



Submit by Monday 24 October 2011

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 18: 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 to the Project Leader)

Name: Fauna & Flora International	Address: 4 th Floor, Jupiter House, Station Road, Cambridge. CB1 2JD
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Building Capacity of the Next Generation of Liberian Conservation Professionals

3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested, matched funding

Proposed start date: 1 st April 2012 Duration of project: 3 years						
End date: 31 st March 2015						
Darwin funding requested	2011/12 £0	2012/13 £	2013/2014 £	2014/15 £	2015/16 £0	Total £299,122
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost: Total project budget is £588,561 of which £299,122 is being requested from Darwin (51%). (X%) has been secured from the USFWS Great Ape Fund, (X%) from Basel Zoo towards the construction of the accommodation block for the Centre of Excellence and (X%) from BHP Billiton/the Flagship Species Fund. An additional (X%) is being provided as matched funding by FFI, the University of Liberia, the Forestry Development Authority and the Forestry Training Institute in terms of in-kind support. (X%) is being sought from the EC Liberia Delegation with the remaining (X%) being actively sought from other donors.						

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

To build capacity in participatory conservation and applied research to international standards in the next generation of Liberia's natural resource managers through enhanced university education, practical field experience and mentoring from international researchers, whilst simultaneously generating baseline information on Liberia's biodiversity.
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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 UK personnel or more than one project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Co-ordinator in host country	Main in-country project partner
Surname	Hodgkinson	Vogt	Gor pudolo
Forename (s)	Chloe	Martina	Moses
Post held	Programme Manager, Liberia	Project Co-ordinator	Acting Chairman
Institution (if different to above)	FFI	FFI	University of Liberia
Department	Africa	Africa	Forestry
Telephone			
Email			

6. Has your organisation received funding under the Darwin Initiative before? If so, please provide details of the most recent (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
18-007	Zoe Cullen	Collaborative conservation of critical Kerinci-Seblat National Park buffer zone forest
18-015	Paul Hotham	Addressing the illegal trade in the critically endangered Ustyurt Saiga
17-017	Robert Bensted-Smith	Innovative governance models for marine protected area management in Ecuador
17-016	Richard Lamprey	Conservation and sustainable management of Kenya's marine and coastal resources
17-014	Pippa Howard	Developing a cross-sectoral environmental governance platform for the Nimba Mountains
17-013	Liesje Birchenough	Building capacity and resilience within the conservation sector in Tajikistan

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

Aims (50 words)
Activities (50 words)
Achievements (50 words)

8. Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Institution), 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 partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

<p>Applicant institution and website where available:</p> <p>Fauna & Flora International http://www.fauna-flora.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>Fauna & Flora International (FFI), with over 15 years' experience of working in the region, will provide overall project leadership and co-ordination in addition to mentoring partner organizations to ensure both project efficacy and legacy beyond the length of funding. In addition, FFI will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation, financial management and coordinating reporting to the Darwin Initiative throughout.</p> <p>FFI has worked on natural resource conservation issues in Liberia and in Sapo National Park in particular, since 1997. FFI engages with both government and local partners to improve national and regional forest governance and empowers local communities to participate in the process. Work on the re-establishment of Sapo National Park operations (1997-present) has included a detailed bio-monitoring and research programme which has, amongst other achievements, collected the first baseline data on population dynamics of 37 key indicator species in the southeast region and discovered at least 15 new plant species.</p> <p>FFI has wide expertise and contacts in protected area training, the creation of experiential learning opportunities linked with international universities and the development of higher education courses, including the development of a successful MSc in Biodiversity Conservation at the Royal University of Phnom Pehn, Cambodia, supported by Darwin (Grant numbers 14037, EIDPO028). FFI's Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance team supports staff and partners on a wide range of issues at the interface of poverty and conservation, including participatory approaches, environmental governance, human rights, gender, conflict management and climate change adaptation.</p>
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<p>Lead Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>University of Liberia http://www.universityliberia.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>The University of Liberia (UL), established in 1862, is the oldest degree-granting institution in West Africa. Offering courses that include general forestry, biology, botany and zoology, around 18,000 students are enrolled annually, making it the largest educational institute in Liberia. UL are also the focal point for CITES scientific authority within Liberia.</p> <p>UL will be both a major implementing partner in addition to a primary beneficiary. UL staff will provide technical input into the design of the academic conservation modules and lead the process of their integration into the undergraduate curriculum. UL staff will be fully responsible for the teaching of the modules, with any necessary capacity building provided prior to this by the project. UL will also provide technical input into the development and implementation of the field courses in addition to co-hosting the residential course for UL students at CEERCL. UL will be fully represented on the project steering committee.</p>
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<p>Partner and website where available:</p> <p>Forestry Development Authority http://www.fda.gov.lr/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>The FDA is Liberia's mandated government agency responsible for the forest sector, and is therefore one of the most influential agencies in Liberia with regards to natural resource management. The FDA has full management responsibility for Sapo National Park, including its bio-monitoring programme developed in partnership with FFI. It is also Management and Enforcement Authority for CITES in Liberia.</p> <p>The FDA will be a key in-country partner for this project and has been heavily involved in project development since its inception. Specific responsibilities will include playing a leading role in the project steering committee, providing technical support to project design and implementation, co-hosting practical field courses in CEERCL and providing significant in-kind support to the project through staff time and access to FDA facilities, including Sapo National Park Headquarters.</p>
<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Forestry Training Institute</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>The Forestry Training Institute (FTI), recently re-established following closure during Liberia's civil war, supports forest education activities for middle level forestry technicians. Currently undertaking a review of its curriculum and training facilities, the absence of conservation biology and the limited exposure to practical work has been highlighted. The proposed CEERCL programme is both timely and strongly supported by the institution.</p> <p>FTI will be both an implementing partner in addition to a primary beneficiary. FTI staff will provide technical input into the design of the academic conservation modules and lead the process of their integration into the FTI curriculum. FTI staff will be fully responsible for the teaching of the modules, with any necessary capacity building prior to this provided by the project. FTI will also provide technical input into the development and implementation of the field courses in addition to co-hosting the residential course for FTI students at CEERCL. FTI will be fully represented on the project steering committee.</p>
<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Zoological Society, London http://www.zsl.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is a UK charity devoted to the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. They have been engaged in the Sapo area since 2008 when they established a comprehensive camera trapping study in and around the park. This work in partnership with the Forest Development Authority (FDA) and FFI has been the first to capture pictures and video of the endangered pygmy hippopotamus in Liberia.</p> <p>ZSL will provide UK-based expertise into project design and implementation with a particular focus in two areas- field course design and research. ZSL's recently developed practical field course in conservation biology and wildlife management will be adapted for use during CEERCL's practical field courses. The course is a hands-on practical course structured around a series of practical and problem-based learning scenarios which encourage critical thinking and awareness of current issues at forefront of conservation management. ZSL also has a strong research focus and will provide input into the development of CEERCL's research programme with a focus on developing the international research arm.</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>University of Cambridge http://www.cam.ac.uk/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>The University of Cambridge (UC) is one of the world's oldest and most respected academic institutions. Operational since 1209, it excels in both research and teaching, and includes internationally recognised departments of biological sciences and the humanities and social sciences. This project has established particularly strong links with the MPhil degree in Conservation Leadership, a full time 1 year course aimed at already experienced graduates who wish to increase skills in professional management and leadership skills within the realm of conservation.</p> <p>UC will provide UK-based expert input into the design and implementation of the academic conservation modules in particular, guiding both content and delivery through the design of the lecturers training course. In addition, a minimum of 1 MPhil student from the Conservation Leadership course is anticipated to be hosted by the Centre of Excellence for Ecological Research and Conservation Learning (CERRCL) in 2012 to support the project over a 3 month period in a mutually agreed topic. Furthermore it is anticipated that during the course of the project, one or more Liberians will be selected and supported to attend the MPhil course in Cambridge.</p>
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<p>9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>A number of meetings have been held with representatives of Jalays town on the border of Sapo National Park, site of the park headquarters and potentially CEERCL. The village is highly supportive of the initiative and has already allocated community land as a potential site, anticipated to be formally leased to the FDA prior to construction of the centre.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), home of the CBD focal point, has also been closely involved with project development, included in meetings and proposal development and will continue to be regularly consulted and involved during implementation.</p>
<p>9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>Given the dangers of raising expectations in communities used to empty promises, the engagement of this project in local livelihood development has not been yet introduced to the communities in question. This will be done, using the methods and activities outlined below, once sufficient funding has been secured for the full length of the planned intervention to ensure project sustainability.</p> <p>This project is intended to work closely with other initiatives promoting the development of national educational institutions in addition to acting as a focal point for research in the south east. As such, continued collaboration and consultation with national and local authorities, communities, national and international NGO's and government representatives is anticipated through the project span and beyond.</p>
<p>9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>FFI has worked closely with the FDA since 1997 at both field and management level including re-establishment of Sapo National Park operations (1997-2010), implementation of Liberia Forest Re-assessment (LFR) project (2001-4), development of the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) Action Plan under the VPA (Voluntary Partnership Agreement) (2005-6), the creation of Liberia's REDD Readiness Plan (2009-2011) and the re-establishment of the CITES scientific committee (2011-present).</p>

FFI have worked alongside the Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate the creation of the Liberian National Initiative of Sustainable Oil Palm Development (LNISOP) (2010-2011) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs to support the piloting of Community Forests in southeast Liberia (2006-2011).

FFI have also provided on-going support to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since its formation in 2006, primarily focusing on building capacity of staff to strengthen their effectiveness as the principle authority for implementing the national environmental policy and sustainable management law for the protection of natural resources in Liberia.

9d. 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.

PROJECT DETAILS

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

With some of the largest remaining intact blocks of the threatened Upper Guinean Forest, Liberia provides a stronghold for several globally endangered species, including one of the last significant populations of the pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*). Yet there are astounding amounts still to be discovered about this ecosystem, with 15 new plant species found in one 2010 botanical survey of Sapo National Park (SNP) alone.

Overseeing these riches is the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), responsible for the conservation and utilisation of Liberia's forest resources. Years of devastating civil war, however, have taken their toll on national capacity, disrupting the training of natural resource personnel and destroying the infrastructure for research and education. The FDA is faced with the challenges of an aging workforce with little access to training in emerging forestry issues alongside new recruits who have little opportunity to get practical field experience.

Concurrently, Liberia's forestry sector is undergoing significant reform. In 2006, facing serious threats to its remaining forest from illegal logging, shifting cultivation and mining, a new forest policy was established, integrating Community, Commercial and Conservation interests. Implementation of this approach has so far included engagement in the European Union FLEGT initiative, development of a Community Rights Law, a Community Benefit sharing scheme and engagement in REDD (Reduced Emissions from Degradation and Deforestation). However the curriculums of Liberia's premier training establishments have largely lagged behind these developments, with the scoping study revealing topics such as climate change and community conservation to be missing from teaching curriculums.

Furthermore, whilst Liberia's premier teaching establishments, the University of Liberia (UL) and the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) offer courses in forestry, biology, botany and zoology, there are few opportunities for students to get practical field experience in their field of study, known to improve problem solving and decision-making skills (e.g. Millenbah & Millsbaugh, 2003) and little facilitation of access to Liberia rich, largely unexplored biodiversity. Currently no targeted facilities of any kind exist for the support of scientists looking to advance knowledge of Liberia's rich biological resources in and around SNP.

Where possible, FFI has facilitated studies on flagship species, socio-economic and cultural issues and botanical assessments. However, it is FFI's and partners' aim to formalise and strengthen their collaboration in this area to improve Liberia's ability to meet its obligations under the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) both currently and, though enhanced national capacity, into the future. This project addresses the need to build the capacity of the next generation of Liberia's conservation professionals to international standards with a three-fold approach.

Education: Following a gap analysis, teaching modules covering conservation issues will be incorporated into the curriculums of Liberia's premier teaching establishments, implemented by existing lecturers who will be fully trained in course content and implementation. Modules will include an introduction to conservation biology, rights-based governance approaches, sustainable livelihoods and climate change.

Building Practical Skills: A Centre of Excellence for Ecological Research and Conservation Learning (CEERCL) will be established at SNP, hosting Liberian students and FDA employees for regular workshops on field research methods and conservation issues, developing practical skills and complementing insights given during the academic modules

Research: CEERCL will co-ordinate and encourage research activities in the area, including facilitating a 'mentor' scheme whereby international researchers will work alongside Liberian counterparts, facilitating skills transfer whilst simultaneously improving knowledge of the biological, social and cultural environment in the southeast of Liberia. CEERCL will also provide on-going support to the SNP bio-monitoring programme, ensuring the production of high quality information on population dynamics of key species in the area to inform park management decisions.

This project will have several measurable outcomes in terms of rural development within Liberia. CEERCL will support the production of urgently needed information on local livelihood strategies and utilization of natural resources to ensure communities' needs can be integrated into resource management strategies. This inclusion will be further facilitated by the education of the next generation of natural resource managers in the importance of community and rights-based approaches to conservation. The improved conservation of Liberia's natural resources through capacity building and research will contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the ecosystem goods and services on which livelihoods depend. In the short-term, the programme will provide employment for 18 local residents (CEERCL caretaker and SNP bio-monitoring team), in addition to providing training for local guides, diversifying local livelihood options in the area.

The impact of this project for the conservation of biological diversity is both direct, through improving knowledge of biological resources, and indirect through enhancing the capacity of Liberian natural resource managers to act in the future. By strengthening the capacity of Liberian nationals the project will support the National Government of Liberia in implementing Articles 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17 and 18 of the CBD. Focus in particular will be on *Article 12. Research and Training* by establishing and maintaining programmes for scientific and training to support biological conservation. By supporting and co-coordinating research efforts, it will address serious knowledge gaps on Liberia's biodiversity, enabling informed management decisions to be made and directly contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

This project will use FFI, University of Cambridge and ZSL expertise from the UK in full partnership with UL, FTI and FDA in Liberia. FFI has over fourteen years of experience working on natural resources conservation in Liberia, and in SNP in particular, and will provide overall project leadership. FDA, UC, FTI, ZSL and UL will provide technical support for the design and implementation of the academic and field course modules in addition to the development of the research programme. Representatives from all participating organisations will sit on the CEERCL steering committee which will eventually assume full management responsibility of the Centre.

11a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Please give details:

A research station, Gbaboni, was constructed within Sapo National Park in 1987 to improve access to the park's rich biodiversity and began to attract a handful of scientists and tourists. However, it was destroyed following the outbreak of civil war in 1990 and has not functioned since. Whilst the construction of a Sapo-based research station within this project therefore has a precedent, the academic component, practical field courses and focus on development of Liberian capacity in research and conservation is a new initiative based on needs identified by all stakeholders.

11b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/ projects carrying out or applying for funding for 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:

This project will complement an ITTO-funded, FDA-led project to re-establish functional education in the forestry sector in Liberia. This project, launched in 2009 includes a needs and gap analysis to lead to proposed changes for institutional arrangements and identification of potential long-term functioning and sustainable funding for the existing training institutions. It has also supported the creation of a national working group to strategically co-ordinate the forest education process in Liberia as a whole. The gap analysis, conducted by Dr James Gasana and currently in the process of being finalised, highlights, amongst other things, the lack of conservation biology in the curriculum, the need to build the capacity of current instructors in conservation biology, and the lack of practical fieldwork in the course.

This project builds on the recommendations of this project, directly complementing it by addressing some of the gaps highlighted by this project with respect to conservation in particular. This will be done in full partnership with the UL, FTI and the FDA. The activities of this project will be co-ordinated with other work in this area through the regular attendance of the project co-ordinator in the national working group.

11c. Are you applying for funding relating to the proposed project from other sources? Yes No
If yes, please give brief details including when you expect to hear the result. Please ensure you include the figures requested in the spreadsheet as Unconfirmed funding.

£43,060 (7% of the total project budget) is being sought from the European Commission, Liberia Delegation. Outcome anticipated to be announced November 2011.

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

* This refers to the 'MOU concerning conservation measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)', published 7th April 2011

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

This project has been developed in full partnership with the FDA, CITES management focal point in Liberia. In addition, Liberia's CITES scientific authority was officially reinstated in January 2011 following a number of years' dormancy. The University of Liberia was unanimously elected by meeting representatives as the lead institution for this process with FFI appointed as secretary. Responsibilities of this authority include providing the CITES secretariat and scientific authorities with pertinent information, such as an updated list of endangered species in Liberia. This project will feed directly into this process, with information on Liberia's biodiversity generated through both SNP's bio-monitoring programme and CEERCLs research programme. The training conducted through CEERCL will also enable more accurate future monitoring of the 130 CITES listed species found in the country.

This project will also work closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the focal point for CBD and CMS in the country, to ensure that work towards meeting its CBD obligations is both co-ordinated and CEERCL's contribution absorbed. The EPA has participated in project development and will be represented on the CEERCL steering committee.

What specific issues covered by the Convention(s) will this project address and how were they identified? (150 words)

By strengthening the capacity of Liberian nationals the project will support the National Government of Liberia in implementing Articles 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17 and 18 of the CBD. Focus in particular will be on *Article 12. Research and Training* by establishing and maintaining programmes for scientific and training to support biological conservation. By supporting and co-ordinating research efforts, it will address serious knowledge gaps on Liberia's biodiversity, enabling informed management decisions to be made and enabling more accurate future monitoring of the 130 CITES listed species found in the country, including the African Elephant, directly contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These impacts were identified during discussions with Liberian and UK-based project stakeholders including the EPA, FDA and UL, which act as focal points for the CBD, CMS (EPA) and CITES management (FDA) and scientific authority (UL) respectively.

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

The curriculums of Liberia's premier teaching institutions will be updated with conservation-related modules; national understanding of conservation-related issues and associated practical skills will be improved through theoretical teaching and residential field courses; knowledge of Liberia's biodiversity will be improved through increased collaborative research and continuation of SNP's bio-monitoring programme. CEERCL will also support the production of information on local livelihood strategies and the promotion of participatory approaches to ensure communities' needs and rights are integrated into resource management strategies. By improving the capacity of Liberia's natural resource managers to engage more effectively in conservation and natural resource management and in improving the amount and quality of information available on the characteristics, uses and values of the biodiversity of Liberia, this project will make a significant contribution to the conservation of Liberia's biological diversity and the maintenance and enhancement of the ecosystem goods and services on which livelihoods depend.

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

Extensive deforestation through the West Africa region now means Liberia harbours around 40% of the last remaining Upper Guinea forest and two of the three largest remaining blocks. Displaying a high ratio of rarity and endemism of both fauna and flora, the size and small demographic density of the remaining forest offers the best chances for the conservation of large-bodied endangered species in addition to potentially hosting a number of species as yet unknown to science (15 new plant species were discovered in 2010 alone). As Liberia emerges from conflict, however, the threats to these forests, including from logging, mining and agro-industrial crops, are increasing, compounded by low institutional capacity leading to poor governance. This project will build capacity and enthusiasm for conservation in Liberia's natural resource managers whilst simultaneously generating baseline information on Liberia's biodiversity to ensure evidence-based management decisions and land-use planning.

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 outputs will be circulated and used widely. These will include:

- Production of monthly reports detailing achievements against monthly objectives
- Production of detailed annual technical and financial reports
- Teacher and students guides produced to accompany the taught academic modules and the residential field courses.
- A dedicated project section for CEERCL will be created on the website, www.liberianfaunaflora.org
- Establishment of small library of books, papers and reports relevant to the study and conservation of Liberian biodiversity
- International communication concerning the project will be made through the FFI international website and blog and the inclusion of a project review in the 'Brief

- Communications' section of Oryx, FFI's in-house peer reviewed journal.
- Key species distribution data and key sites will be mapped and disseminated to government agencies and International NGOs working in the Upper Guinea Forest.

The Darwin logo will be placed in a prominent position on the front of all publications arising from this project, including educational material, annual reports and website, and accompanied by the following statement: 'This work was carried out by FFI under the auspices of the 'Building Capacity of the Next Generation of Liberian Conservation Professionals' funded by the Darwin Initiative'.

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

In the long-term the project will provide the foundations for improved conservation understanding and governance in Liberia, incorporating critical environmental and livelihood learning, whilst enabling improved understanding of Sapo's rich biodiversity.

The design of the project mitigates against potential risks that these long-term benefits will not be achieved through:

- Developing local leadership in implementing participatory conservation interventions that incorporate communities' needs;
- Building a solid, current and rigorous base upon which to stimulate and direct further local leadership in the future;
- Sharing information widely;
- Developing an exit strategy (including fundraising strategies) to sustain impacts;
- Through on-going monitoring and evaluation of knowledge uptake and application, and adaptive management;
- Emphasising participatory, collaborative and empowering approaches throughout project delivery on that increase national capacity, leadership and momentum for conservation in Liberia.

The project assumes political stability is maintained and our implementing partners remain operational. While these things are largely outside project influence, indications are excellent that Liberia is recovering, with security and stability established and being maintained throughout the country. The project is reliant on the maintenance of a strong working relationship with all partners, but is based on a strong history of effective collaboration with all partners.

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)

Project focus on a 'train the trainer' approach, with a minimum of two lecturers trained per institution, to continue to implement the developed and tested academic modules. All partnering organisations are strong, stable institutions, making them extremely likely to sustain the new courses. On-going support to lecturers will be provided by both the project coordinator and production of accompanying teacher and pupil guides.

All partners (including community representatives) will sit on the steering committee to assume full management responsibilities of a fully equipped CEERCL after three years. A sustainable business plan will be created with running costs anticipated to be covered by fees levied from international researchers and private groups attending field courses. FFI will continue to play a role to help raise supplementary funding and retain a seat on the steering committee.

The training received by students in both theoretical issues and practical skills will enable them to compete competitively for employment and it is anticipated that a significant number of course participants will take up positions in institutions responsible for the management of Liberia's natural resources, particularly within the FDA and the Environmental Protection Agency, thus supporting this projects longer term contribution to Liberia's commitments under the CBD.

16. If your project includes capacity building in local communities in the host country, 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 you expect the beneficiaries to obtain and how these may be used beyond the life of the project and any wider application How will you measure training effectiveness. (max 300 words)

This project will build capacity of two target groups in local communities: SNP's bio-monitoring team and local guides.

The bio-monitoring team, comprising 4 FDA rangers and 18 local auxiliaries, have been working with FFI for the past year to develop skills in transect cutting data collection and camera trapping. Focus in 2012-2015 will be on skill consolidation and development in data entry and data analysis in particular. Training will be delivered during small group training sessions, with an emphasis on practical lessons, with the project coordinator. Once the skills have been taught, the project coordinator will adopt a mentoring role for general project oversight, including being available for any troubleshooting and to monitor training efficacy in terms of work frequency and quality.

A recent study by Manvell (2011) on behalf of FFI revealed the serious barriers facing Sapo's rural poor in terms of livelihood development, including poor market access and limited skill acquisition opportunities. This project will work with local community members to train a minimum of 10 people in basic guiding and navigation skills for future work with independent researchers working in the area, or tourists visiting SNP and its surrounding environs. It is likely that recruits will be community members already familiar and comfortable with working in the forest and with some animal and plant identification skills. Training will be conducted by the project coordinator in partnership with the SNP's biologist with a strong applied element. In addition the project coordinator will play a long-standing mentoring role.

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
Goal: 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.			
Sub-Goal: To contribute to the conservation of Liberia's biological diversity, and Sapou National Park in particular, by drawing on UK expertise to build national capacity to meet international and national biodiversity targets.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The extent and quality of information available on the characteristics, uses and values of the biodiversity of Liberia 2) The degree to which research outputs are integrated into natural resource management decisions (incl. SNP) 3) A significant contribution made to Liberia's National Biodiversity Action Plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Data available on the characteristics, uses and values of Liberia's biodiversity 2) National and regional conservation strategies/policies/laws; Meeting minutes; Reports 3) Project reports (annual and final) 	
Purpose To build capacity in participatory conservation and applied research to international standards in the next generation of Liberia's conservation professionals through enhanced university education, practical field experience and mentoring from international researchers, whilst simultaneously generating baseline information on Liberia's biodiversity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Number of students participating in new conservation modules and field courses. 2) Number of students choosing conservation-related careers 3) Number of research projects conducted at CEERCL. 4) Application of learning by FDA course attendants during the course of their work 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a) University registration records 1b) CEERCL annual reports 2) Post-project follow-up questionnaire to course attendants 3) Research reports/publications 4) Pre and end-of-project questionnaires to FDA course attendants and discussion with line managers 	Facilities, lecturers and students available. National and international researchers attracted to the area. Political stability maintained nationally and regionally UoL, FDA and FTI remain operational.
Outputs 1. Curriculums of Liberia's premier teaching institution updated with conservation-focused teaching modules, in line with international standards. Topics to include introduction to conservation biology, rights-based governance approaches, sustainable livelihoods and climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1) 6 academic modules written and formally included in the curriculums 1.2) A minimum of 6 lecturers trained in module implementation 1.3) Accompanying educational packs produced for teachers and students 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1) Course modules and educational packs available 1.2) Report on 'train the trainer' workshop for lecturer produced 	Lecturers available for training and module implementation. Sufficient students signing up for modules. Appropriate facilities available within the teaching institution.

2. Capacity of Liberian students and FDA employees in field research methods and conservation issues increased through residential courses at SNP hosted by CEERCL	2.1) Financially sustainable and effective functioning of newly established CEERCL. 2.2) CEERCL hosts minimum of three 5 day workshops per year. 2.3) Capacity of a minimum of 60 UL students, 60 FTI students and 30 FDA employees built in field research methods and conservation issues	2.1; 2.2) Monthly and annual reports produced by CEERCL; Sustainability plan; minutes of CEERCL steering committee. 2.3) Attendance lists; Pre and end-of-project questionnaires to course attendants; Accompanying educational packs produced	Lecturers/teaching support staff available for field course implementation. Sufficient students signing up for workshops. Active participation of students
3. Improved knowledge of the biodiversity of Southeast Liberia through increased collaborative research and continuation of SNP bio-monitoring programme.	3.1) No. research projects focussed on biological diversity in Southeast Liberia increased, including proportion produced by Liberian nationals 3.2) Continuation and growth of SNP bio-monitoring programme 3.3) Number of community members trained in basic guiding skills	3.1) Research reports/publications 3.2) Annual SNP bio-monitoring report 3.3) Monthly and annual project reports	National and international researchers attracted to area; Researchers are capable of carrying out and completing research work in logistically challenging areas. Community interest in learning guiding skills to diversify income through guiding researchers and tourists.
4. Research findings disseminated through local and national media, scientific publications, a dedicated webpage and reports.	4.1) A minimum of 2 national and 1 international press releases and/or radio interviews to be released per year	4.1) Monthly and annual reports produced by CEERCL 4.2) National and International publications 4.3) Research reports/publications posted on www.liberianfauna-flora.org	Research of sufficient quality to enable publication
<p>Activities (details in workplan)</p> <p>1.1 Hold inception stakeholder workshop to launch project and assess priorities for academic and field course content. 1.2 Devise and develop 6 academic modules and embed into curriculums of UL and FTI 1.3 Produce accompanying educational packs for teachers and students 1.4 Train a minimum of 6 lecturers in module implementation 1.5 Teach conservation modules to UL and FTI students 2.1 CEERCL Steering Committee formed and operational 2.2 Production of CEERCL business plan 2.3 Construct and equip research centre and campsite 2.4 Adapt ZSL field courses for Liberian situation and priorities 2.5 Conduct field courses in field research methods and conservation issues 3.1 Conduct an in-depth review of current understanding of SNP's biodiversity and identify knowledge gaps 3.2 Design and produce CEERL promotional material aimed at international researchers, including posters, leaflets and webpage 3.3 Clear and map a trail system in the park for use by researchers, rangers and tourists 3.4 Continuation and growth of SNP bio-monitoring programme 3.5 Host national and international researchers to conduct applied research work in areas of identified need</p>			

- 3.6 Establishment of small library of books, papers and reports relevant to the study and conservation of Liberian biodiversity
- 3.7 Train a minimum of 10 community members in basic guiding skills
- 4.1 Produce monthly and annual reports for CEERCL
- 4.2 News features and radio broadcasts released nationally
- 4.3 Research reports/publications posted on www.liberianfauna-flora.org
- 4.4 Conferences/Seminars attended to present research work
- 4.5 Establish dissemination network

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	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1 Hold inception stakeholder workshop to launch project and assess priorities for academic and field course content	1												
1.2 Devise and develop 6 academic modules and embed into curriculums of UL and FTI	6												
1.3 Produce accompanying educational packs for teachers and students	3												
1.4 Train a minimum of 6 lecturers in module implementation	1												
1.5 Teach conservation modules to UL and FTI students	12												
2.1 CEERCL Steering Committee formed and operational	36												
2.2 Production of CEERCL business plan	3												
2.3 Construct and equip research centre and campsite	6												
2.4 Adapt ZSL field courses for Liberian situation and priorities	3												
2.4 Conduct field courses in field research methods and conservation issues	27												
3.1 Conduct an in-depth review of current understanding of SNP's biodiversity and identify knowledge gaps	6												
3.2 Design and produce CEERL promotional material aimed at international researchers, including posters, leaflets and webpage.	6												
3.3 Clear and map a trail system in the park for use by researchers, rangers and tourists	9												
3.4 Continuation and growth of SNP bio-monitoring programme	36												
3.5 Host national and international researchers to conduct applied research work in areas of identified need	30												
3.6 Establishment of small library of books, papers and reports relevant to the study and conservation of Liberian biodiversity	6												
3.7 Train a minimum of 10 community members in basic guiding skills	6												
4.1 Produce monthly and annual reports for CEERCL	36												
4.2 News features and radio broadcasts released nationally	6												
4.3 Research reports/publications posted on www.liberianfauna-flora.org	6												
4.4 Conferences/Seminars attended to present research work	6												
4.5 Establish dissemination network	3												

19. Please indicate which of the following Standard Measures you expect to report against by providing indicative figures. These will help gauge project achievements if you receive funding. 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/

Standard Measure	Description	Estimate
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	60
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	21
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)	90
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	24
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	3
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	52
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	1
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	3
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	3
12A	Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to host country	
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country	1
13A	Number of species reference collections to be established and handed over to host country(ies)	
13B	Number of species reference collections to be enhanced and handed over to host country(ies)	
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	1
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	3
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	6
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	6
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	2
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	2
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	3
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 established	1
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	1
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)	3
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	1
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	3
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	1
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	£339,627
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	1
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	£271,334

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.

Monitoring and evaluation will be on-going on a monthly basis throughout the 36 month project led by FFI but involving all stakeholders and coordinated by the project steering committee. It will include the following benchmarks and indicators:

- Inception stakeholder workshop to launch project and finalise priorities for academic and field course content.
- A minimum of 6 academic conservation-focused modules written and embedded in UL and FTI curriculums
- A minimum of 6 lecturers trained to implement new academic modules
- A minimum of 60 Liberians undergraduates and 60 FTI students trained in theoretical conservation issues
- A minimum of 150 Liberians trained in practical field skills for conservation biology
- Increased number of research projects conducted by national and international students in and around Sapo National Park
- A minimum of 2 national and 1 international press releases and/or radio interviews to be released per year
- The degree to which research outputs are integrated into natural resource management decisions
- Application of learning by FDA course attendants during the course of their work

Project progress will be monitored using the following methods, enabling adaptive management over the course of the project;

- Inception workshop to introduce and explain the project to Liberian stakeholders and invite feedback on approach and methodology
- Regular meetings of the CEERCL Steering Committee to discuss progress and issues arising
- Production of monthly reports from the project coordinator detailing achievements to date, monthly objectives and any difficulties encountered.
- Production of detailed annual technical and financial reports, reporting against objectives and budget
- On-going in-country supervision by FFI's Country Manager
- Quarterly oversight visits by FFI Liberia Programme Manager
- Wide circulation of all draft reports (Course capacity gap analysis and module design, Sapo knowledge gap analysis, educational packs, annual reports etc.), to all relevant stakeholders and integration of comments before finalisation.
- End of project audit of project finances by independent auditor

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 cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

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

In 2010 Fauna & Flora International had a total income of £12,811,270 from the following sources:

- 32.4% Government & Multilateral
- 30.4% Trusts & Foundations
- 24.4% Corporate
- 11.3% Individuals
- 1.3% Membership
- 0.3% Investment

Donor relationships have been maintained over a prolonged period of activity, demonstrating both a strong conservation performance and technical credibility, combined with effective financial management and reporting. Furthermore, conservation expenditure accounted for 86% of overall expenditure in 2010, with 9% being spent on Management and Administration and a further 5% on Fundraising.

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:

£XXX has been secured from the USFWS Great Ape Fund;
 £XXX from Basel Zoo;
 £XXX from BHP Billiton/the Flagship Species Fund.

Unconfirmed:

£XXX is being sought from the EC Liberia Delegation

23. Please give details of any further resources (confirmed or unconfirmed) 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)

Possible additional financial resources (not yet applied for):

£XXX being actively sought from other donors

Funding in kind:

An additional £XXX is being provided as matched funding by FFI, the University of Liberia, the Forestry Development Authority and the Forestry Training Institute

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 details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Yes, advice attached

No

CERTIFICATION 2011/12

On behalf of the trustees* of

Fauna & Flora International

(*delete as appropriate)

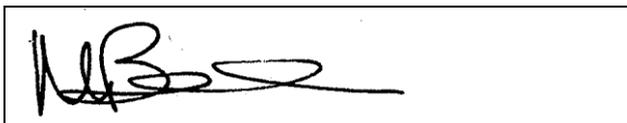
I apply for a grant of £299,122 in respect of all expenditure to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our most recent audited accounts and annual report can be found at: <http://www.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/2010-FFI-Report-Financial-Statements-31-12-10.pdf>

Name (block capitals)	Mr Mark Blake
Position in the organisation	Director, Finance and Administration

Signed



Date:

24th October 2011

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Y
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	Y
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?	Y
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	Y
Is the logframe no longer than 3 pages and have you highlighted any changes since Stage 1?	Y
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)	Y
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the Principals identified at Question 5?	Y
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> overseas partner(s) organisations identified at Question 5?	Y
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	N
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	Y
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	Y
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	Y

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on Monday **24 October 2011** to 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 hard copy of the signature page should be submitted to Darwin Applications, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL **postmarked** not later than Tuesday 25 October 2011.

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.