established (activities implemented throughout the project).
1. Baseline and monitoring systems established		
May – July	Apr-Mar 2005/6	1.1 Information collated on Rodna Mountains biodiversity and traditional use of natural resources in the area, by APNMR staff, and school students.
July – August and June – July	Apr-Mar 2005/6 and Apr-Mar 2007/8	1.2 Information collected on stakeholders' perception of PNMR and the role of its administration, by APNMR staff and school students.
May – July	Apr-Mar 2005/6	1.3 Equipment purchased.
July	Apr-Mar 2005/7	1.4 Training in participatory inventory and monitoring; training materials disseminated.
July – September	Apr-Mar 2005/6	1.5 Participatory systematic inventories completed and 1 database created (updated regularly).
July – April	Apr-Mar 2005/8	1.6 Monitoring activities implemented by school students.
October	Apr-Mar 2005/8	1.7 Training materials for GIS techniques distributed; training delivered.

September	Apr-Mar 2007/8	1.8 Field guide compiled by APNMR staff and school students.
2. Management plan developed and implemented		
May & September and February	Apr-Mar 2005/6	2.1 Management planning workshops (three); materials and results circulated.
May and October	Apr-Mar 2005/6	2.2 Training in adaptive management techniques; training materials disseminated.
March	Apr-Mar 2005/6	2.3 Management plan drafted
May	Apr-Mar 2006/7	2.4 Management plan finalised.
June	Apr-Mar 2006/7	2.5 Management plan approved.
June	Apr-Mar 2006/7	2.6 Training in tourist guiding skills; training materials available.
July	Apr-Mar 2006/7	2.7 Annual work plans developed.
July - March	Apr-Mar 2006/8	2.8 Annual work plans implemented.
February	Apr-Mar 2006/8	2.9 Annual adaptive management workshops for monitoring and adjusting management pathways.
3. Experience evaluated, model developed and promoted		
May	Apr-Mar 2005/6	3.1 Project web page created (updated continuously).
August and February	Apr-Mar 2005/8	3.2 Newsletter issued (twice/year).
September	Apr-Mar 2005/8	3.3 Project presentation in local communities and schools (once/year).
August, March and September	Apr-Mar 2006/8	3.4 Workshops to analyse & disseminate results and develop model (three).
November	Apr-Mar 2007/8	3.5 Conference with international participation (including Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine).
March	Apr-Mar 2007/8	3.6 Conference proceedings, final report written and academic papers submitted.

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

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month	Standard output number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc.)
May and October 2005	6A	Training of 5 members of staff
	6B	2 weeks
	7	1 training material in adaptive management techniques
July 2005	20	£3,400 estimated value of assets transferred to APNMR
	22	18 permanent field plots to be established
July 2005/2006	4A	Training of 30 local students in research & monitoring
	4B	4 weeks
September 2005	12A	1 database created
October 2005/2006/2007	6A	Training of 3 members of APNMR staff
	6B	3 weeks
	7	1 training material in GIS
March-May 2006	9	1 species and habitat management plan
June 2006	4A	Training of 30 local students in tourist guiding
	4B	1 week
	6A	Training of 5 staff in tourist guiding
	6B	1 week
	10	1 field guide
September 2007	10	3 workshops and 1 conference organised to disseminate findings
August 2006, March and September 2007	14A	3 national press releases in Romania
	15A	3 national press releases in the UK (ECI's Annual Report)
May 2005/2006/ and November 2007	15A	3 national press releases in the UK (ECI's Annual Report)
May 2005/2006/2007	15C	at least 40 weeks spent by UK staff in host country
May 2005 – April 2008	8	12 local press releases in Romania (quarterly)
	15B	GBP 78966
	23	1 newsletter (twice/year)

August and February 2005-2008	16A	estimated circulation in host country - 1000
	16B	estimated circulation in the UK – 30
	16C	1 academic paper published
By the end of March 2008 (dates to be confirmed)	11A	2 academic papers submitted
	11B	1 conference attended to present project findings
	14B	1 local press release in the UK
	15D	1 TV programme in Romania
	18A	6 local radio interviews/features in host country
	19C	

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

22. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring and evaluation activities will be participative, and the indicators used will be developed in common by the UK and Romanian partners in the initial planning workshop and later, based on needs. These activities will rely in particular on the indicators included in the logical framework and the milestones outlined in Box 20 and will consist of: team self-evaluation through informal assessments of progress; project internal evaluation against objectives set out in the logframe and reported to DEFRA every 6 months; and external evaluation through inputs from participants to workshops (Activity 3.4) and final conference (Activity 3.5) and based on feedback received from DEFRA.

The Romanian partner is expected to lead in setting internal indicators and will have a considerable role in producing the reports to DEFRA.