



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: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Address: The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, United Kingdom
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican – a Terai flagship species.

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

Proposed start date: 1 Oct 2012		Duration of project: 36 months			End date: 30 Sept 2015	
Darwin funding requested	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Total
		£	£	£	£	£290,417
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost: 28%						

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

Develop, demonstrate and advocate conservation measures for Bengal florican in India and Nepal.

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	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
Surname	Barber	Kalra	Thakuri
Forename (s)	Ian	Mohit	Jyotendra
Post held	Partner Development Officer (Asia)	GIS Analyst	Conservation Officer
Institution (if different to above)		Bombay Natural History Society	Bird Conservation Nepal
Department	Partner Development Unit		
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
15032	Dr Paul Donald	Conserving a Flagship Steppe Species: the Critically Endangered Sociable Lapwing
EIDPO024	Ian Barber	Securing the future for Gurney's Pitta and its forest habitat
16005	Dr Jeremy Lindsay	Biodiversity inventory and monitoring for conservation of threatened Sumatran forest
18-004	Michael Brombacher	Altyn Dala: supporting ecosystem-scale conservation in Kazakhstan
18-008	Dr Juliet Vickery	Trans-boundary solutions to the Asian vulture crisis
18-017	Dr Richard Cuthbert	Developing knowledge to eradicate house mice from UK OT islands

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: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) www.rspb.org.uk	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The RSPB is the UK partner of BirdLife International. The RSPB will manage overall project implementation; provide training and capacity building to in-country partners; technical support and research expertise. RSPB have supported both BNHS and BCN for over 10 years, primarily to protect their Important Bird Areas and Globally Threatened Species. The RSPB will coordinate the overall implementation of the project, overseeing the budget, monitoring project progress, and financial and technical reporting requirements. The RSPB will provide technical support to the in-country project partners particularly in the areas of developing and undertaking scientific field research, data analysis and scientific publication
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>University of East Anglia (UEA) www.uea.ac.uk</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>UEA will bring expertise in the ecology of, and research techniques for, this species. UEA has nine years of research experience on Bengal florican in Cambodia, including quantifying population distribution and size; design of monitoring survey; undertaking research into breeding season habitat requirements and influence of human activity (including grazing, burning, fallowing); use of radio-telemetry and satellite tags to examine post breeding dispersal, migration and non-breeding habitat requirements, and use of remote sensing to examine distribution of suitable habitat. UEA personnel will support trapping and transmitter deployment and provide technical advice throughout the project.</p>
<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) http://www.bnhs.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>BNHS is the BirdLife International partner and one of the largest membership-based conservation NGOs in India. BNHS has a long-standing partnership with the RSPB going back over 15 years.</p> <p>BNHS and particularly its Director, Dr Rahmani, are recognised leaders in the field of bustard research having published over 30 papers on Bustards and grasslands and have been intimately involved with survey and research work on Bengal florican (a bustard species) for over 20 years. For many years, BNHS have been advocating for a government led "Project Bustard" along similar lines to Project Tiger and Project Elephant. They were successful in persuading the government to establish bustard Sanctuaries across a large part of the species range.</p> <p>BNHS will play the central role in implementing the project in India, and overseeing the coordination of research work in both India and Nepal. BNHS will engage a Project Co-ordinator with experience in bustard research and employ new staff for field based research and advocacy including the development of management and Species Recovery Plans. In addition, BNHS will utilise the capacity of the Indian Bird Conservation Network (a network of local NGOs coordinated by BNHS for bird conservation across India).</p>

Partner Name and website where available: Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) http://www.birdlifeneal.org/	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): BCN is one of Nepal's longest-established nature conservation NGOs and the BirdLife International partner in Nepal. BCN has a wealth of experience in bird research and conservation and are well practiced in forming effective partnerships with local communities and Site Support Groups. BCN has previous experience of managing Darwin Initiative projects and is currently engaged in a Darwin-funded project on ecosystem services with BirdLife International. BCN will be responsible for the survey and research work in Nepal and engaging with local communities and Protected Area staff for practical grassland management trials. They will facilitate workshops to develop the National Species Recovery Plan for Nepal.
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9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please give details: During the development of this proposal, the project partners have consulted with government officials in the respective countries as well as a wide variety of organisations. These include: the Oriental Bird Club, BirdLife International, Himalayan Nature, the Katarniaghat Foundation, The Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India, the Tiger Haven Society and the Terai Nature Conservation Society. Letters of support from all of the above organisations are enclosed in the supporting documents.
9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please give details: Once survey areas and habitat trial sites have been identified, key stakeholders including local communities, Protected Area staff and local government will be consulted. This consultation will include the design of habitat trials, as well as ongoing monitoring of trial sites. The establishment of local conservation groups will be the key tool used to engage local communities, while workshops and meetings will be utilised to engage key stakeholders.
9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please give details: In India, BNHS works closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), and is currently in the process of securing funding to support Bengal florican activities (additional to this proposal). BNHS has applied to the MoEF for 5,697,100 INR (approximately £80,000) to support Bengal florican survey work in India. A decision is expected in late 2011. In Nepal, BCN has consulted with the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) who have provided a letter of support. The DNPWC grassland management manual calls for grassland management plans for Protected Areas, an output that this project will deliver.
9d. Will your project support any work in the UK Overseas Territories? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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)**

The lowland Terai grasslands of northern India and southern Nepal and the alluvial floodplains of the Brahmaputra in North East India are unique and severely threatened ecosystems, supporting globally threatened species. Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), a flagship of this distinctive and diminishing habitat, is a Critically Endangered (IUCN, 2008) bustard, restricted to two small and disjunct populations, one in the Terai region, and the other in Cambodia. It has declined dramatically, with an estimated global population of not more than 1300 individuals (which includes 220-280 birds in India and up to 50 in Nepal). Urgent action is required to understand the species' distribution and habitat requirements in India and Nepal, so that it can be more effectively protected. Reliable information on distribution, population and habitat in India and Nepal is limited, and the species' movements and requirements outside the breeding season remains unknown.

Bengal florican is a highly specialised bird, dependent upon alluvial grassland habitat. It is an ideal flagship species for the wider fauna and flora of the Terai, which includes the hispid hare *Caprolagus hispidus* (EN), pygmy hog *Porcula salvania* (CR) and bristled grassbird *Chaetornis striata* (VU). Terai grassland is under threat from indiscriminate conversion to agriculture, plantations of exotic trees, expansion of human settlements and overgrazing by livestock. The collapse of traditional grazing regimes, untimely burning of grasslands and the rarity of wild herbivores has also contributed to this loss. Many of these unfavourable activities occur within protected areas (PAs), which have been traditionally managed to cater for megafauna including Indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* and Bengal tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*, often overlooking the specific needs of the Bengal florican and its associated grassland habitat. The main problems we aim to tackle are:

1. The lack of knowledge regarding the distribution and habitat requirements of Bengal florican, particularly outside the breeding season.
2. The indiscriminate loss and unfavourable management of known Bengal florican habitat.

The project will undertake surveys to assess the distribution of Bengal floricans in India and Nepal, and research the movements of birds between breeding and non-breeding areas using satellite tracking. Once key breeding and non-breeding areas have been identified, remote sensing will be used to identify the location, extent and utilisation of potentially suitable habitat. The project will build on two grassland habitat restoration trials in Nepal and one in India involving local farmers and pastoralists and Government Protected Area staff. These trials will assess the effectiveness of management techniques for the restoration and enhancement of grassland habitat for Bengal florican. The impact of restoration techniques upon other species will also be assessed. Recommendations from these trials will be incorporated into grassland management plans for PAs and National Species Recovery Plans for India and Nepal respectively.

The project activities include outreach and engagement with local communities, protected area managers and key decision makers to increase awareness of Bengal florican and its potential value. The project will establish population monitoring protocols and develop capacity in partner organisations. Key outcomes of the project include:

- understanding the distribution and habitat requirements of Bengal florican;
- identification of suitable grassland management techniques to promote favourable habitat for Bengal florican and benefit traditional pastoralists;
- incorporation of the needs of Bengal florican in appropriate management plans;
- improved capacity of partner organisations to maintain, monitor and build upon project outcomes beyond the life of the Darwin project.

This project will help India and Nepal meet their obligations under the CBD Protected Areas programme work (Article 8 (b,c,d,e,)) and include the effective participation of local communities, with reference to Article 8(j) of the convention. The development of grassland management plans and National Species Recovery Plans will contribute to Article 6 (b) of the CBD, whilst project

activities will also contribute to Article 10 (b,c) through the promotion of traditional grazing regimes. Research and monitoring activities will contribute to Articles 12 and 7 respectively. The use of grassland management demonstration trials contributes to the CBD Sustainable Use of Biodiversity programme, with reference to COP decision 10 X/32 2(j). Awareness raising activities within local communities contributes to Article 13. This project will contribute to the following Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

- Strategic Goal B Target 5, 7, by reducing the degradation and loss of Terai grassland habitat, and promoting sustainably management of grassland habitat for Bengal florican.
- Strategic Goal C Target 11, 12, by improving the effectiveness of Protected Area management in India and Nepal for the benefit of Bengal florican. Downgrading the IUCN threat class for Bengal florican from CR to EN.
- Strategic Goal E Target 18, 19 through the promotion of sustainable and traditional grazing regimes in Terai grasslands and improving knowledge base on distribution and habitat requirements of Bengal florican in India and Nepal.

The conservation of grasslands and bustards has been identified as a priority by the Indian Government Ministry of Environment & Forests' Report of the Working Subgroup on Wildlife, Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge and Animal Welfare for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012). The *conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity* and the *rehabilitation of threatened species* are key goals of the Indian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The project will address key threats to Bengal florican identified in The Nepal Biodiversity Action Plan, which identifies the need to develop organisational capacity, improve local community participation and produce Species Conservation Plans for key species within PAs.

RSPB is the UK partner of Birdlife International. RSPB will manage overall project implementation; provide training and capacity building to in-country partners; technical support and research expertise. RSPB have supported both BNHS and BCN for over 10 years, primarily to protect their Important Bird Areas and Globally Threatened Species. Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) are the Birdlife Partners for India and Nepal respectively. They will manage, implement and monitor project activities in India and Nepal. University of East Anglia (UEA) has conducted research into the Cambodian subspecies of Bengal florican and as such will provide expertise and training in Bengal florican survey techniques.

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

This initiative builds on and transfers existing expertise acquired in previous work. UEA, in collaboration with BirdLife international, BirdLife Indochina and the Wildlife Conservation Society, has conducted research on the conservation ecology of a separate and disjunct population of Bengal florican in the Tonle Sap floodplain of Cambodia since 2002, including an MSc by Research and two NERC funded PhD studies. This previous work will inform appropriate methodologies for the study of the species in Nepal and India, although the ecology and land-use systems are likely to differ so that new research is required in the Indian subcontinent.

Through knowledge transfer, UEA has also informally supported a number of individuals and NGOs in both India and Nepal in monitoring and researching Bengal florican. A previous UEA study examined the management of Terai grassland in Nepal, through the effects of different burning and cutting regimes and they have also conducted research into livelihoods of indigenous Terai communities in Nepal PAs.

BNHS has been involved with the conservation of all three globally threatened bustards in India for many years. They have undertaken survey work and research into grassland habitat requirements and we will build on this knowledge and experience. This project will help develop an approach to the conservation of Bengal florican through appropriate management of areas both inside and outside Protected Areas.

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:

In Nepal, Himalayan Nature (HN) is undertaking small-scale habitat restoration work in Chitwan National Park, and monitoring Bengal florican numbers. HN survey techniques involve the counting of displaying males and the habitat restoration work undertaken is on a smaller scale than this proposed project. The satellite tracking work in this proposal is required to provide information regarding movement by birds in the non-breeding season when birds do not display. Practically nothing is known about their distribution or habitat requirements at this time. The survey work carried out by HN will be used to identify potential survey and restoration sites in Nepal, and successful habitat management techniques incorporated into the design of habitat trials. Findings will be shared between both parties and HN will be represented in the development of the National Species Recovery Plan for Nepal. Staff at Chitwan NP have experience of monitoring floricans and support this project.

UEA in collaboration with ACCB (Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity) and Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program will undertake a CEPF funded survey of Bengal florican in Cambodia, in 2012, in order to establish the extent of habitat and population decline. In addition, ongoing satellite tracking data will be analysed to update understanding of non-breeding habitat requirements and movements. Both will be conducted by the same UEA personnel contributing to this Darwin project. The combination of work in the Indian sub-continent and Cambodia will allow a global assessment of the species' status. Experience of survey methods in Cambodia will inform techniques to be used in India and Nepal.

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.

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:

The CDB focal points in both India and Nepal will be invited to workshops as appropriate and kept updated on progress to inform national CBD reporting requirements.

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

This project addresses Article 6 (b); Article 7; Article 8 (b)(c)(d)(e)(j); Article 10 (b)(c) and Article 12

of the CBD.

Bengal florican is a rapidly declining species dependent upon grassland habitat that has become fragmented and degraded due to unprecedented human pressure and overgrazing. Remaining areas are inappropriately managed, limiting local communities in their ability to manage their grasslands sustainably. Detection of birds outside of the breeding season is extremely difficult and hence movement and habitat use is unknown.

The conservation of grasslands and bustards is identified as a priority by the Indian Government Ministry of Environment & Forests. The *conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity* and the *rehabilitation of threatened species* are key goals of their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Nepal Biodiversity Action Plan identifies the need to develop organisational capacity, improve local community participation and produce Species Conservation Plans for key species within Protected Areas.

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

This work will advance the knowledge base on Bengal florican, providing increased understanding of the species' distribution and habitat requirements, addressing major gaps that currently limit conservation efforts. Grassland management practices within Protected Areas will change as a result of the implementation of habitat management recommendations, through agreement of workplans with PA managers. Outside PAs, awareness raising and the engagement of local communities will facilitate habitat management improvements to benefit Bengal florican. The project will increase the habitat area available for Bengal florican, which will, in time, be able to support increasing Bengal florican populations. The production, review and endorsement of national Species Recovery Plans for Bengal florican will streamline conservation activities, and provide a sustainable strategy for future conservation efforts. This will be supported by robust monitoring protocols established during the project, and an increase in the capacity of partner organisations to deliver the recovery plan actions.

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

The decline of the Critically Endangered Bengal florican is inextricably linked to the loss of its Terai grassland habitat. By taking measures to ensure the survival of Bengal florican, through direct species protection and improved habitat management, the work will benefit an array of species unique to the Terai. Traditionally, conservation activities in the region have failed to incorporate the needs of lesser known species in the Terai, which include the Bengal florican, the hispid hare (EN), pygmy hog (CR) and bristled grassbird (VU). Grasslands globally are under threat, and are in retreat or decline in many areas due to their ease of conversion to agriculture, to unsustainable grazing practices, to the loss of natural browsers and to changes in atmospheric carbon, which promotes scrub encroachment. Grasslands are among the most threatened and least protected biomes on the planet.

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)

The results of the project will be shared through scientific papers, research reports, management guidelines and National Species Recovery Plans. Press releases in India and Nepal will publicise the production of the Species Action Plans.

Articles in RSPB's Birds magazine, (with a readership of 1.7million), the RSPB website and media releases will publicise the work to a wider audience. The RSPB website receives 18 million visits per year and the RSPB gets approximately 3,000 mentions in the national media annually. In addition, social networking opportunities including Twitter and Facebook, along with popular events such as the British Birdwatching Fair and our own annual members' weekend will be utilised.

In India and Nepal, communication activities will include TV and radio items, meetings at the government, district and community level. Key documents including management guidance will be disseminated to Protected Area managers. In Nepal, articles in BCNs quarterly magazine "Danphe" will be distributed to members and the Nepal Bird Conservation Network. Similarly, in India through the Indian Bird Conservation Network quarterly journal "Mistnet" produced by BNHS. Both partners' websites will carry details of the project.

The Darwin Initiative will be acknowledged in all promotional material and scientific publications produced during 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)

The long term benefits of this work include preventing the extinction of Bengal florican in India and Nepal while developing mechanisms to allow sustainable use of Terai grassland habitat. The project will provide a framework for ongoing conservation activities by i) addressing knowledge gaps that currently hinder conservation efforts; ii) identifying and advocating management techniques that benefit Bengal florican and local pastoralists iii) producing and updating Species Recovery Plans to ensure sustainability of outcomes and community involvement is achieved beyond the life of the project and iv) putting the capacity in place in India and Nepal to deliver recovery plan outcomes.

This project aims to incorporate traditional grazing by local pastoralists into protected area management. Illegal cutting of fodder in alluvial grasslands is widespread in Protected Areas. If cutting is found to be beneficial for floricans, it could be endorsed as part of the management plans within Protected Areas. It is possible that Protected Area managers may not incorporate such opportunities following the completion of the work. However, by undertaking pilot management trials and advocating with Protected Area managers we aim to demonstrate that success can be achieved whilst incorporating the needs of local communities.

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's objectives are to study the population, movements and habitat requirements of Bengal florican and establish management trials to demonstrate optimum habitat conditions for their survival. Securing the impact of these outputs to reverse the loss of grasslands will require long-term conservation investment. This work will contribute to, and catalyse, increasing efforts by forest officials, local communities and NGOs to establish and protect such areas, and this momentum will sustain grassland restoration efforts beyond the project.

Protected Area management plans will be written with PA staff and translated into annual workplans. The Species Recovery Plans will be written and updated with Government officials, local communities as well as conservation experts. The Indian Government has prioritised bustards and grasslands and the endorsement of SAPs by both Governments will bring with it a degree of financial and institutional support to facilitate their delivery. Further external funding will be required and project partners have a good record of maintaining continuity of their work through successful grant applications. BNHS and BCN will continue to receive institutional support from RSPB and BirdLife International.

Training in scientific methods will be spread across a number of researchers in India and Nepal to guard against staff turnover.

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.

Training provided during this project will focus on survey and monitoring of Bengal florican populations, and monitoring of habitat restoration trials.

Key stakeholders within the project areas in India and Nepal, including local communities through local conservation groups and Protected Area staff will be trained in Bengal florican survey and monitoring techniques. This training will be delivered by BCN and BNHS, with support from RSPB. The training will be tailored to the appropriate skill level, using simple, inexpensive and replicable methods, to encourage and promote participation amongst local communities. The purpose of the training will be to engage key stakeholders, whilst providing ongoing and reliable information of Bengal florican numbers. Effectiveness of the training will be gauged by staff from BCN and BNHS undertaking occasional surveys alongside trainees.

Habitat trials will be established by working closely with local pastoralists and Protected Area staff to establish the optimum grass sward at different times of the year through grazing, burning and cutting techniques as appropriate. These areas will be closely monitored and management practices reviewed to ensure the optimum habitat is provided for Bengal florican survival. The success of the training will become evident as the trial plots are monitored and ultimately by the use of the areas by Bengal florican.

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: Extinction threat to Bengal florican is significantly reduced.	Five years after end of project (EOP) Bengal florican is downgraded from Critically Endangered to a lower category of threat.	- IUCN publications. - Peer reviewed publications.	
Purpose Develop, demonstrate and advocate conservation measures for Bengal florican in India and Nepal.	Needs of Bengal florican incorporated into management of four protected areas in India and Nepal.	- National park management plans - Community grassland management plans	State and National governments remain supportive of Grassland conservation management.
Outputs (add or delete rows as necessary) 1. Knowledge of threats and distribution of Bengal florican in India and Nepal enhanced.	1a. Population size in sub-continent estimated and key sub-populations identified by Sept 2014. 1b. Habitat requirements of Bengal florican (both breeding and non breeding) identified by Mar 2015. 1c. Maps of remaining and potential Bengal florican habitat in India and Nepal published by Sept 2015.	- Population monitoring reports - IUCN bustard group reports - Peer reviewed publications	Research methods produce significant results.
2. Management techniques to produce suitable Bengal florican habitat in and around Protected Areas developed and trialled.	2a. Three restoration management trials developed and are being utilised by Bengal floricans by Sept 2015 2b. Local farmers and pastoralists from two communities involved in habitat management trials by Sept 2015.	- Habitat management trial reports. - Records of Bengal Floricans on restoration trial areas - Media reports	Management techniques for Bengal florican and spatial extent to which they should be applied are compatible with requirements of other key species.

<p>3. Local communities, Senior Protected Area decision makers, relevant conservation organisations and local Bengal florican Conservation Groups are aware of management techniques for Bengal florican.</p>	<p>3a. Three local Bengal florican support groups established by Sept 2014.</p> <p>3b. Three visits to demonstration trials made by Key decision makers from National Park management authorities by Sept 2015.</p> <p>3c. Grassland management strategy developed and adopted by four protected areas by EOP.</p> <p>3d. Key decision makers endorse species recovery plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project progress reports - Grassland habitat management guidelines - Endorsed species recovery plans 	<p>Traditional grazing regimes are shown to benefit Bengal florican habitat.</p> <p>Advocacy and awareness raising is successful in encouraging positive land management for Bengal florican.</p> <p>Participation of key stakeholders is secured.</p>
<p>4. Capacity for Bengal florican Conservation Programme in India and Nepal built, sustainability and legacy of project outputs secured.</p>	<p>4a. National Scientists and Park Authority staff are monitoring Bengal florican using consistent replicable protocols by Sept 2014 and seeking funding from government for Bengal florican conservation programmes by Sept 2015</p> <p>4b. Three local conservation groups monitoring and protecting floricans, by Sept 2014 and seeking funding to continue work beyond the end of the project by Sept 2015.</p> <p>4c. Nepalese National Species Recovery Plan for Bengal florican published and launched by Sept 2014.</p> <p>4d. Indian National Species Recovery Plan for Bengal florican reviewed and amended by Sept 2014.</p> <p>4e. Indian and Nepalese authorities are implementing action points from National Species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Park Authority florican monitoring reports - Park Authority funding applications - Local conservation group reports - Funding applications to support Local conservation groups - Bengal florican National Species Recovery Plans - Media reports of Recovery Plan launch. 	<p>Project partnerships remain strong throughout the duration of the project.</p>

Activities (details in workplan)

- 1.1 Recruit field staff in India and Nepal and identify capacity needs; train staff in Bengal florican survey and tracking techniques.
 - 1.2 Collate and digitise all existing information on distribution on Bengal florican into a GIS. Download and analyse remote sensing environmental layers in the GIS. Develop list of sites to survey.
 - 1.3 Undertake Bengal florican population survey in at least 3 areas in India and at least 4 areas survey in Nepal, using standardised and repeatable survey methods.
 - 1.4 Undertake satellite tracking studies. Quantify habitat condition in places used by Bengal florican and unused control sites, catch birds and attach radio satellite tags
 - 1.5 Download satellite data and measure distribution, population, movements and habitat requirements Bengal florican. Produce map of areas of existing and potential Bengal florican habitat.
 - 1.6 Research findings published in relevant reports/journals disseminated to key stakeholders.
- 2.1 Engage key stakeholders (eg. landowners/ local communities /Protected Area staff/ local government) to identify methods to recreate habitat conditions identified for Bengal florican under objective 1.
 - 2.2 Identify at least three suitable sites for habitat restoration trials and negotiate participation in trials of key stakeholders (eg. landowners/ local communities/ pastoralists /Protected Area staff/ local government).
 - 2.3 Undertake habitat trials on at least three sites.
 - 2.4 Measure changes in habitat condition at trial sites.
 - 2.5 Monitor Bengal florican usage of trial sites.
 - 2.6 Produce report on habitat usage of Bengal florican and disseminate to key stakeholders.
- 3.1 Meet communities to advocate management techniques identified under objectives 1 and 2.
 - 3.2 Train individuals from local communities to take part in habitat trial monitoring.
 - 3.3 Identify and establish three local conservation groups to monitor Bengal florican populations.
 - 3.4 Identify and establish contact with key national/regional decision makers.
 - 3.5 Arrange and accompany key personnel on visits to habitat trial sites
 - 3.6 Publish grassland management guidance and advocate to key stakeholders
- 4.1 Workshop with PA staff and other key stakeholders to develop habitat management strategy for at least 4 Protected Area sites.
 - 4.2 National scientists and PA staff agree implementation of ongoing survey protocols.
 - 4.3 Three local conservation groups participate in Bengal florican monitoring survey.
 - 4.4 Hold workshop with relevant stakeholders in India and Nepal and the wider scientific community to develop a National Bengal florican Species Recovery Plan for Nepal and update/amend Species Recovery Plan for India.
 - 4.5 Species Recovery Plans for Bengal florican endorsed and launched in India and Nepal.
 - 4.6 Funding activities undertaken to support local conservation groups

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
		Oct 12	Jan 13	Apr 13	July 13	Oct 13	Jan 14	Apr 14	July 14	Oct 14	Jan 15	Apr 15	July 15
1.1 Recruit and train field staff in India and Nepal.	2	■											
1.2 Collate existing information and develop list of sites to survey.	2	■	■										
1.3 Undertake Bengal florican population survey.	4		■	■			■	■					
1.4 Undertake satellite tracking studies	6			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1.5 Identify distribution, population, movements and habitat requirements of Bengal florican.	2			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
1.6 Research findings published in relevant reports/journals disseminated to key stakeholders.	1												■
2.1 Identify methods to recreate habitat conditions identified for Bengal florican under objective 1.	1.5				■	■	■						
2.2 Identify at least three suitable sites for habitat restoration trials and negotiate participation in trials	2				■	■							
2.3 Undertake habitat trials on at least three sites	2				■	■	■						
2.4 Measure changes in habitat condition at trial sites.	2					■	■	■					
2.5 Monitor Bengal florican usage of trial sites	2					■	■	■					
2.6 Produce report on habitat usage of Bengal florican and disseminate to key stakeholders	1							■					
3.1 Meet communities to advocate management techniques identified under objectives 1 and 2.	1							■					
3.2 Train individuals from local communities to take part in habitat trial monitoring.	1							■	■				
3.3 Identify and establish three local conservation groups to monitor Bengal florican populations.	2							■	■				
3.4 Identify and establish contact with key national/regional decision makers and visit demonstration trials.	2								■	■			
3.5 Publish habitat management guidance and advocate to key stakeholders.	2										■	■	■

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4.1	Workshop with PA staff and other key stakeholders to develop habitat management strategy for at least 4 Protected Area sites.	1												
4.2	National scientists and PA staff agree implementation of ongoing survey protocols.	1												
4.3	Three local conservation groups participate in Bengal florican monitoring survey.	2												
4.4	Workshops in India to review, and Nepal to amend and develop National Species Recovery Plans.	1.5												
4.5	Species Recovery Plans for Bengal florican endorsed and launched in India and Nepal.	1												
4.6	Funding activities undertaken to support local conservation groups	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	3
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	10
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	2
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	10
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)	10
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	4
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	8
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	2
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	1
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	
12A	Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to host country	1
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country	
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	2
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	1
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	4
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	6
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	2
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	2
18D	Number of local TV programmes/features in UK	
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	2
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	2
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	28,800
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	3
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	

PROJECT BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

20. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.

Ian Barber (Project Leader, RSPB) will assume overall responsibility for monitoring project progress. Ian will work closely with Paul Dolman (UEA), Asad Rahmani (Director, BNHS) and Hum Gurung (CEO, BCN) to plan and agree workplans for project staff to deliver project activities for their respective organisations. Ian will review project progress against indicators in the logframe and project implementation timetable on a monthly basis. UEA, BNHS and BCN will assume responsibility reviewing progress made in implementing workplans with staff within their respective organisations, and reporting progress to Ian who will collate information and provide overview. Ian will visit the project countries twice a year when steering group meetings between project partners will be held to identify any potential issues with completion of activities and share findings. This will be in addition to regular contact through e-mails, Skype, phone calls etc.

The purpose of the project is to develop, demonstrate and advocate conservation measures, and monitoring and evaluation therefore reflects these three components. Development of conservation measures (progress towards output 1) will largely be measured through the production of high quality and robust scientific literature including reports and peer reviewed scientific publications. Demonstration of conservation measures (progress towards output 2) will be demonstrated through the implementation of habitat management trials, and the participation of key stakeholders within those trials. Establishing local conservation groups will be a key measure of progress for output 3, along with the publication and adoption of grassland management guidelines by PAs to advocate conservation measures. The production, endorsement and implementation of National Species Recovery Plans will be a key measure of progress for output 4. The continued use of replicable survey protocols by in country partners, and the sustained activities of local conservation groups will demonstrate that capacity has been built to deliver conservation outcomes for Bengal florican and monitor success beyond the life of the project.

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 2009/10, the RSPB had a total gross income of £121.9 million. This was made up as follows:

Membership subscriptions:	37.0	30%
Legacies:	27.9	23%
Grants, commercial donations and trusts:	31.8	26%
Commercial trading:	19.6	16%
Land rents, farming and advisory	4.6	4%
Other income	1.0	1%

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: RSPB - £XXXX UEA - £XXXX BNHS - £XXXX
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:

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

RSPB and partners have been working in the project areas for many years, we are confident that there are no significant security issues.

CERTIFICATION 2011/12**Application Ref: 1767: Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican - a Terai flagship species**

On behalf of the trustees of

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

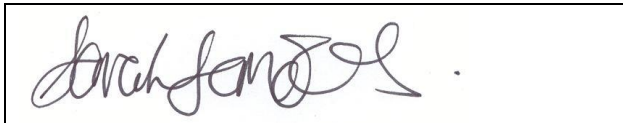
(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £290,417 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 enclosed with the hard copy of this application. This is not yet on our web site, but the annual review, which includes summarised figures is available at:
http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/annual_review_tcm9-291868.pdf

Name (block capitals)	Sarah Sanders
Position in the organisation	Head of Partner Development Unit (Africa, Asia, UK Overseas Territories)

Signed

Date:

24 October 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.