



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: Anthony Miller	Address: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Building capacity for in-situ conservation in Iraq
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested, matched funding

Proposed start date: April 2012		Duration of project: 3 years			End date: April 2015	
Darwin funding requested	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	2013/2014 £	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	Total £299,404
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost: 40%						
This includes costed in-kind support and other funding.						

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

Building capacity for in-situ conservation in Iraq
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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	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
Surname	Miller	Porter	Azzam
Forename (s)	Anthony	Richard	Alwash
Post held	Head of SW Asian Botany / Director CMEP	Adviser to BirdLife International's Middle East programme	CEO Nature Iraq
Institution (if different to above)		BirdLife	Nature Iraq
Department			
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
162/14/026	David Rae	Horticulture & Education for Conservation in Nezahat Gokyigit Botanik Bahces, Turkey
EIDPS015	Ram Poundel	Scholarship: Ram Chandra Poundel
162/15/011	David Harris	Building capacity for Forest Inventory in the Republic of Congo
EIDPS021	Lokesh Shakya	Scholarship: Lokesh Ratna Shakya
EIDPO032	David Harris	Strengthening capacity for botanical inventory in the Republic of Congo
EIDPR137	Mathew Hall	Kabul University Botanical garden - conserving biodiversity in Afghanistan

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.

Applicant institution and website where available:	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (www.rbge.org.uk) and its Centre for Middle Eastern Plants (www.cmep.org.uk) has a long standing interest in the flora and vegetation of the Middle East; institutional experience in the region and expertise in botany, education and conservation makes the RBGE uniquely positioned to deliver the innovative and effective capacity building required to meet the objectives of this project. Regionally Anthony Miller, under the auspices of the Arabian Plant Specialist Group has co-ordinated the IPA and red listing programmes aimed at meeting criteria 1 of the GSPC for the Arabian Peninsula. Other RBGE staff are involved in developing online learning courses in the Middle East and mobile phone technology which will be used in this project. RBGE has been involved through CMEP in delivering training to NI staff and others in Kurdistan over the last three years. This project has been developed via ongoing workshops and meetings between all partners in both Sulaimani and Edinburgh as outlined in the first round application as well as since this. UK project leader, Anthony Miller will be responsible for overall project management, outreach and technical aspects, as well as reporting to the DI. MoUs will be developed between partners at the outset of the project.</p>
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Lead Partner and website where available:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Nature Iraq (www.natureiraq.org) is an Iraqi non-governmental organization registered in Iraq. It was formed in 2004 and maintains offices in Sulaimani (Kurdistan, Northern Iraq), Chibiash (southern Iraq), and Baghdad. It is accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is Iraq's first and only affiliate to BirdLife International. It has extensive background in capacity building and advisory support to Iraqi decision-makers; field research and surveys on biodiversity and water quality, water resource management planning, and a variety of sustainable development initiatives. It works closely with the Ministry of Environment and other government agencies to protect and restore Iraq's diverse environmental and cultural resources. NI will be responsible all logistics and management of the project in Iraq. NI staff will be involved in all aspects of the project e.g. field work, red listing, developing interactive identification guides and training.
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Partner Name and website where available:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org) is a global Partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. It is the World's largest partnership of conservation organisations, with Partners in over 100 countries and territories worldwide. In the Middle East (regional office in Amman, Jordan) it has partners or affiliates in Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, UAE and Yemen. The publication <i>Important Bird Areas in the Middle East</i> is now being revised and published as country editions by several Middle East Partners. Richard Porter is an advisor to BirdLife International's Middle East programme as well as bird conservation adviser to Nature Iraq. He has over 45 years experience working on bird conservation and training projects and has been working with NI since 2005. He will be responsible for all bird related aspects of the project.
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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: Kurdistan Ministry of Education (Sulaimani district) and schools in Piramagroon area have been involved in discussions about training and outreach. University of Sulaimani and the American University of Iraq-Sulaimani have been involved in discussions about the need for taxonomic and conservation training and how we could support this. Furthermore, AUIS have expressed an interest in developing specific courses for their curriculum. Training requirements and wishes have been discussed with numerous students and ministry employees on training courses and with students working with partners in the UK.</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: We will work with local communities around Piramagroon Mountain (the towns and villages of Piramagroon, Zewe, Shedala, Homer Qowm, Sardasht, etc.). NI have indirectly been doing this, making contacts within communities through an ongoing project to study wild goats in the area (funded by the Conservation Leadership Programme). We will seek to engage with community-based environmental organisations in Kurdistan (SulyOn, and Green Kurdistan Society). Meetings have also been arranged by NI to speak to the Head of the Kurdistan Environmental Protection and Improvement Commission as well as the Ministry of the environment about the Project</p>

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

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.

N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

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

Iraq is facing major threats to its biodiversity following years of unstable government, breakdown in traditional land management and more recently rapid development. Almost 30 years of scientific isolation has resulted in severely limited in-country capacity to deal with these threats. At present the only organisation in Iraq actively engaged in conservation work is Nature Iraq (NI). NI has adopted the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) approach to identifying biodiverse-rich regions.

Since 2005 BI has been supporting this work, conducting surveys and running training courses in collaboration with NI. More recently the RBGE has also been working with NI to develop botanical training in Iraq. These activities have involved NI staff, and students and personnel from all major Iraqi organisations with an interest in the environment including the major Universities and Ministries in both Iraq and the Kurdish Autonomous Region (KAR).

The birds of the region are relatively well known (*Birds of the Middle East and of Birds of Iraq* have been published) and progress in identifying KBAs based on bird data has been good. However, plants are relatively poorly known and there is a lack of appropriate identification tools. *Flora of Iraq* and *Flora Iranica*, the two floras covering the region, are almost complete; but, it has been found on recent training courses, they are linguistically and technically almost totally inaccessible to Iraqi professionals and students. Conservation work in Iraq cannot wait for the completion of these Floras or their conversion into more user-friendly formats.

To address the lack of plant data available to inform conservation planning in Iraq and to build capacity for surveying and managing biodiverse-rich areas, the project partners have together identified three overlapping and complementary areas of work:

- 1) *Collection of botanical data to build capacity for conservation.* The Important Plant Area (IPA) approach developed by the Arabian Plant Specialist Group for the region will be adopted. This will help Iraq to fulfil its commitments under targets 2 & 5 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Work will be carried out in two stages: 1) An analysis of the distribution of endemic and near endemic taxa. This will be used to support the provisional red listing assessment of all species and, using floristic modelling and GIS, will allow the identification of candidate IPAs. 2) Survey teams will be trained in the use of user-friendly identification tools specially developed for the programme (presently being trialled as part of an RBGE MSc project jointly supervised by the University of Sulaimani). The survey programme, aimed at candidate IPAs will concentrate on endemic species, genera identified as surrogates for plant diversity and species which are indicators of major vegetation types.
- 2) *Capacity building in Protected Area Management.* Modern approaches to PA management are almost unknown in Iraq. A lack of local stakeholder engagement and public awareness about the importance of biodiversity and environment services has been identified as a major challenge to conservation both in Iraq's country report to the CBD and the National Development Plan 2010 -2014. For biodiverse areas to be managed with and for local communities it is vital that these communities are informed and engaged. Partners will develop materials aimed at schools, local stakeholders and resource managers. This

approach will be developed on Piramagroon, a mountain massif in KAR, selected because it meets KBA criteria and is readily accessible and NI **has built** an eco-camp there which can be used as a base for surveys. Surveys have already been undertaken there by partners. In addition, a Field Guide to the Birds of the Middle East and an Arabic version of Birds of Iraq (based on this) have been published, and so there is a ready supply of images and data that can be used. Authors, artists and publishers of these books have agreed to make the material available for this DI Project.

- 3) *Training in foundation skills in botany, ornithology and conservation.* Training will **include training courses in-country** and distance learning modules targeted at institutes throughout Iraq. Courses will be based on the programme and Remote Learning Platform (RLE) currently being successfully trialled by RBGE at Kabul University as part of the British Council DeLPHE programme. The new DI courses will be aimed at equipping students and professionals with the foundation skills necessary for undertaking biodiversity surveys and will also enable them to take full advantage of advanced training programmes. In developing the courses partners will draw on broad experience gained from conducting training courses in several countries in the region, including Iraq. The lack of understanding of basic concepts and absence of core educational skills is a common and recurring theme across the region and is the major cause of students failing to get full value out of training courses. This approach has also been shown to promote ongoing communication between trainees thereby strengthen professional networks. Furthermore, RLE has the advantage of allowing in-country conservation capacity building to be delivered in a greater number of institutes – some in militarily “no-go” areas – than would be possible using more traditional methods. This is expected to serve as a model for similar courses in other countries in the region.

NI is an Iraqi NGO that works closely with government agencies to protect and restore Iraq’s environmental and cultural resources. NI will be responsible all aspects of the project work plan in Iraq, ~~with three NI staff working on the project full time.~~ **RBGE** has a long standing interest in the flora and vegetation of the Middle East; institutional experience in the region and expertise in botany, education and conservation makes the RBGE uniquely positioned to deliver the innovative and effective capacity building required to meet the objectives of this project. UK project leader, RBGE will be responsible for overall project management, outreach and technical aspects, and reporting to the DI. **BI** is a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. It is the world's largest partnership of conservation organisations. BI will deliver the bird-related aspects of the project.

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

Please give details:

This project builds on the training and partnerships developed between NI, BI and RBGE as well as the experience of these organisations in Iraq and more widely. It is however a completely new initiative which is not currently funded.

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:

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.

Funding has already been confirmed from the Botanic Foundation for development of electronic guides and substantial in kind funding agreed by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, the publishers of the Birds of the Middle East, for access to the images and other material from the book.

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

*If CMS please indicate whether it is the main Convention or one or more of the daughter agreements/MoUs (ACAP, AEWA etc)

Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CMS/CITES focal point in the host country? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

Dr Ali Lami is advisor to the Minister of the Environment and the CBD Focal Point. He is NI's main point of contact with the Ministry of Environment and will be kept regularly informed of project progress and results.

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

Iraq is one of the most recent signatories to the CBD. This project addresses a number of significant challenges identified in its first national report to the CBD in 2010 as well as specifically responding to issues identified by partners during in country training and fieldwork. These include a lack of baseline information on Iraq's plants, a lack of capacity for biodiversity surveys and protected area management, and a lack of public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the environment. The project therefore contributes mostly to CBD articles 7, 8, 12 and 13 as well as targets 2 and 5 of the GSPC. The identification tools developed will also greatly facilitate the collection of traditional knowledge related to plant use and management (CBD Article 8), which has relevance for developing strategies for the sustainable use of natural resources (CBD Article 10). The project indirectly contributes to CITES and CMS.

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

This project will lead to a number of significant changes in Iraq:

- Baseline botanical data will enable the effective systematic incorporation of plant data into Iraq's KBA programme.
- A legacy of interactive identification guides to the biological diversity of Piramagroon KBA including photographic guides which can be downloaded to mobile phones. This technology has been recognised as a particularly appropriate, accessible and user friendly way to disseminate information in the Middle East. Nevertheless, this will be the first time this will have been achieved for biodiversity information in Iraq or regionally.
- An approach to conservation which engages with and encourages the participation by local communities will be introduced in Iraq. This will represent a major shift in thinking.
- A world class training course on the fundamentals of plant and bird identification and conservation will be developed and made available to tertiary level students across the country.

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

Kurdistan Zagros Mountains Forest Steppe falls within the Irano–Turanian floristic region, one of the richest vegetation assemblages in the world. Part of the fertile crescent, this represent some of the oldest managed habitats on earth. 28 globally threatened bird species (including near-threatened species) occur in Iraq, of which 17 can be found in Kurdistan as breeders, migrants or winter visitors. Iraq faces immediate and major threats to its biodiversity and lacks the in-country capacity to deal with these. NI has been working towards recognising a PA network using KBA criteria. This project will include plant data into this process and for the first time provides a method for developing a new kind of identification tool, which can be accurately used by non-specialists. The approach adopted by the DI Iraq programme can be used as a model in other areas both within Iraq and regionally.

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 management, annual steering group meetings and reporting provide an ongoing mechanism for discussion and dissemination of results amongst project partners. A number of technical reports, a manual and peer reviewed papers will be produced. These will be published and where possible made available through the project website. The electronic identification guides will also be freely available for download from the project website – this will include the first mobile phone app for biodiversity in the region. Education materials developed will be available from the website as well as being distributed to teachers and schools in the Pirmagroon area. Outputs from the project will be disseminated at international conferences for example Plant Life of South West Asia 8 in Edinburgh in 2013. The DI will be acknowledged in all outputs and publicity for the project. The logo will be clearly displayed wherever possible. We will work to ensure wide coverage through press releases, radio and TV coverage both in Iraq and the UK. We already have planned to show a BL and NI exhibition of photographs entitled ‘the Nature of Iraq’ at RBGEs John Hope Gateway in 2012 – this offers an immediate springboard to raise awareness of the project.

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)

Ultimately the project will lead to improved capacity for in-situ conservation in Iraq. It will deliver a specific set of outputs for the KBA Pirmagroon. In the long term the tools and techniques developed and used here can be used throughout Iraq thereby enabling Nature Iraq to more effectively assess and evaluate priority areas for conservation. The approach focuses particularly on the development of identification tools which can be used accurately by a variety of non-specialist users. This will contribute in the long term to the engagement of local communities in protected area management for example as eco-tourist guides and through community based monitoring. Linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

We have considered a number of potential obstacles. **Staff turnover** –core staff have secure jobs and will hopefully remain at NI. However, staff leaving would likely remain involved in the field. **Lack of uptake of training** –the high number of applications for previous courses by NI points to a demand for training. **Political problems** –the site is located in one of the most stable areas of Iraq. **Willingness of communities to engage** –previous work by NI and other of their partners indicates that this is unlikely to be an issue.

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

The project is both discrete in so far as it will result in an end point which is a set of tools that can be used in Iraq for effective in-situ conservation. It is also part of an ongoing commitment by both RBGE and BI to working in Iraq and specifically to supporting Nature Iraq. By working in close partnership to deliver this project as well as through practical training courses delivered the ability of NI to initiate conservation and to develop environmental outreach and community engagement activities both regionally and nationally will be strengthened. Nature Iraq's commitment to these tasks is on-going and a major part of its mission. The approach and techniques adopted here have been developed through extensive regional experience but will be documented here for the first time. By the end of the project a core set of NI staff will be able to apply this methodology and use it elsewhere.

Training courses and e-learning will be made available to University students. The online-learning courses will remain available after the project and we will explore the possibility of these courses becoming incorporated into University curricula. The professional networks developed through these courses will be long lasting.

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)

You should address each of these points.

Part of the project involves raising awareness of biodiversity and environmental issues within the local community. This kind of engagement is currently rare in Iraq but is essential to the long term success of any protected area programme and for the sustainable livelihoods of those communities that depend on them. For this reason and with a view to the future we have chosen to focus on delivering training and materials to teachers in local schools. NI has been working in the local schools as part of another ongoing project in the area (Wild goat project – funded by the Conservation Leadership Programme) and therefore has established relationships with some of these. Capacity building will focus on training workshops for teachers and developing teaching materials for them to use in the classroom. Effectiveness will be measured through feedback from teachers and students.

Capacity building will be delivered to NI staff informally via the close working partnerships on this project, staff will be able to apply techniques used here to survey, develop guides and other areas of the country. This will be evaluated through the reporting process.

A general lack of fundamental skills in plants, birds and conservation amongst Iraqi biodiversity students and professionals has been recognised by the project partners during training courses delivered in Iraq. The short training courses and online learning element of the project has been developed as a way of delivering basic in-demand training to potentially large numbers of students. These students will go on to fill positions in Iraqi Universities and Ministries in the future and it is essential that they understand some basic biological concepts in order to be best equipped for these jobs. It will also help identify talented individuals for further training by NI in the future.

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: Iraq is better able to assess and evaluate priority areas for conservation and monitor and manage a proposed Iraqi protected area network.	3 years after the project the tools and techniques developed here are being applied to survey and monitor areas across Iraq.	NI reports and publications	
Purpose: Building capacity for in-situ conservation in Iraq	Plant data available to inform conservation planning nationally and specific tools and methods modelled locally for exemplar IPA(s) Partners capacity for plant and bird conservation increased through training and extensive joint working. Extensive training in foundation skills (plants, birds and conservation) delivered to individuals from a range of Iraqi institutions. Outreach and environmental education programme developed in communities local to Piramagroon.	IPA reports, scientific papers and information available on project website NI staff delivering training and supporting trainees on e-learning course. Internal reports Course reports Outreach materials and program reports	Funding continues for Nature Iraq's KBA programme. Security situation in Iraq is maintained Those trained under the DI project go on to be engaged in conservation in Iraq. Good uptake of training courses. Willingness of communities to engage.
Outputs (add or delete rows as necessary) 1. Botanical data for conservation collected, analysed, and available in Iraq	Provisional Iraqi IPAs identified Provisional red list assessments for Iraq's endemic plants Identification tools developed and IPA survey and assessment complete for at least one IPA.	Report and scientific papers on Iraq's IPAs Red listing completed and available Identification tools available electronically and in hard copy Reports and scientific papers on IPA survey	Access to areas of interest for survey work maintained.
2. Capacity built for PA management			

<p>i/ Materials for use by resource managers</p> <p>ii/ Develop community level awareness of conservation locally in Piramagroon</p>	<p>Interactive identification guides to Piramagroon developed for birds, plants and selected other taxonomic groups</p> <p>Manual of traditional land management practices</p> <p>Preliminary red list of Iraq's Birds</p> <p>Outreach programme developed, active and using materials produced by the project.</p>	<p>Guides available on project website</p> <p>Manual published</p> <p>Red listing completed and available</p> <p>Project reports and programme feedback</p>	<p>Willingness of community to participate</p>
<p>3. Iraqis trained in botany, ornithology and general conservation</p>	<p>e-learning modules developed and operational for foundation skills in botany, ornithology and conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 Iraqis complete foundation skills course in botany • 30 Iraqis complete foundation skills course in ornithology • 30 Iraqis complete foundation skills course in conservation <p>15 Iraqis complete advanced courses and practical field training in birds, botany and conservation Y2 and Y3</p> <p>NI staff co-supporting training</p>	<p>Website, coursework, course reports and feedback</p> <p>Course reports and feedback</p> <p>Evidence of NI trainers passing on skills by teaching during workshops and supporting trainees online.</p>	<p>Trainees continue to be employed in the conservation field.</p>

Activities (details in workplan)

Project website launched

Annual meeting of project partners

1.1 Provisional identification of Iraqi IPAs

1.2 Provisional red listing of Iraqi endemic and near endemic plants

1.3 Plant based data for Piriagroon IPA generated

2.1 Development and testing of interactive electronic tools

2.2 Development of manual of traditional land management practices near Piriagroon

2.3. Preliminary Red List Iraq's birds

2.4. Development of community level awareness through outreach in schools programme

3.1 Development of training courses and e-learning modules

3.2 Annual training course in Iraq & delivery of ongoing learning and assessment

4.1 Other activities: Project website launched and periodically updated

4.2 Other activities: Kick off meeting and annual steering group meeting

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 Provisional identification of Iraqi IPAs (<u>Milestone</u> IPA workshop yr 1, <u>Milestone</u> report on GIS analysis of endemics and near endemics yr2, <u>Milestone</u> report and papers on Iraq's IPAs published / submitted yr 2 and 3)	6												
1.2 Provisional Red Listing of Iraqi endemic and near endemic plants (<u>Milestone</u> annual progress report, <u>Milestone</u> UK visit by NI staff member yr1 yr 2, <u>Milestone</u> Red Listing report published yr3)	8												
1.3 Plant based data for Piraamagroon IPA generated (<u>Milestone</u> field work complete yr 1 and yr2, <u>Milestone</u> checklist yr2, <u>Milestone</u> progress report plant profile and key development yr 1, yr2, <u>Milestone</u> project report yr 3)	28												
2.1 Development and testing of interactive electronic tools (<u>Milestone</u> version 1 produced and field tested yr 2, <u>Milestone</u> version 2 produced and field tested yr3, <u>Milestone</u> online publication of versions yr 2 and yr3)	28												
2.2 Development of manual of traditional land management practices near Piraamagroon (<u>Milestone</u> field interviews yr 1 and yr2, <u>Milestone</u> manual published yr2)	3												
2.3 Preliminary Red List Iraq's birds (<u>Milestone</u> annual progress report yr1, yr2, <u>Milestone</u> UK visit by NI staff member yr1 yr 2, <u>Milestone</u> Red Listing report published yr3)	6												
2.4 Development of community level awareness through outreach in schools programme (<u>Milestone</u> Teachers workshop yr 1, <u>Milestone</u> materials for use in schools developed yr1 and yr2, dissemination workshop yr3)	3												
3.1 Development of courses and e-learning modules (<u>Milestone</u> course outline yr1, <u>Milestone</u> complete modules developed and online yr1, <u>Milestone</u> course review report yr 2 and yr 3)	9												
3.2 Annual training course in Iraq & delivery of ongoing learning and assessment (<u>Milestone</u> training courses yr1, yr2 , yr3, <u>Milestone</u> end of course report yr1, yr2, yr3)	12												
4.1 Other activities: Project website launched and periodically updated	1												
4.2 Other activities: Kick off meeting and annual steering group meeting	1												

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	30
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	70
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)	3
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	3 years
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	30
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	1
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	4
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	4
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)	1
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.	2
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	3
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	2
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	3
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	1
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	1
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)	1
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	1
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	£10,000
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	£201,359

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.

Progress toward milestones and outputs to achieve the Logical Framework indicators will be monitored and evaluated through the Darwin Initiative's own reporting procedures. In-country annual steering group meetings attended by all project partners will review progress against project milestones. The project team in the UK and Iraq will also monitor progress informally through ongoing email and skype communications. It is intended that this would recognise and address any issues arising quickly. These mechanisms will be formally agreed by partners in MoUs drawn up prior to the start of the project.

Individual project activities and outputs will be evaluated where possible for example:

- Interactive guides will be tested by Nature Iraq staff in the field and feedback incorporated into improvements.
- All participants on training courses, workshops or using the online learning courses will be asked to complete evaluation forms.
- Educational materials will be assessed by the teachers who use them who will be asked to complete a feedback.

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)

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is a Scottish charity and a Non-Departmental Public Body. The Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) provided £9,958k (70%) of our income as Grant-in-Aid for the financial year ending March 2011. We also receive income from research grants (£1,135k/8%), trading income from the shops in the Garden in Edinburgh and at the three Specialist Gardens (£1,030k/7%), income from education courses (£629k/4%), and income from admission charges at the Specialist Gardens (£331k/2%). In 2010-11 we also received membership income of £145k, donations of £75k, and £827k from other sources.

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 addition work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.

Confirmed:

Botanics Foundation

Approximately XXk has been awarded to RBGE to develop the mobile phone technology which will be used in this project. This is part of a larger grant from the Foundation to the RBGE for the development of a Virtual Learning Environment. This VLE will also be used for the project.

Bloomsbury Plc

The publishers of the book *Birds of the Middle East* have agreed to give the project access to the images and other material from the book.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

For the core funded staff working on project - salary, ERNIC, pension, overheads and estate costs whilst working in UK

Nature Iraq

Project manager – salary

Costs of additional staff for fieldwork and training courses

Matched funding for Richard Porter in role as NI advisor Use of NI training facilities and vehicles
Unconfirmed:

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):
Funding in kind: BirdLife International Office overheads and estates costs Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Provision of an MSc 'Biodiversity & Taxonomy of Plants' student in years one and two to work on a self-contained dissertation project that will be directly aligned to the DI project and adds value.

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

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of **£299,404** 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 are also enclosed (*delete as appropriate*):

Name (block capitals)	PROFESSOR MARY GIBBY
Position in the organisation	DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE

Signed



Date:

24.10.2011

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

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

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.