



18-004



DARWIN200

Submit by Monday 30 November 2009

**DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 17: STAGE 2**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

**1. Name and address of organisation** (NB: Notification of results will be by post)

<b>Name: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</b>	<b>Address: Michael Brombacher, European Programmes and International Biodiversity Policy Department, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL Phone: 01767- 693113</b>
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**2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)**

Altyn Dala: supporting ecosystem-scale conservation in Kazakhstan
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**3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested**

<b>Proposed start date: 01/04/2010</b>		<b>Duration of project: 3 years</b>		<b>End date: 31/03/2013</b>	
<b>Darwin funding requested</b>	<b>2010/11 £120,460</b>	<b>2011/12 £89,886</b>	<b>2012/2013 £88,537</b>	<b>2013/14 £</b>	<b>Total £298,883</b>

**4. Define the purpose of the project (extracted from logframe)**

To protect threatened species and ecosystems in Central Asia by supporting the ground-breaking Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative through state-of-the-art research and strengthening of local capacity in landscape-scale conservation.
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**5. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than one overseas project partner.**

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
<b>Surname</b>	<b>Brombacher</b>	<b>Kamp</b>	<b>Sklyarenko</b>
<b>Forename (s)</b>	<b>Michael</b>	<b>Johannes</b>	<b>Sergey</b>
<b>Post held</b>	<b>Project Coordinator for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan</b>	<b>Research Biologist</b>	<b>Conservation and Science Director</b>
<b>Institution (if different to above)</b>	<b>RSPB (currently seconded to ACBK)</b>	<b>RSPB</b>	<b>ACBK</b>
<b>Department</b>	<b>European Programmes and International Biodiversity Policy Department</b>	<b>Conservation Science Department</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Telephone</b>			
<b>Email</b>			

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
4159	Mr Martin Davies	Directory of Sites of Ornithological Importance in Tanzania
8220	Mr Aidan Lonergan	Management planning for conservation of fen mire biodiversity in Belarus
10019	Dr Dieter Hoffman	Action plans for conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa
11003	Dr Paul Buckley	Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: Improving monitoring, management and conservation action
12010	Ms Sarah Sanders	Empowering the people of Tristan da Cunha to implement the CBD
12027	Mr Richard Cuthbert	Prediction and management of declines in Gyps species vultures (Jordan, Iran, India, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Caucasus)
12031	Dr Zbig Karpowicz	Implementing urgent conservation actions in mesotrophic fen mires in Belarus
13030	Dr Paul Donald	Gurney's Pitta research & conservation in Thailand & Myanmar
13031	Mr Alex Hipkiss	Pioneering an innovative conservation approach in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest
14027	Ms Sarah Sanders	Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills
14041	Mr Ian Barber	Strengthening the Indian Bird Conservation Network to Safeguard Key Sites
14049	Mr Alex Hipkiss	Participatory Management of Priority Biodiversity Sites in Taraba State, Nigeria
14061	Mr Michael Brombacher	Important Bird Area conservation and capacity building in Central Asia
15012	Mr Paul Buckley	Protected Key South African Biodiversity Sites Through Community Based Conservation
15032	Dr Paul Donald	Conserving a Flagship Steppe Species: the Critically Endangered Sociable Lapwing
10019	Mr Paul Buckley	Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa
16005	Dr Jeremy Lindsell	Biodiversity inventory and monitoring for conservation of threatened Sumatran forest
EIDPO 07 (post project)	Mr Paul Buckley	Ensuring Legacy and Conservation Impact within Kenya's Biodiversity Monitoring Network
EIDPO 22 (post project)	Dr Richard Cuthbert	Conservation actions to secure the recovery of Gyps species vultures
EIDPO 23 (post project)	Ms Sarah Sanders	Enabling the people of Tristan to implement the CBD in the marine environment
EIDPO 24 (post project)	Dr Paul Donald	Securing the future for Gurney's Pitta and its forest habitat
EIDPO 27 (post project)	Ms Sarah Sanders	Reducing the impact of feral livestock in and around the Centre Hills
EIDPO 35 (post project)	Dr Robert Sheldon	Tracking the Sociable Lapwing: conservation beyond the breeding grounds

**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)**

<b>Aims (50 words)</b>
<b>Activities (50 words)</b>
<b>Achievements (50 words)</b>

**8. Please list all the institutions involved including the UK/collaborative (where there are partners in addition to the applicant organisation) and host country partners that will be involved, and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of host country partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.**

<b>Lead UK institution and website where available:</b>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), see <a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk">www.rspb.org.uk</a>, is one of the largest conservation charities in Europe.. It is the UK partner of BirdLife International, a partnership of national conservation organisations from more than 100 countries worldwide.</li> <li>• The RSPB has over a million members (including 175,000 youth members), more than 1,800 regular staff and about 13,000 volunteers. The organisation manages over 200 nature reserves in the UK covering around 142,000 hectares.</li> <li>• Internationally, the RSPB supports partner organisations around the world, mainly through capacity building and advocacy in areas such as agriculture, water use, fisheries, transport, trade and biodiversity protection. It has formal, long-term relationships with partners in more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. In addition, the RSPB works with a number of other partners on specific issues, including research projects, site-based and species conservation as well as awareness raising projects.</li> <li>• The RSPB facilitated an initial planning workshop in 2005, which led to the development of the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI) and the formation of the project partnership described here. RSPB chairs the project's Steering Committee and provides co-funding to the core project budget.</li> <li>• The RSPB will oversee the management of this project and facilitate the exchange of experience between UK and Kazakhstani partners.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Lead host country Partner and website where available:</b></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p><b>The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan</b> (ACBK) is the BirdLife representative and a registered NGO in Kazakhstan. See als <a href="http://www.acbk.kz">www.acbk.kz</a>. They have been involved in all stages of the development of this Darwin project and led on the development of the logframe. Being now the largest and most important conservation organisation in the country, they completed two Darwin projects (Sociable Lapwing and Central Asian IBAs) in 2009 and are currently implementing a Darwin post project (Sociable Lapwing). The organisation employs 32 full time staff. It has established a growing network, currently comprising six local student wildlife conservation groups, and runs conservation projects in all regions of Kazakhstan. ACBK implements the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI), a large scale steppe ecosystem conservation initiative in Kazakhstan and is thus the RSPB's principal project partner in this application. The organisation has strong links with governmental organisations, such as the Committee for Forestry and Hunting within the Ministry of Agriculture, the principal authority responsible for protected areas and nature conservation in Kazakhstan. ACBK will undertake or supervise most of the project activities in collaboration with RSPB and other UK staff. ACBK will lead on the fieldwork and play a key role in increasing the pool of skilled local conservationists by training university students and graduates in workshops and during fieldwork. They will also secure the technical and logistical implementation of this project. In years 2 and 3 ACBK will lead on advocacy to ensure the dissemination of the scientific project results in an appropriate way to key decision makers in politics and science within and outside Kazakhstan. An international steppe conference scheduled to take place at the end of the project will be hosted and organized by ACBK.</p> <p>A Letter of Support is attached.</p>
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<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p><b>Karaganda State University</b> (<a href="http://www.eng.ksu.kz">www.eng.ksu.kz</a>) will be one of the two research partners within Kazakhstan and through their zoology and botany departments will provide expertise on plant and small mammal surveys. ACBK has a formal agreement with the university. Within the proposed project, Karaganda University will assist with the implementation of the project activities and the conservation and scientific capacity building component. Students of the zoology and botany departments will take part as Diploma and/or Master students but also others will participate who are engaged in the local student wildlife conservation club. The university plays an important role in ACBK's student wildlife club network in Kazakhstan. A total of 35 students have been involved in ACBK projects to date.</p> <p>The former club leader is fully employed now by ACBK. The dean of the Faculty for Biology &amp; Geography, A.M. Aytkulov, strongly supports the involvement of students in the project, helping them to gain additional practical experience in nature conservation techniques.</p> <p>A Letter of Support is attached.</p>
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<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p><b>The North Kazakhstan State University of Petropavlovsk</b> is one of the largest universities in northern Kazakhstan and will be one of the two research counterparts in Kazakhstan. The university has been the main partner with the DI Sociable Lapwing project and about 15 students have been taking part in internships. The university will be providing diploma and master students to take part in fieldwork in increase steppe ecosystem conservation and research capacity.</p> <p>A Letter of Support is attached.</p>
<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p><b>The Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan</b>, Committee for Forestry and Hunting (CFH) (see also <a href="http://www.fhc.kz">http://www.fhc.kz</a>) is the principal conservation authority in Kazakhstan. It is responsible for the funding and the management of protected areas and protection of species in Kazakhstan. The CFH is a key partner within the ADCI consortium and has supported and assisted with the implementation of ADCI from the very beginning. It was a key factor in helping achieve the early conservation successes of the Initiative. It has been consulted through all stages of the project and also for the development of this application. The CFH has been actively supporting and promoting the protection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) as priority sites for conservation. The IBA project has led to the development of ADCI. A first IBA, located on ADCI territory, is included in the national Protected Area development plan The area will be given an official protection status in 2010. For all direct conservation and management activities of the suggested Darwin project the CFH will play a leading role on the governmental side and ensure the approval and implementation of the ADCI Conservation Strategy (Objective 6).</p> <p>A Letter of Support is attached.</p>
<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p><b>Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)</b> is an internationally operating conservation organisation, currently involved in over 70 conservation projects in 30 countries. See also <a href="http://www.zgf.de">www.zgf.de</a>. The organisation can draw on long experience especially in the conservation of large mammals and Protected Area management. They are a key partner of the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative and focus mainly on saiga conservation and protected area establishment and management. FZS is a co-funder of the ADCI and will provide logistical and scientific support during saiga satellite tracking and take part in training of local students.</p> <p>A Letter of Support is attached.</p>

**9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, please give details:**

The Secretariat of the CMS, which oversees the CMS MoU on Saiga, has been involved in the development of this proposal and has provided a Letter of Support (attached to this application). This project meets a clear need within the Medium Term Work Programme of the Saiga MoU, in particular point 6.1 of the MTWP, which is given a priority of A2; being identified as urgent and important for the conservation of the species. The IUCN Antelope Specialist Group has also been consulted and has provided a letter of support (attached to this application).

The Saiga Conservation Alliance is a network of saiga conservationists, and a partner of the Wildlife Conservation Network ([www.saiga-conservation.com](http://www.saiga-conservation.com)). They publish *Saiga News*, a 6-language bulletin aimed at ensuring effective communication between all interest groups, and providing the main means of monitoring the progress of the CMS MoU on saiga conservation (through a contract from CMS to Imperial College London). This application is endorsed by the SCA, of which Professor Milner-Gulland is the Chair.

The global Secretariat of BirdLife International recognises steppe birds as a conservation priority and have provided a letter of support for this application (attached).

Funding for policy-related aspects of the ADCI has been secured through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP Kazakhstan, which strongly supports this proposal and recognises the complementarity of the two initiatives (letter of support attached to this application).

**9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, please give details:**

Taxon experts at the Universities of Petropavlovsk and Kustanai will be consulted where necessary, as will experts based at the Institutes of Botany and Zoology within the Kazakh Ministry of Education and Science (Almaty).

**9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, please give details:**

ACBK and RSPB collaborate very closely with the Committee of Forestry and Hunting (CFH) of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The CFH is the main conservation authority in the country and ACBK holds a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CFH on joint project implementation (IBA conservation, ADCI implementation) and liaises and cooperates with their staff on an almost daily basis. ACBK also has a non-formal but regular relationship with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of Kazakhstan in various fields: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, implementation of the Ramsar Convention (nowadays the responsibility moved to the CFH), the development of Protected Areas and many other topics. ACBK's Director was recently invited to co-chair a press conference together with the previous Minister Iskakov.

**9d. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CMS/CITES focal point in the host country?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, please give details:**

The project partners regularly liaise with the CBD focal point in Kazakhstan, Mrs. Galia Karibzhanova at the Ministry of Environmental Protection, within which Ministry ACBK also worked closely with the Minister and Deputy Minister, who are responsible for the implementation of the CBD in Kazakhstan. This close collaboration ensures the early involvement of key decision makers within governmental organisations. ACBK also liaises and cooperates regularly with CFH's Deputy Head Kh. Musabayev who is the CMS, Ramsar and CITES Focal Point. Both agencies have been involved in the development of the ADCI and were consulted during the development of this application.

**9e. Will your project support any work in the UK Overseas Territories?**  
**If yes, please give brief details stating which Territory/ies will be involved.**

Yes  No

## PROJECT DETAILS

**10. Please provide a Concept note (Max 1,000 words) (repeat from Stage 1, with changes highlighted)**

### The Problem

The vast steppes and semi-deserts of Kazakhstan were once Asia's equivalent of Africa's Serengeti, supporting huge herds of migrating grazers, followed by predators and scavengers. Species that are largely or wholly dependent on steppe or/and semi-desert include saiga antelope, goitered gazelle, kulan (wild ass), great bustard, demoiselle crane, pallid harrier, sociable lapwing, black-winged pratincole, black lark and white-winged lark; many of these are now globally threatened. BirdLife International has identified steppe bird species as being of particular international concern. Poaching has decimated the once vast herds of saiga antelope, a keystone migratory steppe species that is of particular interest to CMS and CITES and is listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered. The global significance of the grassland ecosystems of Kazakhstan and their accompanying wetlands was recognised in 2008 through the declaration of a small part of them as a World Heritage Site. Nonetheless, steppe grassland still has a lower proportion of its area under formal protection than any other biome on earth and is consequently of special interest for the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

The profound socioeconomic changes that followed the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 were accompanied by a massive decrease in domestic livestock numbers and a 95% decline in the saiga population, leaving large areas of pristine steppe lacking the grazing that its native wildlife requires. At the same time, the area ploughed for cereals decreased by 35%. All of this had large-scale impacts on steppe vegetation and wildlife. Pristine steppe grassland, two-thirds of which has been lost to agriculture in the last century, is now almost wholly restricted to Kazakhstan, making it the most important country for the survival of steppe habitat and biodiversity.

### The Proposed Project

In 2006, the Government of Kazakhstan launched the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI) in partnership with a group of national and international organisations (ACBK, RSPB, and FZS). Altyn Dala ("Golden Steppe") aims to conserve globally important biodiversity, flagship species and habitats in an integrated and representative ecosystem-scale network of protected areas covering between 3 and 4 million hectares, spread over an area totalling 56 million hectares (the size of France) across the Central Asian steppe and semi-desert belt. At present, however, there is little capacity to support this initiative with much-needed research. The proposed project aims to address urgent scientific questions regarding the conservation of the threatened steppe and semi-desert ecosystems, a poorly studied and little known environment. These questions include the following.

- Which areas hold the most important populations, and so should be priorities for protection?
- How do threatened species use the steppe and semi-desert zones of Central Asia?
- Do key areas for mammals, plants and birds coincide?
- What major land use changes are likely to take place in the ADCI and how will steppe and semi-desert species respond to them?

Answering these questions will maximise the impact of ADCI resources and so present a major opportunity for the Government of Kazakhstan to meet its obligations under the CBD and CMS, protecting a unique ecosystem and the species it supports and for which Kazakhstan has a global

responsibility. It will also greatly improve the present paucity of information on these important ecosystems. At the moment, such knowledge gaps cannot be filled by experienced researchers from Kazakhstan, since large numbers of them left the country during times of economic hardship in the 1990s, including many of the university staff needed to train future generations of conservationists.

### **Project Activities**

This project aims to build the technical support and capacity necessary to turn the Altyn Dala vision into a reality. The project partners will build on the expertise in steppe habitats and species research gained during previous Darwin projects (Sociable Lapwing project, Central Asian IBA project). The project will add an ecosystem-scale component to previous species- or site-based research by providing the technical input required to achieve a landscape-scale network of protected areas.

Research activities will include:

- mapping vegetation communities
- assessing bird and mammal densities in pristine and modified steppe and semi-desert habitats and the factors influencing them
- assessing socio-economic factors and their impacts on land use
- identifying saiga migration routes using GPS/satellite tracking technology
- using these results to develop predictive models of steppe land use and the response of steppe wildlife, and define conservation needs
- using these research outputs to identify priority areas for protection.

The final crucial step in this process will be to combine the results of the research into a species and habitats conservation strategy that is integrated into the core workings of ADCI. Technical development of local researchers and students will take place both formally and experientially, and will build upon the model developed very successfully during Darwin-funded work on Sociable Lapwings. An international conference on steppe and semi-desert ecology will be organised at the end of the project to disseminate best practice to other stakeholders and to help build a cadre of expertise in steppe and semi-desert ecology in Central Asia. The project will also generate capacity in advocacy skills amongst project partners, enabling them to work even more effectively with government and other agencies to develop and enhance the ADCI and steppe/semi-desert conservation in general. The project will thereby allow the ADCI consortium to proceed towards the vision of implementing an ecosystem-scale conservation mechanism of immense international importance.

### **Roles of the Partners**

**ACBK** will be the in-country project manager and will recruit, supervise and manage all new project staff. They will organise and (in conjunction with other partners) run training workshops and monitor research.

**Karaganda State University** and **North Kazakhstan State University of Petropavlovsk** will be the main research and student/postgraduates capacity building counterparts in Kazakhstan

**Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan** hosts the leading conservation authority of Kazakhstan and will ensure all logistical and political support throughout the project implementation (as done in previous Darwin projects)

**RSPB** will be the UK project manager and provide scientific and development support to all aspects of the project.



**11a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?  
Please give details:**

Although launched recently (2005), the ADCI is established as an ongoing initiative that has the support and ownership of the Government of Kazakhstan and a number of national and international NGOs. It receives both internal and external financial support, and is complemented by a recently approved GEF project. However, the ADCI currently has very limited capacity to generate the technical information necessary to its implementation, and the received GEF funding does not cover this type of research or capacity building. The proposed Darwin project is therefore a new initiative, though its main aim is to provide support to an existing one. This project will be able to draw upon and expand experience and expertise developed by earlier Darwin projects in the host country. Project staff will liaise closely with all other ADCI staff throughout the project to ensure the most efficient transfer of knowledge into the ADCI.

**11b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/Darwin Initiative projects carrying out similar work?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:**

The following international projects currently running or recently completed in Kazakhstan are of relevance to our proposed work. They all focus on steppe biodiversity and ecology, partly or entirely, and all have a clear conservation purpose. All involve partners in the current project.

- 1) The Darwin-funded Sociable Lapwing research and conservation project
- 2) A Darwin Sociable Lapwing Post Project
- 3) Single species projects on steppe raptors in Naurzum reserve ([www.natural-research.org/projects/Kaza.htm](http://www.natural-research.org/projects/Kaza.htm))
- 4) The Darwin-funded and completed project on Central Asian Important Bird Areas, applying a site-based approach to in-situ conservation of avian and other biodiversity

The proposed Darwin project is unique in terms of having an ecosystem approach with consideration of interactions of species, land use and habitat management. It will include a wide range of taxa, but will concentrate on steppe and semi-desert systems. The overall focus will be on scientific research, advocacy and capacity building, all with the aim of supporting the ADCI. Projects 1, 2 and 3 above focus mainly on single species without evaluating interactions across the whole ecosystem. As the UK project partners have been involved in projects 1, 2 and 4, and have spent several fieldwork periods in the host country, they will be able to rely on their experience in the host country and local networks. We will use outputs from projects 1, 2 4 while planning surveys and other fieldwork, e.g. on expertise from the Sociable Lapwing project regarding spatial grazing patterns of domestic livestock. ACBK's extensive experience in saiga ecology and distribution research gained in 2008 and 2009 forms the basis for the saiga component of the project; the data from the satellite tracked saigas will be used to develop habitat models. Members of all projects will be invited to actively participate in the scientific steppe conference scheduled for the end of the project. The proposed project will build upon the successful approaches adopted by the Darwin-funded IBA and Sociable Lapwing projects to strengthen conservation capacity by training local researchers and students.

**12. Please indicate which of the following biodiversity conventions your project will contribute to: -**

At least one must be selected.

- Only indicate the conventions that your project is directly contributing to.

- No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one convention

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
CITES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**What problem is this project addressing and how was it identified? (150 words)**

The Eurasian steppe is a threatened ecosystem holding many species of global conservation concern. Because many steppe species are migratory, an ecosystem scale approach is necessary (as recognised by CBD and CMS). This was recognised in the ADCI, which will create a network of protected areas covering both steppe and semi-desert. However, knowledge of the steppe and semi-desert ecosystems and wildlife is very poor, making it difficult for ADCI staff to identify priority areas for protection, buffer zones and corridors and define appropriate conservation measures. An additional problem is a shortage of local conservation scientists. This project aims to address these problems by providing the information necessary for the ADCI to have the greatest impact in conserving the steppe ecosystem while simultaneously developing national capacity. The ADCI project logframe was developed during a 4-day multi-stakeholder workshop that identified and agreed the main problems and a blueprint to address them.

**What will change as a result of this project? (150 words)**

The project will provide the information necessary to implement the ADCI and achieve its vision of an ecosystem-scale network of protected areas that supports all the components of steppe and semi-desert wildlife. This will be done through a programme of research that builds upon the experience of all project partners. As a result, stakeholders and partners of the ADCI will be able to rely on sound data on steppe and semi-desert biodiversity in order to develop a system of protected areas and management strategies and to guide state decisions in environmental protection. Simultaneously, the capacity of researchers in Kazakhstan to implement and later to support the ADCI into the future will be enhanced through formal training and practical experience. The ADCI's chances of achieving its goal to create an ecosystem scale conservation network will thus be maximised and information will be gathered that will guide steppe and semi-desert conservation elsewhere.

**Why is the project important for the conservation of biodiversity? (150 words)**

Temperate grasslands are the least protected biome on earth and have suffered enormous changes from extending land-use. This trend is expected to accelerate in the near future. However, the ADCI, which has the full and formal support of the Government of Kazakhstan, represents a unique opportunity to arrest or even reverse this decline and so to make a significant contribution towards improving the poor conservation status of many grassland species. The information generated will also inform key decision makers on how best to manage steppe and other habitats more generally, how to identify key areas for conservation and how to develop conservation strategies for species and habitats. The capacity of researchers and conservationists to tackle the challenges of biodiversity conservation in a rapidly developing country will be greatly enhanced by the project. It is anticipated that the ADCI will develop new standards for biodiversity conservation in Central Asia and beyond.

**How does this relate to one or more of the biodiversity conventions? (150 words)**

This project will assist the Kazakh government to meet its obligations to the **CBD** by addressing Articles 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18. It addresses Thematic Programmes *Agricultural Biodiversity* and *Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity* and Cross-Cutting Issues *Ecosystem Approach, Protected Areas, Identification and Technology Transfer and Cooperation*. It will support the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). The saiga is listed on Appendix II of **CITES**, and has been subject to a Significant Trade review. CITES has passed a number of Decisions on the species, including 14.91-97 at CoP14 (2007) urging countries to support the CMS's MTWP. The project will cover at least nine migratory species listed under Annexes I and II of the **CMS**. It will contribute towards the implementation of the saiga MTWP developed under the CMS MoU.

**13. How will the results of the project be disseminated; how will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways will the Darwin name and logo be used? (max 200 words)**

Project results will be published in international peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, popular magazines (e.g. RSPB members magazine, World Birdwatch, Saiga News etc.) and other media, and disseminated via television and radio interviews/broadcasts and presentations at conferences and meetings. Darwin will be acknowledged as the funder of this work in all such outputs. The Darwin logo will be displayed wherever appropriate, such as on vehicles, presentations, leaflets, publications and websites. RSPB and BirdLife International press releases about the progress of the project will acknowledge Darwin's contribution to the project; these will reach more than 1,500,000 people in the UK and abroad. The general public, and ornithologists in particular, are very interested in steppe, and the Sociable Lapwing Darwin Project has attracted considerable media interest. The Darwin logo will be featured in the design of the scientific conference on steppe biodiversity planned at the end of the project, and will appear on the final conference proceedings. The ADCI is an initiative to protect vast areas of pristine steppe and represents an internationally important project that will attract considerable international attention. Darwin would be credited as a major supporter of the ADCI through its funding of this project.

**14. What will be the long term benefits of the project in the host country or region and have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits? (max 200 words)**

This project will guide steppe and semi-desert conservation and management as well as sustainable land use in Kazakhstan and more widely. It will become the most important and wide-ranging scientific study of steppe and semi-desert and its conservation ever undertaken and set the standard for future work. The data will be permanently available to all decision makers and conservation scientists, and will lead directly to the development and implementation of steppe conservation strategies through the ADCI. Through training, financial and technical support, the scientific and technical capacity of local conservation staff and volunteers will be substantially increased. The institutional capacity of the national partners in the field of conservation project development and management will be greatly strengthened. A network of qualified field staff will be the basis for ongoing work on steppe biodiversity. Our currently poor knowledge of steppe and semi-desert ecosystems in Kazakhstan will be greatly improved, allowing conservation organisations in other parts of the Eurasian Steppe Belt (Ukraine, Russia) to base their conservation strategies for this habitat upon the outputs of this project. The legacy of this work will be that ongoing efforts at steppe conservation, backed by the Government of Kazakhstan, will have achieved their greatest potential.

**15. State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave? (Max 200 words)**

The Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative already has the support of a number of national and international stakeholders, including the Government of Kazakhstan. All partners recognise that the ADCI is a long-term investment and are planning accordingly. The ADCI has some guaranteed financial and institutional support from the ADCI partners and from a recent GEF award to support the implementation of the ADCI vision. However, this vision is hindered by a shortage of scientific information needed to maximise the impacts of the Initiative. This project aims to provide the scientific and technical support that is still needed, and will reach the stable end point of transferring knowledge and capacity into an ongoing initiative. The core activities of the current project will terminate after three years but will have a lasting legacy in ensuring that the longer-term efforts of the ADCI will have maximum impact. ACBK will continue to benefit from the support of the BirdLife Partnership, and the ADCI management committee will continue to have access to all the project's outputs and to the technical expertise developed during the project.

**16. If your project includes training and development, please indicate how you will assess the training needs in relation to the overall purpose of the project. Who are the target groups? How will the training be delivered? What skills and knowledge do you expect the beneficiaries to obtain. How will you measure training effectiveness. (max 300 words)** You should address each of these points.

The extensive knowledge held by the ADCI partners of current capacity, expertise and interest within Kazakhstan will be used to identify key individuals for involvement in the project and ascertain their detailed training needs. The project steering group will assess training and capacity building needs against each of the project activities and design a programme of personal development for each project staff member. This will combine formal and experiential training; progress against each personal development plan will be monitored. All project staff will work closely with recognised experts in biodiversity survey and monitoring methods and with taxon specialists from around the world. To develop capacity for the future, promising undergraduate students will be selected from a number of universities in Kazakhstan to help on the project and will receive both formal and experiential training. The best of these will then be recruited into the project on placements, following a model successfully developed during the Darwin Sociable Lapwing programme as well as the Darwin IBA Project. The latter has enabled more than 150 students to become involved in volunteer site-based conservation, monitoring and education activities. A network of seven local student wildlife clubs has been established and is maintained by ACBK. As the project progresses, an increasing proportion of the work will be undertaken by graduate students trained through the programme of capacity building. The extent to which this happens will be used as an indicator of the success of the capacity building activities. Much of the work will contribute to formal qualifications such as Diploma and Master studies. Participants in the project will develop or enhance their skills at biological recording, identification of taxa, analyses of remote sensing imagery, tracking of wildlife and the development and advocacy of management plans.

**LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

17. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex 3 of the Guidance Note. This should not have substantially changed from the Logical Framework submitted with your Stage 1 application. Please highlight any changes. (Use no smaller than Arial 10 pt)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Goal:</b> Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.			
<b>Sub-Goal:</b>  The Altyn Dala in Kazakhstan is restored and preserved as a unique ecological system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected area network established to protect widest possible range of species and ecosystems</li> <li>Extent of range and population levels of threatened or biome-endemic species at t<sup>0</sup> maintained or increased by t<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	Lists of protected areas  Species monitoring reports	
<b>Purpose</b>  To protect threatened species and ecosystems in Central Asia by supporting the ground-breaking Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI) through state-of-the-art research and strengthening of local capacity in landscape-scale conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of land use changes on steppe birds and mammals understood to inform ADCI conservation strategy</li> <li>Current and future threats to steppe biodiversity identified to inform ADCI conservation strategy</li> <li>Preliminary boundaries for Altyn Dala protected areas defined by habitat data, land use mapping and saiga movements</li> <li>ADCI strategy strengthened by the inclusion of scientific outputs by t<sup>3</sup> and promoted to key stakeholders</li> </ul>	Reports, scientific papers  GIS-based map system  ADCI strategy documents	Any future changes in the political situation of Kazakhstan do not prevent fieldwork for safety reasons
<b>Outputs</b>  1. Status and trends of land use in all vegetation zones of the Altyn Dala established and socio-economic drivers of land use changes established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of different habitat and land use types quantified and mapped by t<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Changes in livestock numbers and agriculture within the ADCI area quantified and their drivers identified</li> </ul>	Land use map covering the ADCI area  Scientific papers, talk at international conference	
2. Baseline data on natural vegetation communities mapped and community dynamics/changes in the Altyn Dala documented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of natural vegetation communities in selected study areas mapped</li> <li>Correlates of vegetation dynamics identified (e.g. fire, grazing, climate)</li> </ul>	Scientific papers, progress reports, conference papers and proceedings, maps, GIS database	

3. Distribution and habitat associations of key bird and mammal species of the Altyn Dala understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past and current distribution and abundance for key species understood by t3</li> <li>• Predictive habitat models developed and performance evaluated by t3</li> </ul>	Scientific papers, progress reports, web-site, talk at international conference, GIS database	
4. Research and conservation capacities among conservationists in Kazakhstan enhanced and secured in the long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of research undertaken by partners increases through life of project</li> <li>• Strategies for future research developed by partners by t<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• International conference on steppe/semi-desert research planned and key papers given by partners</li> </ul>	<p>Work plans, research strategy documents, training reports, databases</p> <p>Strategy documents, funding proposals</p> <p>Conference proceedings</p>	Students of sufficient calibre are available [Please note: The absence of this assumption was cited as a reason for rejection of this proposal in Round 16. However, our extensive experience Kazakhstan indicates that student capability is most unlikely to be a problem.]
5. Movements and habitat use of saiga antelope in the Altyn Dala clarified using satellite telemetry and significance of the species in the steppe/semi-desert ecosystem understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boundaries of important calving areas and winter distribution outlined</li> <li>• Spatial and temporal patterns of migration and habitat use mapped</li> <li>• Impacts of saiga grazing on vegetation and animal communities documented</li> </ul>	Scientific papers, progress reports, live tracking facility on the internet	
6. Species and site conservation strategy developed incorporating findings and recommendations from Output 1,2,3 and 5 and incorporated into ADCI strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADCI project/conservation strategy revised based on outcomes of this DI project</li> <li>• Boundaries of optimal protected areas determined and proposed to Government</li> <li>• Vulnerability of key species to different threats assessed and suggestions for conservation measures outlined by t<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Sustainable land-use practices identified, summarised in a document and approved by the government</li> <li>• Key papers for international conference on steppe/semi-desert research given by partners</li> </ul>	<p>ADCI strategy document</p> <p>Maps, strategy documents</p> <p>Scientific papers, talk at international conference</p> <p>Guide for sustainable land-use</p> <p>Conference proceedings</p>	The government makes appropriate use of the conservation strategy. [Please note: Again, the absence of this assumption was cited as a reason for rejection in Round 16. However, the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture is a project partner – together with previous experience – gives us confidence that this will not be an issue.]
7. Importance of the Altyn Dala and Central Asian steppe/semi-desert and threats to it more widely known, especially amongst key decision makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key decision makers have greater involvement in ADCI by t3 than in t0</li> <li>• Decision makers outside Kazakhstan contribute to international conference</li> <li>• Increased media attention (nationally and internationally) to ADCI through the DI project</li> </ul>	<p>ADCI progress report</p> <p>Conference proceedings</p> <p>Press coverage</p>	

**Activities** (details in workplan)

- 0.1 Set up project steering group
- 0.2 Project steering group meetings
- 0.3 Appoint project staff
- 0.4 Annual reporting
  
- 1.1 Collect available historical and current data on land-use in the ADCI area, especially from official statistical agencies, as well as socio-economical data
- 1.2 Analyse and ground-truth remote sensing data and develop maps showing the current distribution of different land-use types in Altyn Dala
- 1.3 Analyse data on land-use for trends in number of livestock and area ploughed
- 1.4 Analyse data on socio-economy and governmental programs for correlations with land-use in order to understand drivers for changes in land-use
- 1.5 Write and submit scientific papers
  
- 2.1 Undertake fieldwork to assess vegetation structure in relation to grazing pressure in 2 study areas representing different climatic conditions
- 2.2 Develop maps of vegetation structures for study areas
- 2.3 Assess recovery of steppe vegetation in fallow fields of different ages
- 2.4 Analyse data received from field work for correlations between vegetation and grazing pressure as well as ages of fallow fields and develop recommendations for optimal land-use intensity
- 2.5 Write and submit scientific papers and student theses
  
- 3.1 Collate data on steppe birds and small mammals (incl. literature review) and identify conservation and threat status of key steppe bird species
- 3.2 Conduct field bird and small mammal surveys of all major habitat types of the Altyn Dala region
- 3.3 Collect data on distribution of birds and mammals and habitat model covariates in steppe zone
- 3.4 Model bird and small mammal abundance, species richness etc. in relation to land use and other habitat covariates
- 3.5 Write and submit scientific papers and PhD thesis
  
- 4.1 Run training workshop on field survey methods for project staff in Kazakhstan
- 4.2 Experiential training of host country researchers and students during fieldwork
- 4.3 Produce bilingual (Russian, Kazakh) training materials
- 4.4 Partners in Kazakhstan develop future research strategy to support ADCI
- 4.5 Support at least 5 students in Kazakhstan to Diploma qualification
  
- 5.1 Train local staff in catching, handling, and collaring saigas
- 5.2 Catch saiga antelopes and fit satellite tags
- 5.3 Process submitted location data and permanently inform ADCI rangers and governmental institutions about saiga accumulations
- 5.4 Analyse the data, produce maps, and draw conclusions about saiga ecology and migration
- 5.5 Use the data to develop and validate a saiga habitat model
- 5.6 Prepare and submit scientific papers
  
- 6.1 Set up data bases and GIS containing all data gathered
- 6.2 Analyse available data for interrelations between different components of the geoecosystems of Altyn Dala as well as with anthropogenic impacts
- 6.3 Identify threats for key species and required conservation measures
- 6.4 Identify potential sites for protected areas and map them

- 6.5 Develop recommendations for sustainable land-use
- 6.6 Include all project findings into the ADCI species and site conservation strategy
- 6.7 Launch the conservation strategy in Astana and seek formal governmental endorsement

- 7.1 Permanently inform Kazakhstani decision makers about the project progress and results and get them involved in the project process
- 7.2 Prepare and organise international conference on steppe ecology and conservation
- 7.3 Run international steppe conference and publish proceedings
- 7.4 Communicate information about the project and its results to the general public

**Monitoring activities:**

- Indicator 0 Produce and disseminate annual reports (t1, t2 and t3)
- Indicator 1 Produce land cover map (t2)
- Indicator 2 Prepare progress reports (t1, t2 and t3)
- Indicator 3 Develop and populate project website (t1)
- Indicator 4 Prepare personal development plans for all project staff (t1)
- Indicator 5 Develop live tracking facility on website (t2)
- Indicator 6 Disseminate GIS database to all stakeholders and train them in its use (t2)
- Indicator 7 Prepare and disseminate briefing and advocacy materials (t3)



18. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Activity	Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
0.1 Set up project steering group	1												
0.2 Project steering group meetings	1												
0.3 Appoint project staff	1												
0.4 Annual reporting	1												
1.1 Collect available historical and current data on land-use in the ADCI area, especially from official statistical agencies, as well as socio-economical data	4												
1.2 Analyse and ground-truth remote sensing data and develop maps showing the current distribution of different land-use types in Altyn Dala	5												
1.3 Analyse data on land-use for trends in number of livestock and area ploughed	2												
1.4 Analyse data on socio-economy and governmental programs for correlations with land-use in order to understand drivers for changes in land-use	1												
1.5 Write and submit scientific papers	5												
2.1 Undertake fieldwork to assess vegetation structure in relation to grazing pressure in 2 study areas representing different climatic conditions	5												
2.2 Develop maps of vegetation structures for study areas	3												
2.3 Assess recovery of steppe vegetation in fallow fields of different ages	5												
2.4 Analyse data received from field work for correlations between vegetation and grazing pressure as well as ages of fallow fields and develop recommendations for optimal land-use intensity	3												
2.5 Write and submit scientific papers and student theses	6												
3.1 Collate data on steppe birds and small mammals (incl. literature review) and identify conservation and threat status of key steppe bird species	6												
3.2 Conduct field bird and small mammal surveys of all major habitat types of the Altyn Dala region	10												
3.3 Collect data on distribution of birds and mammals and habitat model covariates in steppe zone	10												
3.4 Model bird and small mammal abundance, species richness etc. in relation to land use and other habitat covariates	4												
3.5 Write and submit scientific papers and PhD thesis	6												
4.1 Run training workshop on field survey methods for project staff in Kazakhstan	1												
4.2 Experiential training of host country researchers and students during fieldwork	12												
4.3 Produce bilingual (Russian, Kazakh) training materials	2												
4.4 Partners in Kazakhstan develop future research strategy to support ADCI	2												
4.5 Support at least 5 students in Kazakhstan to Diploma/Masters qualification	12												

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5.1	Train local staff in catching, handling, and collaring saigas	1												
5.2	Catch saiga antelopes and fit satellite tags	1												
5.3	Process submitted location data and permanently inform ADCI rangers and governmental institutions about saiga accumulations	6												
5.4	Analyse the data, produce maps, and draw conclusions about saiga ecology and migration	6												
5.5	Use the data to develop and validate a saiga habitat model	6												
5.6	Prepare and submit scientific papers	6												
6.1	Set up data bases and GIS containing all data gathered	5												
6.2	Analyse available data for interrelations between different components of the geoeosystems of Altyn Dala as well as with anthropogenic impacts	4												
6.3	Identify threats for key species and required conservation measures	2												
6.4	Identify potential sites for protected areas and map them	2												
6.5	Develop recommendations for sustainable land-use	2												
6.6	Include all project findings into the ADCI species and site conservation strategy	2												
6.7	Launch the conservation strategy in Astana and seek formal governmental endorsement	1												
7.1	Permanently inform Kazakhstani decision makers about the project progress and results and get them involved in the project process	2												
7.2	Prepare and organise international conference on steppe ecology and conservation	3												
7.3	Run international steppe conference and publish proceedings	3												
7.4	Communicate information about the project and its results to the general public	4												

19. Please indicate which of the following Standard Measures you are likely to report against. You will not necessarily plan to cover all these Standard Measures in your project. Separate guidance on Standard Measures can be found at [http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/standard\\_measures/](http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/standard_measures/)

Standard Measure No	Description	Tick if Relevant
1A	Number of people to submit thesis for PhD qualification (in host country)	✓
1B	Number of people to attain PhD qualification (in host country)	
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc)	✓
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications (ie. Not outputs 1 or 2 above)	✓
4A	Number of undergraduate students to receive training	✓
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	✓
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	✓
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	✓
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	✓
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	✓
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	✓
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	✓
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	✓
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	✓
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	✓
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	✓
12A	Number of computer based databases to be <b>established</b> and handed over to host country	✓
12B	Number of computer based databases to be <b>enhanced</b> and handed over to host country	
13A	Number of species reference collections to be <b>established</b> and handed over to host country(ies)	
13B	Number of species reference collections to be <b>enhanced</b> and handed over to host country(ies)	
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be <b>organised</b> to present/disseminate findings	✓
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops <b>attended</b> at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	✓
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	✓
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	✓
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	✓
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	✓
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>established</b>	✓
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>enhanced/ extended</b>	
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	✓
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	✓
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	✓
18D	Number of local TV programmes/features in UK	✓
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	✓
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	✓
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	✓
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	✓
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	✓

21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	✓
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	✓
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	✓

## PROJECT BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**20. 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.**

The project leaders are all experienced in project management and have been involved in the successful running of a number of Darwin-funded projects. A steering group comprising members of all project partners will oversee the project and at the first meeting will develop and implement a project monitoring protocol to ensure all outputs are achieved and to ensure optimal information flow between all project stakeholders. Sub-groups comprising senior managers and taxon experts will be responsible for overseeing the progress of individual Outputs and the production of Indicators. These groups will seek external evaluation through peer review, for example by the Saiga Conservation Alliance, and standard Darwin reporting. The project leaders in UK and Kazakhstan will meet regularly throughout the project to evaluate progress and identify problems. The UK project leader will be assisted throughout by the RSPB's International Funding Unit (IFU), which has extensive experience in project management and fundraising. The project leader in Kazakhstan will be supported by the expertise and experience of other senior ACBK staff. ACBK have experience of implementing and managing Darwin projects through their involvement in previous projects (Central Asian IBAs and Sociable Lapwing – see section 11b). A mid-project review will be undertaken 18 months into the project to evaluate progress.

## FUNDING AND BUDGET

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which will provide the Budget information for this application. Some of the questions below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

**NB: Please state all costs by financial year (April to March). Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative will not be able to agree increases in grants to cover inflation on UK costs once grants are awarded.**

**21. How is your organisation currently funded? (max 100 words)**

<b>In 2008/9, the RSPB had a total gross income of £111.8million. This was made up as follows:</b>		
<b>Membership subscriptions:</b>	£29.4 million	26%
<b>Legacies:</b>	£26.6 million	23%
<b>Grants:</b>	£25.5 million	23%
<b>Mail order and shop income:</b>	£14.3 million	13%
<b>Donations and reserve entry fees:</b>	£3.1 million	3%
<b>Appeals:</b>	£3.5 million	3%
<b>Media Advertising:</b>	£1.2 million	1%
<b>Land and farming income:</b>	£1.9 million	2%
<b>Other Income:</b>	£6.2 million	6%

22. Provide details of all confirmed funding sources identified in the Budget that will be put towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity. Please include any additional unconfirmed funding the project will attract to carry out additional work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.

**Confirmed:**

Confirmed co-funding will be provided by RSPB (salaries, travel costs, project costs and overheads to the value of £XXX), Frankfurt Zoological Society (salaries, project costs and capital equipment to the value of £XXX), Gregor Louisider Foundation, Germany (salaries, project costs and capital equipment to the value of £XXX) and other ADCI partners (£XXX and £XXX)

**Unconfirmed:**

23. Please give details of any further funding resources (confirmed or unconfirmed) sought from the host country partner (s) or others for this project that are not already detailed in the Budget or Question 22. This will include donations in kind or un-costed support eg accommodation. (max 50 words per box)

Financial resources:
Funding in kind:

### FCO NOTIFICATIONS

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Please indicate whether you have contacted the local UK embassy or High Commission directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Yes, advice attached

No

### CERTIFICATION 2010/11

On behalf of the trustees/company\* of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

(\*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £120,460 in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 2011 on the activities specified in the above application.

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful. (This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the lead UK institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

I enclose a copy of the organisation's most recent audited accounts and annual report, CVs for project principals and letters of support.

Name (block capitals)	Dr Tim Stowe
Position in the organisation	Director of International Operations

Signed

*Tim Stowe*

Date:

## Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	yes
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	yes
Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	yes
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	yes
Is the logframe no longer than 2 pages and have you highlighted any changes since Stage 1?	yes
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email, but a wet signature should be provided in the hard copy version)	yes
Have you included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader, any other UK staff working 50%+ on this project, and for a main individual in each overseas partner organisation?	yes
Have you included a letter of support from the main overseas partner organisations?	yes
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	yes
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	yes
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	yes

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on **Monday 30 November 2009** to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the application number (from your Stage 1 feedback letter) and the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. However, if you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). **In addition**, a signed hard copy of the application and any supporting documents not available electronically should be submitted to the Darwin Applications, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL **postmarked** not later than **Tuesday 1 December 2009**.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites(details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.