



18-008



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:</b> RSPB	<b>Address:</b> The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, UK
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#### 2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Trans-boundary solutions to the Asian vulture crisis
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#### 3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

<b>Proposed start date:</b> 1/04/2010		<b>Duration of project:</b> 3 years		<b>End date:</b> 31/03/2013	
<b>Darwin funding requested</b>	<b>2010/11</b> £	<b>2011/12</b> £	<b>2012/2013</b> £	<b>2013/14</b> £	<b>Total</b> £

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

To improve trans-boundary collaboration and capacity in Nepal and India to implement effective conservation solutions for Asia's Critically Endangered vulture species
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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	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
<b>Surname</b>	Vickery		Chaudhary	Prakash
<b>Forename (s)</b>	Juliet		Anand	Vibhu
<b>Post held</b>	Head International Research		Vulture Officer	Principal Biologist
<b>Institution (if different to above)</b>			Bird Conservation Nepal	Bombay Natural History Society
<b>Department</b>	Conservation Science			
<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	Dr 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	Ms Sarah Sanders	Enabling the people of Tristan to implement the CBD in

(post project)		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)	Mr Robert Sheldon	Tracking the Sociable Lapwing: conservation beyond the breeding grounds N/A

**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> N/A
<b>Activities (50 words)</b> N/A
<b>Achievements (50 words)</b> N/A

**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>  Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  <a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk">www.rspb.org.uk</a>	<b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b> The RSPB has supported vulture conservation activities in India and Nepal since the discovery of the declines in the late 1990s. As the UK's BirdLife partner the RSPB also provides core funding to the project's two main partners in Nepal and India. The RSPB has been closely involved in research efforts to uncover the cause and find solutions to the vulture declines. The RSPB will lead in this project to provide support for the vulture conservation breeding centres, vulture advocacy programme, the expansion of Vulture Safe Zones and guidance on vulture conservation research. RSPB staff time and funds for the breeding centres provides an annual total of more than £250,000 of co-funding to the vulture programme.
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<b>Lead host country Partner and website where available:</b>  Bird Conservation Nepal  <a href="http://www.birdlifenepal.org">www.birdlifenepal.org</a>	<b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b> Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) is the official BirdLife partner within Nepal and has been involved with vulture conservation activities for the last 10 years. As well as being one of the three Nepalese partner organisations running the Vulture Breeding Centre and producing the countries Vulture Action Plan, BCN undertakes research and monitoring, vulture conservation advocacy and the capture of birds for the breeding centres. BCN has led the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones in Nepal and South Asia and these are showing early signs of success.
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<p><b>Lead host country Partner and website where available:</b></p> <p>The Bombay Natural History Society</p> <p><a href="http://www.bnhs.org">www.bnhs.org</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p>India's BirdLife partner, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), was responsible for discovering the decline of vultures in the late 1990s and has remained fully involved with vulture conservation, from working to uncover the cause of declines to the recent successful breeding of vultures in captivity. BNHS manages the three founding Vulture Breeding Centres in India and will coordinate all training and the expansion of this programme, as well as the transfer of skills and experience to Nepal. BNHS will advise and work on conservation in the field, particularly the monitoring of remaining populations. BNHS's vulture advocacy programme will be utilised to ensure a strong message is available to remove diclofenac from conservation sites.</p>
<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>The Zoological Society of London</p> <p><a href="http://www.zsl.org">www.zsl.org</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p>The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) has been closely involved with vulture conservation since 2000 and played a key role in diagnosing the cause of declines. More recently, the work of ZSL's international conservation and zoo programmes has been crucial in guiding the running and management of the vulture breeding centres. In this project, ZSL will lead on providing veterinary training and staff capacity building to the vulture breeding centres in India and Nepal.</p>
<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>International Centre for Birds of Prey</p> <p><a href="http://www.icbp.org">www.icbp.org</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p>The International Centre for Birds of Prey (ICBP) and associated trust (The National Bird of Prey Trust) managed by Jemima Parry-Jones MBE has supported vulture conservation in Asia from the beginning of this work, providing funds and experienced advice to the vulture centres. In this project, the ICBP will provide training and technical guidance to expand captive breeding efforts within the vulture centres.</p>
<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>National Trust for Nature Conservation (Nepal)</p> <p><a href="http://www.ntnc.org.np">www.ntnc.org.np</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p>Nepal's National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) is one of three partner organisations within Nepal that have signed a joint MOU to run and maintain the country's Vulture Breeding Centre and produced Nepal's Vulture Action Plan. NTNC is one of Nepal's largest conservation organisations running a wide variety of projects across the country. NTNC is responsible for staffing and running the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre and will retain that role within this project, as well as providing support and guidance to other vulture conservation initiatives within Nepal.</p>

<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (Nepal)</p> <p><a href="http://www.dnpwc.gov.np">www.dnpwc.gov.np</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p>The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is the government department responsible for conservation in Nepal and with BCN and NTNC is one of the three partners on the vulture programme. DNPWC has published Nepal's Vulture Action Plan setting out the country's programme for the recovery of vultures. DNPWC owns and manages the site of the Vulture Breeding Centre and is responsible for facilitating the collection of vultures and permission for vulture research and conservation activities, both within and out with protected areas.</p>
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<p><b>9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, please give details:</b></p> <p>We are in contact with local stakeholders in both India and Nepal. These include Himalayan Raptor Rescue (HRR) a privately run organisation based in Pokhara, Nepal and the International Trust for Nature Conservation (ITNC), also based in Nepal. HRR supported the vulture programme in Nepal by undertaking initial training of the vulture centre keepers and holding captured vulture chicks, prior to transfer to the centre. ITNC have previously provided funding for the first Vulture Safe Zone (VFZ) close to Chitwan National Park. Both HRR and ITNC are involved with plans to establish a VSZ in the Pokhara area and are providing funding and logistical support. Himalayan Nature is involved with research and monitoring of vultures within lowland districts of Nepal, and is involved with vulture advocacy work in these local areas. Within India, we are in contact with the Mahseer Conservancy who oversee and work in the Corbett National Park and are undertaking vulture and diclofenac monitoring programmes in this area. The Mahseer Conservancy have expressed keen interest in establishing a similar Vulture Safe Zone scheme as undertaken in Nepal.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, please give details:</b></p> <p>A meeting of all the state representatives of the Indian Bird Conservation Network (run by BNHS) is fixed for February 2010 and opportunities arising in this project will be discussed with relevant state partners. It is also planned to involve local groups and national park staff in similar work in the Dudhwa and Katarniaghat National Parks and their surrounding areas in Uttar Pradesh, India. Visits to these sites made by RSPB and BNHS vulture staff in 2009 raised the potential for working in these areas due to the continued presence of vultures at these sites and enthusiastic local conservation organisations working at these sites. We have also contacted individuals working at the Ugwen Wangchuck Institute of Conservation and Environment (UWICE) within Bhutan to see if trans-boundary efforts for vultures can be established in this nation bordering India and Nepal. While there is currently no BirdLife partner or major conservation partners within Bhutan, the UWICE institute is mandated to conduct research, and to initiate policy dialogue and training: objectives that should fit well with the trans-boundary objectives of this project.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, please give details:</b></p> <p>Within India, discussions on vulture conservation are regularly held with the National Government through high-level contacts at the Ministry of Environment Forests (MoEF). Contact with the Chief Wildlife Wardens and State Governments is also frequent within all states holding vulture breeding centres (Assam, Haryana and West Bengal), as well as states where vulture</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

populations remain and monitoring and conservation work is being undertaken by the BNHS (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkand, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh)

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

Within Nepal, Dr Hum Gurung, Chief Executive Officer for BCN has discussed the issue of vulture conservation and the proposed plans for further work with the CBD focal point contact Dr Krishma Chandra Paudel (Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal).

In India, Dr Asad Rahmani, Director of BNHS, previously contacted (in 2007) the CBD contact point (Mr. Desh Deepak Verma, Joint Secretary C.S. Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India) to inform him of the vulture conservation work that BNHS was undertaking. The close working relationship of BNHS and the MoEF means that the Government of India is aware of the broad programme of work being undertaken to save Asian vultures.

**9e. Will your project support any work in the UK Overseas Territories?**  Yes  No  
If yes, please give brief details stating which Territory/ies will be involved.

N/A

## PROJECT DETAILS

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

n.b. substantive changes in the text from Stage 1 are underlined in the concept note below:

The collapse in South Asia's vulture populations, due to poisoning by the veterinary drug diclofenac, has received worldwide publicity. Detailed population modelling shows that, as this poison is still widespread, a comprehensive programme of *in-situ* action and captive breeding is critical to prevent vulture extinctions. Previous work funded largely by Darwin identified the main cause of the vulture declines and initiated substantial efforts to secure the recovery throughout India and Nepal. Three complimentary tasks are central to the successful recovery of vultures: consolidating vulture breeding centres and building staff capacity, increasing the effectiveness of the diclofenac ban through education, advocacy and continued monitoring of diclofenac levels, and undertaking *in-situ* conservation actions around remaining colonies.

Because of increasingly strong relations between India and Nepalese partners in vulture conservation, the widespread manufacture and flow of veterinary products across borders, and the fact that vultures range over hundreds of kilometres and national borders, this Darwin project will focus on trans-boundary efforts to save these species.

*In-situ* vulture conservation in Nepal, supported by the current Darwin project, is showing encouraging results with one colony increasing from 17 to 45 pairs in three years. The actions taken combine regular provision of diclofenac free carcasses at vulture "restaurants" and an advocacy, education and drug-swapping campaign to replace diclofenac with a safe drug around the feeding sites. This combination of activities is termed a Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ). However, local increases in breeding numbers at such sites might have occurred because of redistribution of birds over a wide area, without necessarily increasing vulture populations. Simulation modelling indicates that maximising the benefit from VSZs requires (1) the operation of several adjacent vulture restaurants, and (2) removing diclofenac for veterinary use over a large surrounding area. Hence, increasing the number of VSZs in Nepal, merging them and increasing the density of

vulture restaurants within them is essential. Satellite tracking shows that vultures from Nepal's current *in situ* sites move to India, where carcass sampling indicates diclofenac contamination remains high. Trans-boundary efforts to expand the VSZ programme into India will therefore be vital. This will be achieved through working with local conservation groups belonging to the Indian Bird Conservation Network (managed by BNHS) and other local conservation organisations and national park staff, to set up parallel VSZs in areas bordering Nepal.

The large scale movements of vultures means that testing the effectiveness of the *in-situ* work will require integration internationally, with monitoring in similar ecological zones in India and Nepal. Building on previous Darwin work, this project will monitor vulture populations, track movements of satellite tagged birds in key areas (funded by the RSPB), and monitor stocks of veterinary drugs and levels of diclofenac contamination in India and Nepal. In order to test the efficacy of this programme, before and after monitoring of drugs and vultures will be undertaken in areas where new VSZs are set up and in control areas where there are no focused *in-situ* activities to conserve vultures.

*Ex-situ* work will seek construction and running costs for the new vulture centre in Nepal, reviving a request from an earlier Darwin project, which was granted but could not be accomplished during the country's Maoist insurgency. Those Darwin funds were (with permission) diverted to the BNHS centre in West Bengal, and this application will provide the same level of support to Nepal as originally envisaged. This will cover the construction of a second colony/breeding aviary, chick aviaries, an education room and improved water and power to provide the infrastructure for the required expansion of the breeding centre. While this capital expenditure is expensive (>10% of the budget), it is essential for the programme. Both population and genetic modelling indicate more birds are required in order to prevent inbreeding and to allow captive numbers to increase at the required rate of 8-10% a year. Darwin funds will cover staff costs for the centres in Nepal and West Bengal, thereby providing stability to partner organisations, as well as 50% of feeding costs for the Nepal centre. The project will continue staff training for the veterinary treatment and care of captive birds (led by ZSL and the ICBP), production of a studbook, and training in fieldwork and fundraising. Feeding of captive vultures is increasingly costly, so we will trial alternatives, including appropriate breeds of goat, rabbits and rats. Road and train-killed wild ungulates are a further possible food source that state governments have agreed could potentially be supplied, but the cost-effectiveness and safety (for vultures and project staff) of handling this unpredictable food source needs testing. If successful, such options will help reduce future costs and provide livelihoods to local communities.

The *in-situ* programme and captive breeding programmes are complementary because the eventual re-introduction or supplementation of wild populations using captive-bred stock will require safe areas where drug use is known to be compatible with vulture population persistence. The proposed expansion of the VSZ programme offers a practical means of delivering areas sufficiently free from diclofenac contamination and verifying that they are suitable.

Considerable financial support from the RSPB for breeding centres, research costs and staff time combined with funds and staff time from ZSL and ICBP for technical support, and leverage from other funding sources provided an estimated £643,335 of co-funding to the last full Darwin (Ref 162/12/027). Growing interest from national governments in Nepal and India is providing further financial support for the project with funds recently committed for major construction work and running costs in Indian centres. The vulture conservation project attracts considerable publicity, in India, Nepal and the UK, providing vital interest in the programme, as well as the Darwin

Initiative's role in this work. National and international support and interest has also given "Vulture Safe Zones" a high profile and because these sites also attract tourists, they have been supported from local communities and the potential to be self-sustaining. Local conservation organisations within Nepal have already provided support for Vulture Safe Zones, through providing funding and assistance on the ground, and prospects for long-term support.

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

The proposed Darwin project represents a critical continuation of a large-scale and long-term programme to prevent the extinction of vultures across South Asia. A comprehensive programme of diagnostic research was initiated in 1990s by the main partner organisations in this application (BNHS, BCN, RSPB and ZSL) following detection of widespread population declines of resident *Gyps* vultures. The identification of diclofenac poisoning as the cause led partners to develop a coordinated programme of advocacy, captive breeding, capacity building and training, research and *in-situ* conservation activities across India and Nepal, many elements of which have been financed by the Darwin Initiative. This proposed Darwin represents a crucial expansion of existing activities focused on the early but growing successes of the captive breeding programme, capacity building, and the Vulture Safe Zones initiative. The project will build upon these successful elements and the increasing trans-boundary cooperation between partners that is essential for saving vultures across South Asia. As such, this proposed work is embedded within, compliments and extends a well-established programme of work involving input from a wide range of partners across the vultures' range. A failure to maintain and expand these activities poses a real risk of these three species becoming extinct in the Indian subcontinent.

**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:**

N/A

**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)  Yes  No

CITES  Yes  No

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)  Yes  No

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

The decline in South Asia's vulture populations was detected in the late 1990s, prompting intensive diagnostic research that revealed poisoning by diclofenac to be the cause of this decline. Ongoing declines, at rates of up to 44% a year, continue in the remaining populations. Four resident species are now Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, with declines in excess of 99% recorded for these formerly abundant species. The loss of vultures has created severe social problems across South Asia as these species were formerly the principal means of disposing of livestock carcasses, an essential ecosystem service that helped limit feral dog numbers and the risk of disease in humans. Due to the rapidity of the declines a coordinated programme of advocacy to ban diclofenac, identify safe alternatives, captive breeding for future reintroductions, and conservation of the small remaining populations are all vital elements for the survival of



these species.

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

This Darwin project will establish landscapes free of diclofenac in areas where vultures persist and determine the effectiveness of this work at protecting and enhancing vulture populations. This will be achieved by expanding the successful "Vulture Safe Zone" programme piloted in Nepal through increasing the number and area of these sites, removing veterinary diclofenac, educating and involving local communities, and providing safe food sources for vultures. Due to the extensive ranging behaviour of vultures, it is critical to ensure safe areas extend across more extensive areas of both Nepal and India. The project will provide secure financial footing for staff at two vulture breeding centres in Nepal and West Bengal, as well as the infrastructure at the Nepal centre required for expansion. Training of project personnel will underpin the Nepalese and the larger India breeding programmes with core skilled staff essential for the long-term success of the centres.

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

The project is vital to avert the extinction of three Critically Endangered vulture species that are resident in South Asia. Populations of Oriental white-backed, long-billed and slender-billed vultures are all now reduced by >98% and on the brink of extinction. Two other vulture species, the Egyptian and red-headed, are also declining and are classified as Endangered and Critically Endangered, respectively. The removal of diclofenac from the environment, the expansion of captive breeding centres and eventual reintroduction of birds bred within these centres will prevent the extinction of these species. Efforts to remove diclofenac will also benefit vulture species that are currently not held in the centres but likely to be poisoned by diclofenac contamination.

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

This project is of direct relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which aims to 'Conserve biodiversity, use it in a sustainable fashion and share the benefits that arise from it in a fair and equitable way'. It will contribute in particular to articles 6 (measures for conservation and sustainable use), 7 (identification and monitoring), 8 and 9 (in-situ and ex situ conservation), 12 and 13 (research, training, education and awareness), 16 and 17 (exchanging information and expertise). Recognition of vultures within the CBD framework is demonstrated by the inclusion of vultures within Nepal's 4th report to the CBD, with vultures listed as one of the key indicator species within the country's national targets under Goal 2, to "Promote the conservation [and documentation] of species diversity". Similarly, the creation of vulture breeding centres and conservation initiatives for threatened vultures, are reported within India's 4th national report to the CBD.

**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)**

Progress and results of this project will be disseminated through scientific publications, training reports and manuals, popular articles, talks and press coverage (both national and international), and the project's website ([www.vulturerescue.org](http://www.vulturerescue.org)). The Darwin Initiative will be acknowledged in all promotional material produced during the project, including conservation education posters and pamphlets, training materials, and project newsletters. Support from the Darwin Initiative will be reported in all talks and seminars, and in the acknowledgements of all scientific

publications. The Darwin Initiative's support and logo will also be visible at the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres, which are visited by many wildlife officials, state ministers, international conservationists, and by officials from the British High Commission. Press releases made by the RSPB and ZSL to create national and international publicity on the vulture programme will always acknowledge the support provided by the Darwin Initiative. Lastly, the project's website lists all funding organisations including the key support from the Darwin Initiative.

**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)**

*Benefits*

The project will help prevent the extinction of three species of vulture and the eventual recovery of viable vulture populations within the wild. As well as conserving biodiversity, this will provide broader benefits due to the crucial ecosystem service that vultures provide through their rapid disposal of livestock carcasses, as well as their role in human "sky burials". Collaboration between organisations in India and Nepal, and trans-boundary efforts for vulture conservation will provide longer-term benefits for other international conservation initiatives shared by these countries. The skills and capacity created by the breeding centres will have a wider and lasting impact for the conservation of biodiversity within South Asia, through creating the necessary expertise for future captive breeding programmes.

*Potential problems*

Due to the sheer scale and speed of the vulture declines within South Asia, it is possible that if the range states fail to urgently and completely remove diclofenac from the environment that wild populations of vultures could become extinct. Urgent and large-scale conservation initiatives to remove diclofenac are therefore required within a region not noted for the speed of government action. Political instability within Nepal and areas of India may also present challenges for the running of the programme.

**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)**

This Darwin Project is central to a much larger programme of work aimed at averting the global extinction of vultures in Asia. The establishment of Vulture Safe Zones through the active involvement of local stakeholders will ensure awareness is raised and local support is established. This is ultimately the only way in which such an initiative can be assured to continue in the long-term. We expect that conservation breeding will be required for an extended period in view of the wide scale contamination of diclofenac. Beyond this proposed Darwin project, we expect to have built up the required captive populations of vultures that will provide the necessary supply of fledglings for subsequent re-introduction, once it is safe to do this. Once conservation breeding infrastructure is in place, partners will continue to seek funding for on-going running and improvements. Financial and logistical support for the breeding programme is already increasing and reaching significant levels in India, as the Indian partners and Indian government take an increasing role in running the programme. Partners are committed to continuing to support these centres for as long as is required to achieve long-term, viable wild vulture populations across their former range.

**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 to you expect the beneficiaries to obtain. How will you measure training effectiveness. (max 300 words)**

*Assessing training needs*

Guidance on assessing training requirements will be sought from the host country partners (identifying gaps in knowledge or expertise) and recommendations of veterinarians and captive breeding experts from ZSL and ICBP. Staff for training will be selected on the recommendation of the host country partners.

*Target groups*

Keepers, veterinarians and breeding centre staff are the core group for training. Additionally, training will be given to field biologists and other project staff where this will enhance research, publicity and fund raising.

*Delivery of training*

Training to breeding centre staff will be delivered by experts from ZSL and ICBP through visits to undertake workshops. Inter-country visits between staff from the Nepalese and Indian vulture programme will also take place to share skills, following a successful 'exchange programme' used in the previous Darwin vulture project. Staff will be brought to the UK for specialised training, when it is not possible to deliver such training within the host countries.

*Outcome of training*

Improved knowledge, skills and experience in the captive management and care of vultures within the captive breeding centres. Specific skills enhanced for project staff on research techniques, analysis and scientific reporting, practical field skills and increased capacity of partner organisations to raise increased publicity and funding.

*Measuring effectiveness*

Training will be assessed, and reported on, by experts from ZSL and ICBP, with the successful running of breeding centres by project partners being the ultimate measure and reflected in the numbers, survival, health and productivity of birds. Training to researchers and project staff will be assessed by the independent production of reports, scientific papers, press releases and popular articles and increased publicity and fund-raising. Staff on exchange visits will be required to 'report back' the information and expertise they acquire to colleagues through post exchange workshops or discussions.

**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)

Any substantive changes from Stage 1 are underlined

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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>			
<b>Sub-Goal:</b>  The establishment of self-sustaining wild vulture populations in South Asia in an environment free from diclofenac and other harmful toxins	SG(1) Wild vulture populations increase in numbers and expand in range and captive vulture populations successfully released and surviving in South Asia  SG(2) Contamination of vulture food sources with diclofenac and other harmful veterinary drugs falls to levels that will not impact on the population  SG(3) Improvement in IUCN threat status of critically endangered vulture species	Reports to host country governments and peer-reviewed scientific papers document reduction in levels of diclofenac contamination, increasing vulture numbers and successful release of birds  IUCN Red List reflect reduced threat to vultures in Asia	
<b>Purpose</b>  To improve trans-boundary collaboration and capacity in Nepal and India to implement effective conservation solutions for Asia's Critically Endangered vulture species	P(1) Increase in number and area of Vulture Safe Zones within Nepal and in neighbouring areas of India  P(2) Increased capacity of staff at Breeding Centres and Vulture Safe Zones to sustain vulture conservation activities  P(3) Vulture Conservation Breeding Programmes in India and Nepal continue to expand	Vulture Safe Zones are registered within local States/Districts and recognised nationally as focal sites for conservation  Training reports and activities produced for partners and posted on project website  Breeding centre annual reports to government and international partners document increase in captive vulture numbers and infrastructure	Host countries remain politically stable and local areas surrounding vulture conservation projects remain safe for project staff  No other conservation issues arise to provide significant new threat to vulture conservation  National and international will and funding remains sufficient to support vulture conservation activities

<b>Outputs</b> 1. Expansion of <i>in-situ</i> vulture conservation projects across Nepal and in neighbouring areas of India	1a >4 Vulture Safe Zones established in Nepal and minimum 1 Vulture Safe Zone established in adjacent areas of India	1a. Annual reports for Nepalese and Indian State governments and international partners document establishment of sites	National and local support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation continues Local political and economic situation remains stable and safe for project areas
2. Effectiveness of <i>in-situ</i> conservation actions tested across Nepal and India	2a. Monitoring of vulture populations, use of veterinary drugs, and diclofenac in carcasses undertaken in two geographically distinct areas	2a. Peer-reviewed scientific paper detailed results of work produced and published	Monitored vulture populations remain extent Pharmacies and vets allow monitoring of stocks
3. Infrastructure for the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Nepal <u>and West Bengal</u> is increased in capacity	3a. Second colony aviary, chick aviaries, veterinary facility and visitor & education facilities constructed on the site, with supporting infrastructure (water & power) in place in Nepal. <u>Visitor &amp; education facilities at West Bengal</u>	3a. Completed construction and infrastructure in place and documented on project website and reports to Nepalese government and international partners	National and local political situation remains stable and safe for construction to take place Availability of key construction materials, fuel and power to the site during construction Continued support from Nepalese Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for construction on park land
4. Breeding Centre staff supported at Nepalese and West Bengal centres for three-year term of project	4a. A minimum of six staff employed <u>and trained</u> by the project in both India and Nepal	4a. Contracts with BNHS and BCN and annual reports document numbers of staff in employment	Qualified and suitable staff retained and/or available for recruitment to project Local political situation remains safe for staff to work on the project
5. Training and capacity of staff in India and Nepal increased with further cooperation between the two country's programmes	5a. International visits by 2 staff to UK to receive training  5b. Training workshops (2 x 1 week in each year) run by project in host countries and <u>training materials and studbook produced</u>  5c. Annual exchange/training visits between Indian and Nepalese partners in each year of project	5a, b & c. Reports from international visits, training workshops and exchange visits produced for funders and posted on project website Certificates document training received and produced for funders	International visas issued to allow training visits to UK or elsewhere Time and availability of ZSL, RSPB and ICBP staff to visit and run training workshops in host countries <u>[n.b. proposed enrolment of staff on degree courses, mentioned in the stage 1 application, has been removed as while of benefit to individual staff it is not essential for the overall programme. If other funding sources allow this, then this will still be pursued]</u>
6. Trials of alternative food sources for captive vultures undertaken and feasibility of large-scale production assessed	6. Small-scale facilities for rearing rabbits/rats and goats/buffalo established with local communities in areas around vulture centres	6. Annual reports produced for project funders on success of small-scale projects and feasibility assessment of large-scale project	Support and availability of personnel from local community to work on project

**Activities**

- 1.1 Sites and local conservation NGO partners identified for expansion of Vulture Safe Zones (VSZ) in Nepal and neighbouring areas of India
- 1.2 Agreement in place with local and national partners for *in-situ* work
- 1.3 Diclofenac stocks removed and replaced with vulture safe meloxicam in VSZ, infrastructure and agreements in place for herding cattle and feeding sites established around breeding colonies, local advocacy programme and printed materials in place, and monitoring of vulture numbers established by local teams
- 2.1 Minimum of one suitable control site for monitoring effectiveness of *in-situ* work located in same eco zone in India
- 2.2 Vulture monitoring, NSAID surveys and carcass samples collected from Nepal and India from *in-situ* sites and from control area(s) in India
- 3.1 Continued support from DNPWC and West Bengal State for expansion of project infrastructure at the site in Chitwan National Park and Buxa Tiger Reserve
- 3.2 Design and budget for aviaries and visitor facilities agreed with project partners in Nepal and West Bengal
- 3.3 Colony aviary, chick aviaries and visitor facilities constructed
- 3.4 Pump and tanks installed to improve water supply, and back-up generator bought and installed to provide reliable electricity
- 4.1 Recruitment and renewed contracts for breeding centre staff in Nepal and West Bengal centres
- 5.1 Training requirements for project staff identified, air-tickets bought and dates fixed for staff visits to UK
- 5.2 Training workshops planned for Nepal/India and ZSL/RSPB/ICBP staff and dates fixed for visits
- 5.3 Themes and visits for staff in Nepal and India agreed and visits arranged
- 6.1 Small-scale trials of alternative food sources established with local communities surrounding breeding centre in Nepal and West Bengal
- 6.2 Feasibility study and evaluation of alternative food sources undertaken, with expansion of programme if successful

**Monitoring activities**

**SG(1):** Remnant wild vulture populations increase in numbers and expand in range, captive vultures successfully released and surviving in South Asia - Annual monitoring and reporting of remnant wild population, records of captive vulture populations and breeding success maintained at each centre., records of annual numbers released and annual monitoring and tracking of released birds to determine survival and recruitment rates

**SG(2):** Contamination of vulture food sources with diclofenac and other harmful veterinary drugs falls to levels that will not impact on the population – Proportion of carcasses with diclofenac recorded across representative sample of sites in India and Nepal, and trends in contamination levels reported upon on a 3 yearly basis. Prevalence of diclofenac in pharmacies and levels of drug swapping required in VSZ recorded

**SG3:** Improvement in IUCN threat status of Critically Endangered vulture species – Population data inputted to Red List Authority review data sets and annual IUCN Red List update enables changes in threat status to be demonstrated

**P(1):** Increase in number and area of Vulture Safe Areas within Nepal and in neighbouring areas of India – At least 4 VSZ established in Nepal and 1 in adjacent areas of India by end of project, demonstrated by registration documents, functioning feeding, drug swapping and education programmes at new sites, and VSZ boundary maps marking areas diclofenac removed from

**P(2):** Increased capacity of staff at Breeding Centres and Vulture Safe Areas to sustain vulture conservation activities – Employment and training of 6 centre staff in both India and Nepal for the duration of the project, reports produced by 2 staff that receive training in UK and >4 staff that undertake exchange visits by end of project and feedback forms from at least 8 staff that attend 1 week in-country training courses. Effective establishment and running of centres demonstrated through annual centre reports

VSZs expanded successfully with local community and government support, evidenced by press coverage and MOU between country and local partners.

**P(3):** Vulture Conservation Breeding Programmes in India and Nepal continue to expand – Infrastructure and capacity of vulture centres expanded and number of vultures taken in to captivity and reared in captivity increased by the end of the project

**1a:** >4 Vulture Safe Zones established in Nepal and minimum 1 Vulture Safe Zone established in adjacent areas of India – Registration documents with local States/Districts confirm existence of VSZs and maps document location and extent of VSZs

**2a:** Monitoring of vulture populations, use of veterinary drugs, and diclofenac in carcasses undertaken in two geographically distinct areas Annual monitoring reports produced for each surveyed population document trends by end of project; drug use assessed through bi-annual carcass sampling and recording of diclofenac availability in pharmacies, reported in scientific and project reports.

**3a:** Second colony aviary, chick aviaries, veterinary facility and visitor & education facilities constructed on the Nepal site, with supporting infrastructure (water & power) in place. Visitor and education facilities constructed at the West Bengal centre.

Site construction plans completed and available for inspection; photos of building works included within reports to Darwin; visitor data reported.

**4a:** A minimum of six staff employed by the project in both India and Nepal - staff employed by end of year 1, contract details and employment records maintained

**5a:** International visits by 2 staff to UK to receive training - Participants produce trip report to be appended with project report to Darwin by end of the project year

**5b:** Training workshops (2 x 1 week in each year) run by project in host countries to a minimum of 4 staff- Workshop materials produced and report completed at end of each year detailing training covered and attendees, studbook produced and maintained by project partners

**5c:** Annual exchange/training visits between Indian and Nepalese partners in each year of project Exchange reports prepared including measures taken to ensure information is passed on within the exchange staff host country

**6a:** Small-scale facilities for rearing rats/guinea pigs and goats/buffalo established with local communities in areas around vulture centres. Facilities constructed and photos included within project reports. Details of costs and food supply obtained recorded on a 2 monthly basis

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
1.1 Sites & partners identified for expansion of Vulture Safe Zones in Nepal and India	18	X	X	X	X	X	X						
1.2 Agreement in place with local & national partners for in-situ work	15			X	X	X	X	X					
1.3 Conservation activities established and ongoing at VSZs	30			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.1 Suitable control site found for monitoring effectiveness of VSZ in India	6	X	X										
2.2 Vulture, NSAID & carcass monitoring underway in Nepal & India at VSZ at control areas	36	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.1 Support from national and state partners for expanding breeding centres	6	X	X										
3.2 Design and budget for aviaries and visitor facilities agreed with partners	12	X	X	X	X								
3.3 Construction of aviaries, visitor facilities and reliable water and electricity supply	24			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
3.4 Installation of pumps and water tanks and electricity generator	12			X	X	X	X						
4.1 Recruitment and contracts for staff in Nepal and West Bengal	3	X				X				X			
5.1 Training requirements identified, flights booked and dates for visit to UK	8				X		X		X		X		
5.2 Training workshops planned, staff and dates fixed, training materials produced,	3		X	X			X	X			X	X	
5.3 Themes and visits for Nepal and India inter-country visits and knowledge exchange	3			X				X				X	
6.1 Small-scale trial of alternative food source established	18			X	X	X	X	X	X				
6.2 Feasibility study and evaluation of alternative food sources	12							X	X	X	X		



**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	Y
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	Y
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	Y
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	Y
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	Y
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	Y
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	Y
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	Y
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	Y
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	Y
12A	Number of computer based databases to be <b>established</b> and handed over to host country	Y
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	Y
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops <b>attended</b> at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	Y
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	Y
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	Y
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	Y
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	Y
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	Y
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	Y
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>established</b>	
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>enhanced/ extended</b>	Y
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	Y
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	Y
18D	Number of local TV programmes/features in UK	
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	Y
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	Y
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	Y
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	Y
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	Y
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	Y
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	Y

## 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.**

A monitoring plan based on the indicators given in the logical framework will be agreed with partners at the start of the project and integrated into project work plans. The RSPB project co-ordinator will maintain regular contact (phone, email and visits to India and Nepal) to ensure data collection, breeding programme expansion, and development of Vulture Safe Zones are established and monitored. Frequent (bi-monthly) progress reports will be prepared by the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres to enable their progress to be closely monitored. Project partners and a technical advisory committee for the breeding centres, research and *in-situ* conservation programmes will meet annually within India and Nepal to review the progress and development of the vulture breeding centres and Vulture Safe Zones. The monitoring plan will be reviewed regularly by the project co-ordinator in discussion with partners to ensure the project remains on track.

The project's measurable indicators will allow progress towards outputs to be assessed during the course of the project. This will include (i) a documented increase in the number and extent of VSZs, recorded in State/District Registration documents (P(1) and output 1) (ii) successful employment and training of staff working in breeding centres and VSZs in country and through exchange visits and visits to UK (P(2) outputs 1, 3, 4 and 5), (iii) an increase in the number of breeding centres in Nepal and numbers of birds in captivity in India and Nepal (P(3) output 3), (iv) carcass surveys and NSAID surveys undertaken and reported by partner organisations, (v) meetings taken place between organisations to coordinate in-situ and ex-situ conservation

## 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)**

In 2008/9, the RSPB had a total gross income of £111.8million. This was made up as follows:

<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 sources of budget includes funding in kind for staff time and overheads for project team members at the RSPB, ZSL and ICBP, which come to annual values of >£XXX (staff time) and >£XXX (estimated overheads). Staff time and overheads of project partners are estimated to contribute >£XXX per year. Other confirmed funding includes RSPB support to the research programme in India and Nepal providing >£XXX in each year of the programme. One off grants have been obtained via ZSL and ICBP, and include support of £XXX from the Rotterdam Zoo to cover the water tanks, pumps and infrastructure for the Nepal centre, £XXX from the National Bird of Prey Trust (NBPT) for a veterinary facility and equipment for the Nepal centre, and £XXX from NBPT to cover the costs of freezers and aviary facilities in the West Bengal centre. One of the project partners in Nepal is committing over £7,000 in funds to cover the costs of goats and buffalo as food for the vultures in the Nepalese centre and is likely to continue to contribute this, if not more, funding.

**Unconfirmed:**

Unconfirmed sources of funding include up to US\$XXX from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund to support Vulture Safe Zones in Nepal, £XXX from the NBPT in support of breeding centres in the second year of this project, and £XXX from the Burren Bird of Prey Centre, in Ireland, to support Vulture Safe Zones and feeding costs for the centre in Nepal.

**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:**

The work detailed in this application is part of a much larger programme of work aimed at averting the extinction of vultures in South Asia. The RSPB is committed to funding around £190,000 a year in support of the three vulture conservation breeding centres in India, as well as supporting around £30,000 a year to cover conservation advocacy in India. Recent applications for aviary construction and vulture food costs to Haryana State Government in India appear to be successful and are to the value of ca. £25,000 for construction costs and £12,000 a year for vulture food and running costs. This is an important precedent for substantial applications to all three state governments concerned, Indian Central Zoo Authority and other Government support disbursed by state governments will also be sought. Boehringer Ingelheim (a pharmaceutical company in Germany) and the Rufford Foundation will again be approached for funding: previously both of these organisations have made one off donations in excess of £XXX.

**Funding in kind:**

State Governments in India are providing land and services such as local staff accommodation at all three Indian breeding centres. This will continue, along with associated government staff time. In Nepal, there is greater Government staff time input and similar land agreements. Estimating the financial value of these is difficult, but with rising land costs in both Nepal and India and difficulty of foreign ownership of land, this in kind support has been essential for the establishment of the breeding centres. Similarly, the Vulture Safe Zones in Nepal have been

undertaken in agreement with local communities and government departments to allow use of land and grazing within the buffer zones of national parks and protected areas. Again, without these agreements and cooperation the projects could not succeed.

## 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\*

\* The UK High Commission in India has previously provided funding to support the vulture work and embassy staff have visited the two of the breeding centres in India. Hence, while no new contact has been made, the High Commission is aware and supportive of the vulture conservation programme in the region.

## CERTIFICATION 2010/11

On behalf of the Trustees of

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

(\*delete as appropriate)


I apply for a grant of **£ 119,420** 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 DAVID GIBBONS
Position in the organisation	Head of Conservation Science Department

Signed



Date:

30<sup>th</sup> November  
2009

## Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?</b>	
<b>Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?</b>	Yes
<b>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?</b>	Yes
<b>Is the concept note within 1,000 words?</b>	
<b>Is the logframe no longer than 2 pages and have you highlighted any changes since Stage 1?</b>	Yes
<b>Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?</b> (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email, but a wet signature should be provided in the hard copy version)	Yes
<b>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?</b>	Yes
<b>Have you included a letter of support from the main overseas partner organisations?</b>	Yes
<b>Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?</b>	No*
<b>Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts?</b> An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	Yes
<b>Have you read the Guidance Notes ?</b>	Yes

\* Please see comment on the previous page with regards FCO notification

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.