



Submit by 13 January 2006

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT ROUND 14 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: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Address: The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Protecting key South African biodiversity sites through community based conservation
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: 1 July 2006	Duration of project: 36 months	End date: 30 June 2009			
Darwin funding requested	Total	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
	£169,077	£51,090	£58,300	£47,500	£12,187

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

The purpose of this project is for community-focused projects to significantly enhance the status of important biodiversity sites and develop the capacity to manage them in the future. The project will establish and maintain a number of innovative, sustainable, cost effective community based conservation programmes at four of South Africa's most important and threatened, yet legally unprotected, biodiversity sites. Detailed information on the biodiversity and status of these sites is included as Annex 3.

These will include the wetlands of the Klip River in Soweto (facing issues of development, over-disturbance and pollution), indigenous forests of the Eastern Cape (threatened by deforestation and over-extraction) and high altitude grasslands around Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga (threatened principally by overgrazing and afforestation). The project will include the development of locally based conservation programmes managed by the communities themselves, training (using UK expertise) *inter alia* in ecological, socio-economic, awareness raising and project management skills at the national and local levels. A community-based network will be established to strengthen conservation management, and facilitate the training in and development of crafts and other income generating opportunities in communities as a stepping-stone to self-employment and self-sustainability of previously disadvantaged individuals and communities. It will seek novel initiatives and incentives to capture some of the environmental and economic benefits contingent on biodiversity conservation and thereby enhance the protective status of the sites. The project aims to bring about more formal or informal protection at the focus sites by the end of the project. This project engages in all key Darwin priority areas of institutional capacity building, training, research and environmental education and awareness.

Key outputs will be: 1. Local site support groups/fora in place at each site that establish a firm basis for sustainability; 2. Training and capacity building programme for national and local stakeholders implemented; 3. Participatory plans for conservation monitoring and action, with linked business plans, in place and under implementation at each site; 4. Marketing focused initiatives at each site, generating economic benefits for local people and assisting sustainability; 5. National networking and experience sharing has stimulated action at additional high priority biodiversity sites; 6. Awareness of the value and needs of conservation enhanced.

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) <i>NB circa. 10% each</i>	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Buckley	Morling / Oates	Verdoorn
Forename (s)	Paul	Paul / Adrian	Gerhard
Post held	Head Global Country Programmes	Economist / Fundraiser and Finance Controller	Director
Institution	RSPB	RSPB	BirdLife South Africa
Department	Global Programmes Dept	International	

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

We have been awarded the following funding under the Initiative.

Full project grants

- £84,000 in Round 3 for a project to compile a directory of important ornithological sites in Tanzania
- £136,000 in Round 7 for *Management planning for conservation of mesotrophic fen mire biodiversity in Belarus*
- £158,000 in Round 9 for *Action plans for conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa*
- £98,000 in Round 10 for *Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: improving monitoring, management and conservation action*
- £231,975 in Round 11 for *Prediction and management of declines in Gyps species vultures*
- £154,117 in Round 11 for *Empowering the people of Tristan to implement the CBD*
- £109,889 in Round 11 for *Implementing urgent conservation actions in mesotrophic fen mires in Belarus*
- £109,992 in Round 12 for *Gurney's pitta research and conservation in Thailand and Myanmar*
- £133,556 in Round 12 for *Pioneering an innovative conservation approach in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest*
- £98,634 in Round 13 for *Participatory management of priority biodiversity sites in Taraba State, Nigeria.*
- £95,085 in Round 13 for *Strengthening the Indian Bird Conservation Network to safeguard key sites*
- £160,900 in Round 13 for *Enabling the people of Montserrat to conserve the Centre Hills*
- £193,593 in Round 13 for *Important Bird Area conservation and capacity building in Central Asia*

Post-project grants

- £78,770 in 2004 for *Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa* – a follow-up to the Round 9 project listed above
- £49,144 in 2005 for *Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: improving monitoring, management and conservation action* – a follow-up to the Round 10 project listed above

Scholarships

- £14,400 in 2005 for Mike Anthony Kiragu Mwangi, Conservation Officer, Nature Kenya

7. IF YOU ANSWERED NO TO QUESTION 6 describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

Aims (50 words)

N/A

Activities (50 words)

N/A

Achievements (50 words)

N/A

8. Please list the UK (where there are partners in addition to the applicant organisation) and host country partners that will be involved in their 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 **RSPB** will be the UK project partner and **BirdLife South Africa (BLSA)** will be the principal in-country partner for this project. The RSPB and BLSA have worked together closely since 1995 and BLSA requested RSPB assistance with this programme, which led in turn to the development and writing of this proposal. A number of staff changes have occurred during this time including of the RSPB's Country Programme manager and BLSA Director, but this has not affected the nature or strength of the relationship, which is also assured through our partnership in BirdLife International alongside 104 other NGOs around the world. BLSA has a number of local branches who will be involved in project implementation e.g. BirdLife Soweto and BirdLife Eastern Cape.

Since identifying 121 Important Bird Areas in the country, **BLSA** have developed a number of programmes seeking to safeguard some of the most important of these areas, focusing especially on those unprotected by law or statute. The focus of this work has been on building grassroots organisations and involving hitherto disadvantaged communities. BLSA's work to train and empower young, previously disadvantaged, people as bird guides has brought them considerable prestige; for example in KwaZulu Natal (see www.zbr.co.za for details). This project will strengthen and expand upon this and other successful initiatives for enhancing the economic opportunities available from biodiversity conservation. **RSPB** will use expertise from across the organisation to advise and support various aspects of project implementation. In particular, these will be in relation to project management and control, conservation science, socio-economic analysis and research, and fundraising. RSPB believe they have all the expertise necessary to advise this project in-house, but will contract in specific expertise, at their cost, if required. The Partners will appoint a Project Manager (a BLSA employee) who will be responsible for co-ordinating and managing the technical, administrative and financial aspects of the project. Precise structures will vary with each project site but, broadly, the BLSA Project Manager will coordinate each project area with implementation by the project staff in partnership with local community based organisations.

A wide network of organisations have been involved in the development of this project proposal and will also participate in the project. This includes the **Crafts Council of South Africa**, assisting in efforts to generate sustainable income generating activities within the project areas and the **Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)** through the socio-economic unit of the **South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)**, assisting with participatory socio-economic appraisals among targeted communities. Other specialist NGOs and agencies will be brought into advise and implement key components. For example, local players will include, at Wakkerstroom the **Utaka Tourism and Development Association** and the Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage Association; in Soweto the **Mayibuye Wetlands Project** and the **Food and Trees for Africa** and Wilderness Foundation in the Eastern Cape (where they are working extensively with education and community upliftment programmes). At the individual site level, local communities, bird guides and corporations will be engaged at all sites and key local organisations will be engaged. **World Wide Fund for Nature SA** have also been supportive of and involved in BLSA's programme at Wakkerstroom and the initial work along the Klip River in Soweto.

Local and provincial Government agencies will provide approval, personnel support and infrastructure support, as well as being represented on advisory groups. Collaboration with Government agencies will be key to the success of the project especially the Provincial Nature Conservation Boards such as Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape and local councils such as Wakkerstroom Town Council and the Soweto Municipal Council (through the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council). Partnerships will be sought with other sections such as Department of Trade and Industry, the Working for Water Programme of DEAT, Department of

Land Affairs, Department of Social Affairs, Fair Trade in Tourism (NGO working on tourism), Department of Arts and Culture, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the National Department of Agriculture.

BLSA will engage all the mentioned state departments, councils, corporations, associations and NGOs in discussions to establish support mechanisms to the project from these entities. State departments have expertise, infrastructure and even funds available for supporting local community based socio-economic development programmes. Where entities already have running projects, BLSA will slot into existing activities. BLSA is currently developing an MoU with the SANBI to become the avian executive arm of SANBI. One of the focal points of the MoU is social engagement of communities and thus SANBI can contribute to the project extensively through their wide network of stakeholders.

At the national level BLSA will coordinate an advisory group comprising representatives of the key stakeholders will advise on common experience and lessons, promote dissemination of the project and ensure project legacy and follow up.

Letters of support are included at Annex 2.

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.

The consultation with stakeholder groups has been primarily at the local level and much of the groundwork in this respect is well established. This project will turn this initial stakeholder interaction into targeted and effective conservation planning and action and afford the individual programmes a national platform and profile through which they can disseminate findings from their work and learn lessons from each other. The project will customise the well established 'site support group model' (locally based groups forming a community based organisation committed to site protection and enhancement) to the circumstances prevailing at each site. This model began in Africa and has been used with success all over the world.

Wakkerstroom town has prominence as a birdwatching hot spot, and BirdLife South Africa's nature reserve there gives them a high profile. They have good relations and regular communication with the town council and with the provincial authorities of Mpumalanga. BLSA has very good relations with the landowning community, with local community groups through education and job creation programmes. This project will require increased depth of contact with landowners and tenants and with farming organisations and will require a full understanding of the aspirations of different landuser groups and of the economics of any changes in land-use pressure and of possible solutions which meet farming, sustainable livelihood and environmental objectives.

In Soweto a thriving and inspirational group of residents have come together to form BirdLife Soweto and, assisted by BirdLife South Africa, they are actively promoting environmental awareness and action. A substantial focus is on the biodiversity rich Mayibuye wetland along the Klip River which was originally protected as a buffer zone between conflicting groups of residents during the apartheid regime and which continues to provide vital environmental services for large numbers of people. There are excellent and complex connections with other residents groups and civil society organisations. This project will enhance the input of external technical and project management expertise as well as offering opportunities to progress formal protection of the site and disseminate the achievements of the project such that it can be promoted as a model elsewhere in urban South Africa

In Eastern Cape good links already exist with local communities around the critical forests of the Katberg and Hogsback. A number of workshops have already been held and local civil society organisations are engaged, but resources are lacking to optimise these existing contacts. The area is seen as having considerable potential for ecotourism but so far, these opportunities have been little exploited and local communities have been poorly involved. Forests are heavily exploited by local communities for firewood and this threatens the endangered Cape parrot. The Cape Parrot Working Group of BLSA has good communication with local communities in the Eastern Cape

forest areas and also enjoy the support of an international timber company in supplying yellow-wood seed and saplings to plant and regenerate these in forests for the Cape Parrot.

At the fourth site to be selected, stakeholder engagement and the building of local community support is an essential precursor to more intensive project development. This will be a key activity in Years 1 and 2 of the project prior to more active implementation.

BLSA have notified Samira Tharani of the British High Commission in Pretoria of this application. She is away on leave until end January, however they were informed and supportive at stage 1. BLSA already have a good working relationship with the Commission and will discuss it further with them if it is successful.

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 which intends to expand and make a number of existing, but minimally resourced, conservation initiatives more effective. In particular it will enhance the involvement of communities, increase local capacity to develop income generating activities for rural and urban poor people and biological monitoring programmes. Furthermore, it will link them so that they can gain a national profile, derive benefits from inputs of UK and South African expertise, exchange experiences and disseminate their achievements as models for wider application. It will develop and advocate for, innovative solutions to persistent problems threatening biodiversity (such as changes to agricultural regimes), to promote both small farmers' interests and better conservation management.

A key aspect of the project will be to develop sustainable, broad based, income generating opportunities and will build on existing initiatives. BLSA's Zululand Birding Route (ZBR) is a model for any social development and conservation in terms of IBAs in South Africa. After nearly five years of development, ZBR has trained and deployed at least 23 local bird guides and engaged local communities in the formal protection of forests and wetlands. The bird guides are totally self sustainable and generate their own income without any remuneration awarded by BLSA or any other party. During 2004, 17 bird guides generated over £40,000 for themselves as income. The success of the ZBR in attracting tourists has also led to an increase in employment in a range of other tourist activities and has ultimately meant a major increase in financial and capital investment in protecting forests and wetlands. Local communities and conservation agencies on provincial and local level collaborate on the management of wetlands and forests.

There are many conservation projects in South Africa and generally there is good collaboration between the NGOs and with government. However in a country with so many needs, resources for conservation outside protected areas are scarce. Many conservation projects tend to focus on the established Parks, on big mammals, on global hotspots such as the Cape floristic region and on high profile bird species such as Cranes. To our knowledge, there are no other substantive nationally based programmes targeting any of the three sites where we are proposing to work. BirdLife South Africa have deliberately focused on these important but otherwise neglected areas and we anticipate the fourth site being selected on a similar basis. In each area there are local community based initiatives already operating with very limited resources and our aim will be to learn from their work and complement their efforts by offering targeted resources and technical assistance, as well as a chance to profile their work to a national audience.

We will look for opportunities to share experience with other Darwin managed projects. In particular, we will coordinate activities with the Darwin project at the University of Natal which seeks to reduce illegal international trade, including of Cape Parrots, although our specific activities do not overlap.

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 contribute significantly to a number of CBD's articles as described below.

The project has a strong focus on in situ conservation (Article 8 20%) with a focus on a range of habitats including inter alia Forests (15%) and Inland waters (10%). The project especially that in Easter Cape will make substantial use of indigenous knowledge (Article 8j 5%) while seeking to make sustainable use of components of biological diversity (Article 10 10%) including through tourism related biodiversity which will be a theme at all sites (10%). At the same time more traditional biodiversity objectives will be an integral part of the whole project especially setting in place of community focused monitoring programmes (Article 7 5%) and education and awareness raising (Article 13 15%). Training (Article 12 10%) will be a strong theme in ensuring sustainability both in relation to passing on of knowledge by UK experts and in relation to more community focused training implemented largely by South African specialists.

BLSA have good links with Maria Mbengashe, the current CBD focal point in Department for Environmental Affairs and Tourism. SA National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is stipulated in the new National Biodiversity Conservation Act as an institute commissioned by DEAT to perform all biodiversity functions. SANBI will therefore be the main conduit to the CBD. With BLSA's new MOU with the SANBI the channels to the CBD are open at all times

12. How does this project 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.

South Africa continues to be an exemplary country in much of its performance in relation to conservation of biological diversity. Nevertheless, it faces enormous competing demands and many conservation priorities go un-resourced. As well as focussing on biodiversity conservation in otherwise neglected and unprotected sites, BLSA has undertaken programmes that integrate real biodiversity needs with programmes to train and engage disadvantaged communities in conservation. Through their (Green Trust) award winning education programme, the development of society branches in predominantly black communities such as Soweto and through their training of young bird guides they have contributed significantly to community and social upliftment as well as conservation.

This twin track approach is a strong theme in the national biodiversity action plan and in a plethora of government policies and plans. The action plan, completed in May 2005, emphasises the integral links between biodiversity conservation and the promotion of human well-being. It places great emphasis on capacity building, especially at the local level. Extracts of the plan relevant to this proposal are included as Annex 4.

As future partners of the SANBI, BLSA will have the responsibility to address all bird related biodiversity topics including habitats, species action plans, species monitoring, safeguarding of species and habitats, addressing social issues and developing strategies to involve previously disadvantaged communities in biodiversity conservation issues.

The project will protect biodiversity of the highest value. The Cape Parrot is one of the most threatened birds in Africa with an estimated 500 pairs. The grasslands around Wakkerstroom contain at least 7 globally threatened species although the project will focus primarily on the habitat of four of these – Rudd's Lark, Botha's Lark, Southern Bald Ibis and Yellow-breasted Pipit. The Klip River wetland in Soweto is important for biodiversity and also provides possibly the potential in the country for engaging large numbers of people in urban wetland conservation.

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

The situation at the three sites selected varies considerably, but they share the common issue of pressure on natural resources from the needs of demonstrably poor rural or urban dwellers. None of these sites is immediately threatened by wholesale land use change but each suffers from incremental losses and pressures due to human needs and economic activity. At each site, there is a need to understand the socio-economic situation better and then to reconcile human needs with the protection of biodiversity. Ways of helping poor communities to generate income from the sustainable use of natural resources will be found by raising awareness of the value of biodiversity, developing improved management plans and implementing them. BLSA has adopted this approach successfully in its work before, by providing jobs and training bird guides in Zululand (as mentioned in section 10 above), around Wakkerstroom and to a small degree in Soweto.

A lack of resources has thus far prevented exploitation of such opportunities. As part of this project, socio-economic surveys will be conducted at all four sites identifying the costs, benefits and opportunities for sustainable management. These analyses will inform the development of site business plans that, through consultation, will articulate economic opportunities compatible with sustainable management. Thus, impoverished local communities will be empowered with appropriate skills to catalyse enhanced protection and specific actions to overcome barriers to conservation without foregoing the economic benefits of sustainable exploitation. Specific actions may include agreements for sustainable grazing regimes with Wakkerstroom landowners, forest and timber utilisation agreements in the Eastern Cape and improved controls on pollution and habitat management in the Soweto wetlands. The project will work with local groups to foster income-generating opportunities that will provide employment and livelihood benefits to local people. Examples include the use of harvested alien vegetation wood for carvings and furniture production, honey and crafts production and the exploitation of avi-tourism opportunities.

With additional resources, we believe great progress can be made in providing income generating opportunities and thereby enhancing local support for and participation in conservation.

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.

The impact of the work will be better prospects for strengthened protection at 4 important biodiversity sites and longer term programmes in place as a result of the initiatives enabled by Darwin initiative support.

Key outcomes will include:

1. Knowledge of local ownership, ongoing monitoring and protection of a set of key biodiversity sites enhanced. (Four sites with stronger protective measures)
2. A cadre of local conservationists with enhanced skills in biological monitoring and community led conservation efforts developed at the grass roots level. (Forty key stakeholders trained in a range of management and technical issues)
3. Strong and coordinated local processes for stronger protection status in place at the sites (4 management plans and linked business plans in place).
4. A cohesive network of locally based conservation groups in place with room for expansion to new sites (Four locally based for a in place).
5. Young bird guides in socially disadvantaged areas trained and earning a living from nature based tourism (at least 10 guides trained)
6. Skills and crafts developed amongst local communities generating sustainable income for previously disadvantaged communities (at least ten groups trained).

These will be achieved as follows. In Eastern Cape we will seek formal protection for the forests inhabited by the critically threatened Cape Parrot. In Soweto we will seek enhanced protection of the Mayibuye and associated Klip River wetlands through the strengthening of local community

based agencies, provision of local by laws (especially relating to pollution control) and formal management agreements. At Wakkerstroom we hope to secure additional protection of a series of key areas of this critical grassland biome and develop methods to reduce grazing intensity in sites inhabited by three globally threatened species of birds. Almost all of the land here is in private ownership and we will need to seek management agreements with local land managers – the ideal model would be agri-environment type support, an innovative model in Africa but likely to be very difficult to fund. We will work on the basis of good stewardship and voluntary agreements while exploring potential future win-win solutions. However at all sites there are opportunities for the local community to benefit from better conservation practice in parallel with sustainable use of natural resources and the development of specific actions to deliver income generation to stakeholder groups.

With regard to dissemination, we believe that the results of this project will be of substantial interest to a wide range of conservation and development agencies in South Africa and beyond. BLSA already have good links with publishing houses and with the popular and scientific media. We will aim to publish results of socio-economic analyses, as well as scientific and monitoring results and also to promote the programme widely in the popular media. At the end of the project a conference and popular report will form the basis of the dissemination of project successes and findings to interested practitioners in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa and Europe. Findings will be discussed at the (normally annual) BirdLife Africa partnership meetings attended by conservation practitioners from at least 18 countries, at the Global Conference of the BirdLife partnership scheduled for September 2008 and at the 12th Pan African Ornithological Congress scheduled to be held in South Africa in mid 2008. These will provide opportunities for ideas and experience to feed into the project from other countries and for its achievements to inspire conservation action elsewhere.

We believe that the innovative approach adopted by this project will be widely replicable at least throughout South Africa. BLSA will play a full part in this while encouraging other NGOs to adopt similar approaches in their own future programmes. Thus, the potential for wide application of the findings is an important part of the impact and legacy of this project.

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

Darwin Initiative support will catalyse action at 4 important sites for biodiversity including one (Soweto) with unique opportunities for generating environmental awareness among thousands of previously disadvantaged citizens. We believe that the best way to ensure sustainability of conservation actions at sites outwith protected areas is to engage those stakeholder groups most involved in the use of the land at the earliest stage. This is a key common strand running through this project and one that we believe gives it a very high chance of succeeding. At the same time, we will help to develop professional management plan and business plan documents at each site, so that intervention is based on sound knowledge and stakeholder consensus. These plans will be subject to rigorous monitoring and review, and systems will be set in place such that they can continue after the end of this phase of the programme.

The project has been developed at the request of conservationists in South Africa and they will be in place to ensure its continuation. South African conservationists and citizens will implement all of the actions, with appropriate technical input by UK experts only where necessary. At three of the sites, good relationships are already in place, a vital precursor for success. We will adopt the same successful approach at the fourth site.

We believe that the innovative approaches adopted by this project will be widely replicable at least throughout South Africa. BLSA will play a full part in this while encouraging other NGOs to adopt similar approaches in their own future programmes, making the potential for wide application of the findings an important part of the impact and legacy of this project.

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.

The project will not end with the cessation of Darwin funding. All of these projects will seek and will require a long-term presence by BirdLife South Africa and by the local community groups involved in the project. RSPB will continue to provide inputs where necessary and possible. Additionally, a number of measures will we believe enhance the prospects for this work to continue.

Firstly, BLSA are confident that, after three years, they will be able to find the funding to maintain the Project Officer in post, most likely from commercial sources. It is likely that the Project Officer will spend an increasing proportion of their time identifying new sites where urgent conservation threats are faced, and where the success of the Darwin project can be replicated.

Secondly, a management plan and a business plan will be set in place at each of the project sites identifying future costs and income generating opportunities, both for the local community beneficiaries of the project and for the costs of maintaining the projects themselves. Experience from other BLSA projects e.g. in Zululand, gives us both confidence that an increasing local revenue stream can be secured and also recognition that some ongoing funds will be needed. BLSA will source these locally or internationally with RSPB's assistance. We will monitor the risks and assumptions identified in the logical framework.

RSPB has worked with BirdLife SA since 1995, a long-term relationship that will continue throughout and beyond the period of this proposed project. In each of the proposed projects, firm relationships are being and will continue to be put in place on the ground.

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

Project publicity at local, national and international levels will prominently acknowledge the support of Darwin in making this project possible. This will include the use of name and logos in in-house publications, at events and conferences and on project vehicles. The final project conference will give prominence to the Darwin Initiative and a representative of Darwin will be invited to attend and speak.

We will place information about the project on both RSPB (www.rspb.org.uk) and BLSA (www.birdlife.org.za) websites and include the Darwin logo on each of these. BLSA has an extensive media network in South Africa and will widely publicise the project in the printed and electronic media.

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 is integral to the objectives of this project and there will be training at a number of levels. This will include:

- 1) training of the South African Project Manager in the UK,
- 2) training of key project officers and stakeholders at the community level in techniques such as 'training of trainers' and 'participatory appraisal' to enable them to contribute towards managing the project,
- 3) training at the community level e.g. in basic ecology and site monitoring,
- 4) skills based training for selected members of local communities such as bird guiding, craft making etc.

The appointed BLSA Project Manager will be offered local training and also attend a three week induction course at the RSPB, expected in September/October 2006. This training will include project management, developing site monitoring programmes, socio-economic analysis and training of trainers. We will also route them back so as they can spend a week with one of the other BirdLife partners in Africa, most likely Kenya or Uganda where they can gain an insight into community run programmes (including those funded by Darwin) in those countries, which are often

ahead of South Africa in this respect.

Subsequently a key component of the project will involve coaching and developing project stakeholders, primarily of local project staff and community partner representatives but also of other government and agency stakeholders where appropriate. The training will be focused, practical and aimed at enhancing the capacity to implement actions in the field rather than of an academic nature. This training will be delivered by the Project Manager and by other UK and South African experts, as appropriate. Field based training subjects and dates will depend upon the specific site, but the programme is designed to include:

- Training in participatory socio-economic analysis for around 12 key project practitioners led by the RSPBs Economist, SANBI and the SA Project manager in November/December 2006
- Training in project management for around 12 key project practitioners led by the RSPBs Project Leader and the SA Project Manager in November/December 2006
- Training in site ecology and monitoring for around 25 key practitioners from each site led by the RSPBs Research Scientist and SA Project manager before November 2007 followed by South African led training at each site
- Training in fundraising for around 12 key project practitioners led by the RSPBs Fundraiser and the BLSA Business Manager before January 2008
- Training for trainers to around 12 key project stakeholders at each site led by the SA project manager at various times
- Training in awareness raising to around 12 key project stakeholders at each site led by the BLSA Education manager at various times
- Training in group management and operations to around 12 key project stakeholders at each site led by the BLSA Project Manager at various times
- Training in business planning for around 12 key project practitioners led by the RSPBs Fundraiser and BLSA Business Manager before January 2008
- Training in effective advocacy for around 12 key project practitioners undertaken by the RSPB's Project Leader, BLSA Director and Project Manager before April 2008
- Specialist Bird guide training for 10 persons selected by their communities completed by March 2008
- Specialist Craft training for 10 persons selected by their communities completed by March 2008

In most cases, training will comprise short (2-5 day) courses with comprehensive evaluations. Those attending training will be asked to provide written and verbal feedback to representative community fora and project staff at national and local level will monitor their subsequent performance. The majority of those trained in specialist subjects will also be given training for trainers thus facilitating their capacity to effectively pass on their training. In the case of the bird guiding, crafts and other practical skills, the training will be longer term (c one month) aiming at professional competence and certification and delivered by recognised experts working for BirdLife South Africa and the Crafts Council of South Africa.

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 (*minor changes highlighted in yellow*).

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 benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
Purpose			
Community focused programmes are significantly enhancing the status of important biodiversity sites and the capacity to manage them for the future	<p>Programmes in the four project sites are effectively managed by local stakeholders by the end of the project</p> <p>Threat status and pressures on each area shows improvement from beginning to end of project</p> <p>Three other projects at important biodiversity sites being established with leveraged funds by the project end</p>	<p>Project reports, future workplans</p> <p>Biological status reports from each site</p> <p>Project proposals/workplans</p>	<p>No additional unrecognised threats emerge during project period</p> <p>Benefits accruing to communities are adequate to counter any damaging alternative economic proposals.</p>
Outputs			
Local site support groups/fora in place at each site establish a firm basis for project sustainability	<p>Funding for further work at each site achieved by end of June 2009</p> <p>All key stakeholders contribute to effective group management</p>	<p>Funding agreements, project reports</p> <p>Minutes of meetings Group. Constitutions / MoUs</p>	Community focused programmes show short term benefits through improved threat status/key species populations/job creation
Training and capacity building programme for national and local stakeholders implemented	<p>Recommendations for ongoing support from training courses implemented</p> <p>Training cascaded down at all four sites</p>	<p>Training reports</p> <p>Project reports</p>	Staff and volunteers remain in post after training
Participatory plans for conservation monitoring and action in place and under implementation at each site	<p>Three Plans adopted by key stakeholders by June 2008; the fourth by June 2009</p> <p>80% of priority actions underway by June 2009</p> <p>Greater formal protection at one site by June 2009</p>	<p>Adopted management plans and business plans</p> <p>Workplan and monitoring reports</p>	Current strong community links and stability at chosen sites are maintained
Marketing focused initiatives at each site are generating economic benefits for local people and assisting sustainability	<p>Analysis of socio-economic options completed at each site by end of by April 2008</p> <p>Five new registered guides in two sites by June 2009</p>	<p>Socio-economic reports</p> <p>Guide training reports</p>	Current favourable climate for local and international tourism is maintained

Outputs (continued)	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
National networking and experience sharing has stimulated action at additional high priority biodiversity sites	Networking meeting for groups and other site protection agencies held during Year 2 Expressions of interest from three other sites by end of June 2009	Reports of network meeting Written expressions of interest from groups at other sites	
Awareness of conservation needs and values enhanced	Attitude surveys show more favourable attitudes to conservation at all sites School programmes in place at all sites by June 2007	Repeat surveys at start and end of project Education reports	
Activities	Activity Milestones (m = month)		
Establish local site support groups/fora	Set in place project management structures and hold start up meeting by m ⁴ , develop four local fora by m ¹⁵ , regular programme of activities in place by m ¹⁸ , group governance structures in place by m ²⁴ , additional project proposals in place by m ³²		
Training and capacity building programme	Project Manager recruited and initial training in UK by m ⁶ , training programmes in project management (UK input), socio-economic analysis (UK input), group operations, awareness raising, training for trainers completed at all four sites by m ¹⁸ . Training in site ecology / monitoring, advocacy, fundraising (with UK input) by m ²⁴		
Develop and implement plans for conservation action	Plan framework and process agreed by m ⁸ , first workshops held at each site by m ¹² , management with associated business plans adopted at all sites by m ³⁰ , Establish site and species monitoring by end of m ²⁴ , priority year 1 actions underway by m ³⁰ .		
Establish income generating programmes	Undertake socio-economic analysis by m ⁹ , guide training completed by m ²⁴ , pilot and train in three other income generating activities by m ²⁴ , facilitate additional funding support at three sites by m ³⁶		
Establish national sites network	Hold network meetings by m ¹⁸ and m ³⁰ . Distribute materials to four projects and wider sites network at end of each year. Assess potential for further sites by m ³⁰ , organise seminar and lessons learned report by m ³⁶		
Raise awareness of conservation needs and values	Develop schools materials by m ¹² , establish programmes at 10 schools in four sites by m ¹² , train site groups in awareness raising techniques by m ¹² , implement community based awareness programme from m ¹⁵ to m ³⁶		

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

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year	Key milestones
Regular milestones (not listed here) include meetings of advisory groups and area project groups, visits by RSPB Programme Manager, reports to donors, annual project newsletter.		
Year 1 By August 2006	April – Mar 2006/7	Project Manager recruited and in post.
October 2006		Project structures in place.
November 2006		Project stakeholder consultations and MoU preparation.
		UK training visit by Project Manager and journey back via East Africa.
		Project start up meeting and first advisory group meeting.
February 2007		Training in project management and socio-economic assessments.
March 2007		Provisional decision on fourth project site.
		Community based fora in place and functioning at two sites – Eastern Cape and Soweto.
		Local training in group operations and project management completed at three sites.
		Management planning protocols and format agreed.
		Awareness programme planned and underway at two sites.
Year 2 May 2007	April – Mar 2007/8	Local stakeholder meetings and awareness raising activities continue.
By June 2007		Socio-economic assessments completed at three sites.
		Education materials produced and school programmes established.
		Training in awareness raising completed.
July 2007		First consultative workshops to develop management plans.
September 2007		First national network meeting.
November 2007		Socio-economic assessments completed at fourth site.
	Training in conservation and monitoring, and training of trainers completed.	
January 2008		Community based fora in place and functioning and regular programme of activities at all four sites.
March 2008		Training in fundraising and business planning delivered to project coordinators and key partners.
Year 3 April 2008	April – Mar 2008/9	Complete bird guide training programme for 10 persons and craft and other income generating programmes
May 2008		Local stakeholder meetings and awareness raising activities continue

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year	Key milestones
June 2008	April – Mar 2009/10	Training in delivery of advocacy as part of developing sustainable conservation programmes and gaining government support.
September 2008		Management plans completed at all sites. Local community group governance structures in place at three sites. Monitoring programmes in place at all sites. Income generating pilot programmes in place at three sites. Second network meeting. Pan African ornithological Congress – South Africa. Business plans completed at all sites.
February 2009		Meeting to agree future priorities for conservation at additional sites
By March 2009		Project proposals submitted to continue appropriate work at all four sites
Year 4		
April 2009		Local stakeholder meetings, income generating and awareness raising activities continue
May 2009		Implementation of management plans underway at all sites. Final project evaluation completed.
		Final project conference held and lessons disseminated

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.)
Training Outputs		
By June 2007	6A	1 Project Manager trained in UK in project management, socio-economic survey and assessment, training of trainers, biological monitoring, approx 4 weeks of training.
By June 2009	6A	Training of 50 people at project sites in each of training of trainers, awareness raising, biological monitoring and ecological principles = 3 weeks per person. 12 people trained in socio-economic assessment, 12 in fundraising, 12 in advocacy, 12 in business planning, 12 in project management – 0.5 weeks per person.
By June 2009	6A	10 people given Bird guide training – 1 month per person 20 local people given 3 weeks training each for income generating activities.
By June 2009	6B	Total training weeks above = 4 + 150 + 30 + 40 + 60 = 284 training weeks
By June 2008	7	Two. 1 education resource book. 1 site monitoring manual
Research Outputs		
By June 2009	8	We expect the project manager to spend 8 weeks in South Africa, the economist to spend 4 weeks, the research scientist to spend 4 weeks and the fundraiser to spend 2 weeks
By June 2009	9	We expect 4 management plans with linked business plans to be produced by the end of the project
By June 2009	11A	We expect 2 papers to be published by peer-reviewed journals, one on site monitoring and one on socio-economic assessments.
Dissemination Outputs		
By June 2009	14A	Three. One conference and two annual seminars will be organised to discuss and disseminate project outcomes
By June 2009	14B	At least 3 – international meetings/conferences and 3 national conferences will be attended
By June 2009	15A	Four national press releases/articles per year will be produced in South Africa
By June 2009	15B	Four local press releases/articles per year will be produced in South Africa
By June 2009	15C	One national press releases/article per year will be produced in UK
By June 2009	16A	1 project newsletter per year to be produced

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month	Standard output number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc.)
By June 2009	16B	Estimated circulation in South Africa 10,000
By June 2009	16C	Estimated circulation in UK 500
By June 2009	17A	One project dissemination network will be established by this Darwin project
By June 2009	18A	One national TV feature will be planned in each year in South Africa
By June 2009	19A	Four national Radio features will be planned in each year in South Africa
By June 2009	19C	Four local Radio features will be planned in each year in South Africa
Physical Outputs		
By June 2009	20	£13,500 of physical assets will be handed over to South Africa
By June 2009	22	20 permanent field plots will be established under the Darwin project for future monitoring purposes
Financial Outputs		
By June 2009	23	The amount leveraged from other funding sources under the Darwin project will be at least £154,000

PROJECT BASED 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.

A project steering group will meet at least twice a year comprising RSPB, BLSA Director and Project Manager, other partner NGOs and government representatives and the principal coordinator from each site. Each local project will also have an advisory committee with significant community representation.

Monitoring of progress will be based on the Darwin project logframe as well as more detailed workplans for each site. Specific note will be taken of the indicators and the risks/assumptions and the project implementation team will be tasked with collecting information vital to the verification of these indicators so that impact and progress can be gauged on a continuous basis. Thus the monitoring and evaluation will be primarily implemented by the South African project team.

An evaluation in the third year will focus primarily on the way forward so that project achievements can be sustained. A final conference will review successes and lessons learned. A number of opportunities will be taken to disseminate these lessons including the Pan African ornithological Congress and the BirdLife World Conference in 2008 and other meetings of the African birdlife partnership attended by around 20 countries.