



Submit by Monday 3 December 2012

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 19: 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.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Name and address of organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by post and email to the Project Leader)

Name: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Address: The Lodge, SANDY, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, UK
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2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

(max 10 words)

Stage 1 reference: 2031

Project title: Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest

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

Proposed start date: 1st April 2013 Duration of project: 3 yrs End date: 31st March 2016

Darwin request	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	Total £
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Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost:

RSPB confirmed 5.2%

Gola Rainforest National Park confirmed 15.7%

Welt Hunger Hilfe EU grant to be confirmed or otherwise by February 2013. Amount 6.3%.

4. Define the outcome of the project. This should be a repetition of Question 24, Outcome Statement.

(max 100 words)

Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) stakeholders are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the benefit of livelihoods, carbon, biodiversity and habitat connectivity.

The project will contribute to reducing poverty by supporting the re-emerging cocoa sector in 30 forest-edge communities. 70 households will increase incomes by 10% due to improved cocoa farming.

Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) research will inform a land management strategy to direct cocoa restoration to areas that minimise loss of wildlife and loss of cocoa due to conflicts.

The National Cocoa Working Group will recognise the strategy and interest will be shown by other protected areas in-country.

5. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

Country 1: SIERRA LEONE	Country 2:
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6. Biodiversity Conventions

Which of the three conventions supported by the Darwin Initiative will your project be supporting? Note: projects supporting more than one convention will not achieve a higher scoring

Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	No

6b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the convention(s) your project is targeting. You may wish to refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here.

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

(Max 200 words)

CBD:

Article 5. Cooperation between Sierra Leone and UK for the benefit of an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot and to improve local livelihoods.

Articles 7c/7d. Identifying and Monitoring HWC and bushmeat hunting dynamics in the project area.

Articles 8e/8j. In-situ Conservation by promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development in communities around GRNP and ensuring their **traditional knowledge and lifestyles** are a core part of development.

Article 10c. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity, in particular **customary uses** will be incorporated into the plans for enhancing habitat connectivity developed by the project.

Article 12 b/c. Research and Training in field work and analytical approaches for assessing ways of integrating agricultural productivity with conservation at local/landscape scales and quantifying real/perceived extents of HWC as part of balancing wildlife **conservation and sustainable use**.

Article 13a. Public Education and Awareness through education programmes in the 30 target communities to raise awareness of the importance of the **conservation of biological diversity**.

Article 18. Technical and Scientific Cooperation between the UK (through RSPB) and Sierra Leone results in the development of **policy** briefings and **improved capacities** to implement.

The Project also contributes to **Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 7 and 14**.

Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CITES/CMS focal point in the host country?

Yes **No** if yes, please give details:

The CBD focal point will be invited to key project workshops where appropriate, in particular the end of project conference to discuss replication in other protected areas in-country.

7. Principals in project. Please identify and 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 personnel or more than one project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1 Main	Project Partner 2	Project Partner 3
Surname	Tubbs	Fofana	Sanderson	Monde
Forename (s)	Nicolas	Alusine	Fiona	Sama
Post held	Tropical Forest Conservation Manager	Protected Area Manager	Conservation Scientist	Director
Institution	RSPB	GFP	RSPB	CSSL
Department	International	n/a	Conservation Science	n/a
Telephone				
Email				

8. 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
19-011	Ian Barber	Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican - a Terai flagship species
19-012	Dr Rob Sheldon	Saving the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper from global extinction
19-028	Dr Richard Cuthbert	Addressing the threat of invasive species in Pitcairn Overseas Territory
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

Question 9 Deleted as answered 'yes' to question 8.

10. 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.

<p>Lead institution and website:</p> <p>RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/international</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>The RSPB is the UK partner of BirdLife International – a global partnership of national conservation organisations. By working with BirdLife we have a greater impact worldwide, helping to stem the loss of global biodiversity and achieve a more sustainable world.</p> <p>The RSPB will have overall responsibility for the project's successful implementation, building on its work in Sierra Leone (in particular protected area management at Gola) for over two decades. RSPB Conservation Scientists will lead the research component of the project in collaboration with the GRNP. This will capitalise on RSPB's extensive expertise on assessing impacts of land use change on biodiversity, particularly birds, in a range of habitats including agricultural land and tropical forests. RSPB scientists have been actively engaged with work on biodiversity and ecological surveys in Gola as well as training of local staff. These skills and knowledge will minimise 'start-up time' and maximise the efficiency of data collection and training of local staff. RSPB has led the development of the proposal.</p> <p>The RSPB has implemented many successful Darwin projects globally and has the capacity to lead this project. To ensure effective local delivery we have partnered with local and international expertise through WHH and GRNP.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) www.golarainforest.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>The Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) is a 22-year partnership of the Forestry Division (FD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), the RSPB and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL, local Birdlife Partner). It recently achieved the establishment of the National Park – the country's second. The GRNP will soon be assimilated into the newly established National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) for Sierra Leone. The NPAA will sit within MAFFS. However the GRNP will remain a government-led partnership with the RSPB and CSSL.</p> <p>GRNP management has been involved in the development and design of the proposal at all stages, mainly through email communications and commenting on drafts and occasional planning meetings.</p> <p>GRNP is the leading protected area programme in Sierra Leone, often referred to as an exemplar of protected area management in the region. GRNP's robust structure employs 100 Sierra Leoneans and 3 external technical experts, and has adequate capacity to play a key role in the management of the project.</p> <p>GRNP will be responsible for the on-the-ground coordination of the project and its research and community development staff will be engaged in the implementation of the activities.</p>
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Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes
Partner Name and website where available: Welt Hunger Hilfe www.welthungerhilfe.de	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH), a German development NGO, has worked on community cocoa development around GRNP for five years. WHH fights against global hunger and for sustainable food security. This incorporates the promotion of agriculture suited to local conditions, access to clean water, the provision of modern, environmentally friendly energy and the improvement of health and education. Roles and Responsibilities in project: WHH will implement a programme of cocoa rehabilitation, bolstered by a parallel 'Agriculture for Development' project, which has dedicated resources for improving cocoa quality and yields in the GRNP's project communities. WHH has contributed to the technical drafting of the proposal and has provided much background information on the agricultural development needs of the local communities. WHH has an excellent track record globally in delivering agricultural improvement projects in developing countries. WHH has been active in Sierra Leone for over 6 years and is considered the lead international development agency in the agricultural (rice, cocoa, coffee) sector there.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Conservation Society of Sierra Leone http://conservationsl.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>CSSL was founded in 1986, in response to calls for a local organisation committed to promoting conservation and management of environmental issues in Sierra Leone.</p> <p>It is a non-profit making, voluntary organisation with membership open to the general public, and is the BirdLife Partner in Sierra Leone. It has a published constitution with an Executive Committee elected at Biannual General Meetings.</p> <p>The objective of CSSL is to promote the wise use and management of Sierra Leone's Natural Resources through Education, Advocacy, Research and Site Action.</p> <p>CSSL has been involved in proposal design through face-to-face meetings to discuss the project and negotiate CSSL's role. CSSL will support community consultations and engagement, as well as education and awareness activities through the GRNP partnership as well as directly on the ground.</p> <p>CSSL has been affected by weak governance and capacity related issues over the past 5 years. In order to resolve this, the RSPB, as CSSL's long-term partner, is intensifying its support to build their institutional capacity. The new CSSL director is making real and lasting changes, and, as an agricultural expert himself, sees the opportunity for CSSL, as the leading conservation organisation in the country, to be engaged in this project.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Forestry Division http://www.slforestry.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>The Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security is the government body appointed to manage the national forest estate in Sierra Leone. Currently FD has 48 forest reserves and 2 national parks to manage. It is in charge of issuing and monitoring timber concessions and protected area management, and recently revised its forestry policies to ensure greater involvement of communities in forest management.</p> <p>As the key member of GRNP, the FD will have a lead role in the implementation of the project, providing on-the-ground logistical and technical support to the project team. Furthermore, this project will provide an opportunity for FD to strategically engage with other departments within the Ministry, particularly those relating to agriculture, demonstrating the holistic approach to forest conservation promoted here. FD will coordinate and help ensure the replication value of this initiative to other protected areas in the country.</p> <p>FD has been involved in proposal design through face-to-face meetings to discuss the project.</p> <p>Institutionally FD has HR, finance and technical capacity constraints. However, at project level, through its involvement in the GRNP this capacity has been greatly boosted with staff trained in a suite of protected area management skills.</p>
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Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes
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Partner Name and website where available: Cambridge University, Department of Land Economy http://www.landecon.cam.ac.uk/index.htm	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) <p>Cambridge University, working with the University of Wageningen as part of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), has already conducted extensive socioeconomic surveys around GRNP since 2009, building understanding of community development needs and measuring the success of GRNP. This project therefore builds on previous efforts and further integrates the expertise related to socioeconomics to help conserve the GRNP and its immediate surroundings.</p> <p>Cambridge and Wageningen will support the development of socioeconomic surveys and monitoring tools in an advisory capacity. They were involved in development of the proposal: their recent socioeconomic research has been influential in the development of this proposal and they have offered editorial support.</p> <p>Both University departments are global leaders in the fields of socioeconomic research, environmental economics, policy evaluation, development economics and biodiversity economics. They will bring much valued and credible research capacity.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes
Partner Name and website where available: Rainforest Alliance http://rainforest-alliance.org/	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) <p>The Rainforest Alliance (RA) works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices and consumer behaviour. The RA uses the power of markets to arrest the major drivers of deforestation and environmental destruction, and ensures that these are managed according to rigorous sustainability standards. These standards are promoted through certification and verification labels on branded products.</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities in project: RA will provide technical advice to ensure communities are aware of certification processes and requirements, build capacity on sustainable landscape practice and ensure this project meets certification processes and requirements.</p> <p>RA has provided comments and guidance on proposal drafting and development. The RA is a global leader in certification and has the capacity and recognition to provide the right expert advice for this project.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	No, because RA were unable to confirm their involvement until late in the proposal development process. We will send a Letter of Support from them to LTSI as soon as possible.

11. Have you provided CVs for the senior team including the Project Leader	Yes
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TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address. For example, what biodiversity and development challenges will the project address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

(Max 200 words)

Sierra Leone, bottom of the Human Development Index, is faced with huge developmental challenges. Over 70% of the population depends on agriculture and forests for livelihoods. These resources play a critical role in development, but rarely form part of an integrated approach.

Sierra Leone recently established the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP). The park is in three blocks, separated by a mosaic of settlements, agriculture and forests. Forest isolation will increase as resource demands increase with population growth. This process threatens forest integrity and wildlife and increases human–wildlife conflicts.

Efforts to revive the cocoa sector in post-conflict Sierra Leone have not fully succeeded due to the prevalence of unproductive varieties, aging plantations and the preoccupation of communities with subsistence agriculture. Efforts are underway to address this so that **shade-grown** cocoa restoration can be a key part of a carbon financing project being developed to secure sustained income for the GRNP. However, it is unclear whether rehabilitated cocoa is best used to promote forest connectivity for wildlife.

Directing cocoa restoration to increase yields while benefitting wildlife and minimising human–wildlife conflicts is therefore crucial for the success of the GRNP, for habitat connectivity and for sustainable livelihood improvement.

13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc).

(Max 500 words – repeat from Stage 1 with changes highlighted)

This section has been overhauled to better reflect project activities. The ecological methodology has been relatively unchanged, only shortened. Roles and responsibilities remain unchanged. The Socioeconomic methodology has been re-written (now under 'outputs' 2 and 3 below) and methodologies for outputs 4 and 5 added. The changes are too substantive to reflect in the text below, but the added blocks of text have been shaded.

RSPB will manage the project. GRNP will lead extension and research and provide logistical support. An RSPB Conservation Scientist will manage the research programme with GRNP Research Technicians. RSPB and GRNP will sign MoUs with WHH and Cambridge University.

Output 1: Assessing impacts on wildlife of restoring agro forestry (cocoa) systems

Plantations targeted for rehabilitation will be matched for characteristics (size, distance from GRNP, between or not between forest blocks) to those not targeted in a semi Before-After, Control-Intervention study. In year 1, we will survey 125+ habitat patches/points in dry/wet seasons for birds and large mammals in five habitats:

- Abandoned cocoa targeted for rehabilitation;
- Un-rehabilitated cocoa;
- Currently farmed cocoa;
- Slash-and-burn agriculture;
- GRNP – as a 'baseline'.

In year 3, after cocoa rehabilitation, surveys will be repeated to study the initial impact of rehabilitation on wildlife (coppiced cocoa rehabilitates within a year). The design allows comparison between habitats as well as examination of effects of rehabilitation and the significance of patch size, distance to forest and spatial location for wildlife communities.

Output 2: Communities have increased HWC understanding and methods to mitigate

In a different sample (20+) of active cocoa plantations, regular cocoa-pod counts to calculate pods lost/damaged by wildlife as a proportion of yield, will allow assessment of the extent of cocoa losses to crop raiding.

A review of HWC prevention and mitigation practices will be conducted. Existing socioeconomic data will be analysed and a methodology developed to monitor community attitude change to help assess project impact. Mitigation strategies for dealing with HWC will be highlighted and demonstrated in one forest-edge community. Awareness workshops in communities will promote these strategies.

Output 3: Improving cocoa yields in forest-edge communities

GRNP and WHH staff will engage with 180 cocoa-growing households in 30 forest-edge communities (FEC) to improve yields. We will link households with farmer field schools which support farmers with tools and advice to improve yields. We will analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor communities using questionnaires and attitude surveys to understand the value of cocoa as source of income. Advice will be given to ongoing cocoa rehabilitation initiatives to promote habitat connectivity. Multi-stakeholder workshops will enhance local capacity around cocoa cultivation and human-wildlife conflict issues.

Output 4: Livelihood development and habitat connectivity adopted and promoted

The combined results from socioeconomic and ecological work will provide the basis to develop criteria and principles for selecting priority cocoa development areas to enhance connectivity and a map demonstrating where cocoa can be used in the mosaic linking the forest blocks. These will be integrated into GRNP management. The project will be promoted for possible replication in other protected areas in-country.

Output 5: Effective project management and capacity

A project steering committee with all partners will meet every 6 months. A project start-up workshop will develop the M&E plan, contracts, workplans, reporting schedules and budgets. A training programme for the Sierra Leonean partners will be developed and carried out throughout the project.

14. Outcome

Detail what the expected outcomes of this work will be. The outcome should identify what will change and who will benefit. The outcome should refer to how the project will contribute to reducing poverty while contributing to sustainable development and management of biodiversity and its products. A summary statement of this outcome should be provided in question 4 and 24.

(Max 250 words)

GRNP stakeholders are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the benefit of livelihoods, biodiversity and habitat connectivity.

The project will contribute to reducing poverty by catalysing and supporting the re-emergence of cocoa as an effective way of reducing poverty in forest-edge communities. 70 households from project communities that enrolled with farmer field schools in year 1 will be actively engaged in modern cocoa-farming that will increase household incomes by 10% by the end of the project.

The project will undertake field research to understand the value of shade-grown cocoa to wildlife and the dynamics of human-wildlife conflict across the forest farm landscape in target areas for connectivity between the three block of the GRNP. Findings will inform a land management strategy to direct cocoa restoration to the most appropriate areas that minimise loss of wildlife and loss of cocoa due to wildlife conflicts. The strategy to secure GRNP's habitat connectivity will be implemented as part of the park's Annual Operations Plan, and will greatly influence its approach to the implementation of the carbon project. The strategy will have biodiversity conservation and sustainable use as one of its key operating principles.

An end-of-project conference will consolidate project findings and the GRNP's approach to restore local cocoa plantations will be recognised by the National Cocoa Working Group. Interest will be shown by other forest protected areas in Sierra Leone where cocoa farming is prevalent in and around the protected area.

15a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Please give details (Max 200 words):

This proposal is a development of and complement to two ongoing initiatives: the GRNP (previously funded by EU, Darwin, FFEM, GCF) and the work of Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH) to rehabilitate the agricultural landscape in community lands surrounding the GRNP.

The past 10 years has seen the development and refinement of a livelihoods programme to support GRNP communities. The programme is based on the royalty system enshrined in the Forestry Act. Funds paid to the seven GRNP chiefdoms that have ancestral ownership of the land within GRNP are administered by community Forest Management Committees. The impact on the livelihoods of forest-edge communities, while effective, needs to provide improved value for money.

The work of WHH has to date been independent from GRNP's work, and although there has been close collaboration, this will be the first time the two initiatives have formally worked together on the delivery of a project. It marks a significant change in delivery of conservation and development in forest-edge communities.

The GRNP is developing a REDD (Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Degradation) project to ensure that long-term financing is available to implement the activities of the GRNP, including both conservation and community work in the Gola area.

15b. 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:

WHH has an ongoing programme of cocoa rehabilitation and, as noted above, this proposal is an attempt to synergise forest conservation and livelihoods into a more robust and coordinated approach, hence maximising resources and impacts. WHH's work is focused on improving the quality and yield from cocoa plantations by promoting sustainable farming practices, formalising structures and building capacity of local farmers. WHH works closely with traders as well as buyers, with the overall goal being to obtain a marketable product from their action. WHH is

also targeting certification of the cocoa produced.

15c. 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.

Agriculture for Development (A4D): The A4D programme is an EU grant scheme dedicated to Sierra Leone. The outcome of proposals to the small grants component, one of which explicitly targets cocoa, is expected to be announced in February 2013. WHH have applied to this small grant scheme for cocoa to work in the project area and beyond. We are highly confident that this bid will be successful as WHH are the key agricultural experts in Sierra Leone and have implemented several national cocoa rehabilitation projects there to date. Even if WHH's application is unsuccessful, the A4D grant to improve cocoa quality and yield would still benefit the wider project area since it holds the country's entire cocoa production.

Carbon trading revenues. See 15a. The project is being developed to both VCS (Verified Carbon Standards) and CCB (Climate, Community and Biodiversity) standards and aims to have draft project documents available by the end of 2012 to enable the validation process to begin in February 2013. Credits will be forward-sold once the project receives validation.

16. Value for money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money?

(Max 250 words)

The financial and human resources required to protect and manage the GRNP are largely secure, and several agricultural programmes focussing on coffee, cocoa and rice are underway, aimed to improve local livelihoods in the region. This project will expand upon and bring added value to these initiatives. Synergies between the conservation and development communities tend to be rare, ad-hoc and reactive. This project offers the missing link between agricultural initiatives and conservation efforts, hence providing a multi-benefit overall outcome.

This action will benefit from previous work and from input from leading organisations and experts in the fields of development and ecology. Farmer field schools, upon which the capacity building work will strongly rely, are already in place and operational. Also, in terms of illustrating value for money, all of the education and awareness work will be an integral part of the GRNP's education programme with radio shows, nature clubs and road shows.

The project will inform the development of the GRNP carbon project and work to support communities in the carbon 'leakage belt' to divert pressure from the forest by improving livelihoods through lucrative cocoa farming.

Finally, the biodiversity work relies on a high level of national and international expertise which takes a considerable amount of time to amass, but has already been acquired by the partners in this project. Therefore, this project fills a distinct niche between various initiatives which allows it to benefit from numerous synergies, shared resources and a wide range of expertise.

17. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the guidance notes.

(Max 300 words)

The project will be embedded within GRNP – a partnership between the RSPB and Sierra Leonean institutions and civil society through FD and CSSL. GRNP is in the process of embedding the park into the structures of government through the recently established National Protected Area Authority – something that could not be done previously due to institutional constraints within government. GRNP will play a key part in **participating in and**

leading on-the-ground implementation of the project, and project conclusions will be integrated into management planning of GRNP. Critical to project success is the active and gainful involvement of local communities. Participation of farmers will be based on **free and prior informed consent** through an initial consultative process. Communities will be involved in key project decisions and **traditional knowledge** incorporated into training on cocoa yield improvement and the monitoring of HWC.

RSPB and the GFP have carefully monitored and regularly updated **health and safety policies** and practices and these will be applied across all work.

All **research** will be done to the highest international standards and will therefore be **credible** and carried out with **integrity**. Key outputs will be published in open-access journals and discussed at an end-of-project conference in Sierra Leone.

The project has **poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation** at the heart of its design, since the conservation of the GRNP is intrinsically linked to the communities living in its immediate surroundings. These villages are often remote, have been most affected by the country's troubled history, and are also most reliant on natural resources for their subsistence. Their inhabitants can therefore be considered the 'poorest of the poor', considering Sierra Leone's ranking on the HDI. The sustainable management of GRNP therefore requires working at the cross-roads between conservation and development.

PATHWAY TO IMPACT

18. Legacy

Please describe what you expect will change as a result of this project with regards to biodiversity conservation/sustainable use and poverty alleviation. For example, what will be the long term benefits (particularly for biodiversity and poor people) of the project in the host country or region and have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits?

(Max 300 words)

The project will enable Gola Rainforest National Park stakeholders to restore local cocoa plantations for the multiple benefit of livelihoods, biodiversity and habitat connectivity. This change will be illustrated through:

- The improvement of livelihoods of cocoa-growing forest-edge communities in areas that do not cause excessive human-wildlife conflicts. Within the relatively short life of the project this will be illustrated by the continuing engagement of farmers in farmer field schools and/or agricultural business centres beyond the project.
- Biodiversity conservation will be achieved indirectly through the adoption of a habitat connectivity strategy by the end of the project, directing cocoa development to the most appropriate areas that benefit wildlife and do not exacerbate HWC. Also, this project will further demonstrate the active engagement of GRNP in development issues, enhancing the integration of protected area management with sustainable development/livelihood improvement.

Overall, and beyond the project lifetime, the habitat connectivity across the Upper Guinea Rainforest will be improved in a way that is favourable to livelihoods and wildlife. This will be indicated through a legacy of:

- A mosaic of forest and agricultural habitats favourable to livelihoods and wildlife, linking all GRNP forest blocks together and to the proposed Gola National Park in Liberia in a sustainable landscape.
- Populations of indicator forest mammal and bird species in corridors remaining at a density likely to ensure their long term survival.
- Improving livelihoods of cocoa-growing communities in key habitat connectivity areas that are achieved in harmony with conservation goals.

19. Pathway to poverty alleviation

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Projects are required to show how positive impact on poverty alleviation will be generated from your project in low-income countries. All projects funded under the Darwin Initiative in Round 19 must be compliant with the Overseas Development Assistance criteria as set out by the OECD. The outcomes of your research must at the very least provide insight into issues of importance in achieving poverty alleviation.

(Max 300 words)

The crop raiding research (Output 2) that will be carried out will provide insight into the true causes, key wildlife species and impact of HWC on cocoa farms. The results of the review on methods of mitigating HWC (Output 2) will indicate how this can be tackled through a variety of means. Ultimately we expect that the research will develop guidance and tools for the development of the livelihoods and habitat connectivity strategy that will illustrate ways in which cocoa development should be undertaken to best minimise crop raiding and therefore support higher cocoa yields and ultimately improved livelihoods (Output 4).

Crop raiding causes much antagonism between forest-edge communities and forest conservation. Much of the blame for HWC is apportioned to the Gola Forest Programme by communities, despite much of the wildlife involved not being forest species. Rather, most tend to be non-forest and 'farm bush' species that are found outside the GRNP. The other work outlined in Output 2 will explore attitudes towards crop raiding in forest-edge cocoa-growing communities, develop an agreed understanding of the causes of HWC and build understanding of the options for minimising and mitigating these.

All of the above will contribute to project efforts to support the rehabilitation of cocoa farming in 30 selected forest-edge communities (output 3). Cocoa rehabilitation is also a key aspect of the carbon project being developed separately by GRNP, and it is critical that this development reaches a balance to improve livelihoods and not adversely affect wildlife and vice versa. The focus on rehabilitation will allow positive results to be shown in the lifetime of the project to improve yields through training, linking with agricultural business centres and fair trade networks, whilst minimising losses from wildlife.

20. Exit strategy

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 aims to reach a sustainable end point. The project will build upon, and link closely to, components of the GRNP, an ongoing programme that is close to securing its future sustainability (through an established trust fund and upcoming carbon revenues). The project targets issues that are important to the success of the wider GRNP. Project actions are in the interest of GRNP, specifically the improvement of the delivery of its commitments to support livelihoods and the reduction of tension and hostility towards the aims of GRNP resulting from HWC.

The sustainability of project actions will be ensured by engaging communities with established agricultural support structures, building their capacity and linking them with reputable traders. Farmers will be enrolled with farmer field schools and agricultural business centres, which will support them with seedlings, training and tools. The A4D and carbon projects will go beyond this project and will take cocoa through to the international markets with fair trade certification.

Research findings, mapping exercises and workshops will contribute to producing a habitat connectivity and livelihoods strategy for GRNP. This will be supported by the training of GFP staff to support communities and implement habitat connectivity post-project.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE

21. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials there will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

(Max 300 words)

Community audience

The project will hold participatory communication workshops with local communities to increase understanding of the nature and costs of human–wildlife conflicts and to generate mutually agreed solutions. Awareness will also be raised of the important role that biodiversity plays in livelihoods and the wider ecological landscape. In particular the importance of the wild animals that local people encounter on their farms will be emphasised. Communities will also be involved in workshops to develop solutions to develop human–wildlife conflict mitigation tools which will be demonstrated to selected forest-edge communities and surrounding land owners.

Local decision-maker level

Where possible, advice will be given to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations to promote the project's approach. Multi-stakeholder workshops will be held to enhance local capacity around cocoa cultivation and human–wildlife conflict issues so best sustainable landscape practices can be created and evaluated.

National Decision Makers

A national conference will be held at the end of the project and will target selected national protected areas that are also important for cocoa farming. The conference will focus on the replication potential of the project's approach to address habitat connectivity and human–wildlife mitigation issues. It is hoped that the lessons from this project will be adopted by other protected areas and by the recently established National Protected Areas Authority.

22. Importance of subject focus for this project

If your project is working on an area of biodiversity or biodiversity-development linkages that has had limited attention (both in the Darwin Initiative portfolio and in conservation in general) please give details.

(Max 250 words)

Several Darwin Initiative projects have looked at bushmeat, human-wildlife conflict and cocoa in Ghana, Nigeria and Central Africa. However, none have focused on the role that cocoa could potentially play in reducing deforestation and building a matrix between forest blocks of an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot. Likewise, none have considered the impact of HWC on incomes generated from cocoa and explored related mitigation strategies. The published evidence on crop raiding of cocoa by wildlife is limited, but indicates that this conflict occurs in other parts of Africa, and, if unmitigated, leads to impacts on yield. Perceptions of crop raiding in general have been shown to lead to hostility towards protected areas from farmers, but the few studies on this subject indicate that the species believed to be responsible are not always the primary raiders. Hence, there is a perception gap that needs to be quantified before crop raiding losses can be effectively mitigated.

This project will bring new insight into these issues, bridging conservation and development issues as well as directly contributing to Component 4 of the recently announced UK programme to tackle global deforestation

This initiative is one of too few which demonstrate the integrated approach to protected area management, natural resources management, and sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, we believe this is the first time that any such work has been undertaken in Sierra Leone. It brings a unique collaboration between conservation, agricultural and social experts, as well as a local civil society organisation, government and a market-orientated partner.

23. Leverage

a) Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity.

Confirmed:

The RSPB will contribute £XX, in the form of RSPB staff salaries.

GRNP will contribute £XX, to GRNP staff salaries, office costs, travel, and equipment.

b) Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments
18 th January 2013	European Union	€Xmillion (approx). This will be for a wider programme to be implemented by WHH. A4D will match fund the project with £XX.	The A4D funding scheme. Proposal to be submitted by WHH

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

24. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Changes from Stage 1 Logical framework illustrated in red

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcomes if funded. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcomes of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this. Further detail is provided in Annex x of the guidance notes which you are encouraged to refer to. The information provided here will be transposed into a logframe should your project be successful in gaining funding from the Darwin Initiative. The use of the logframe is sometimes described in terms of the Logical Framework Approach, which is about applying clear, logical thought when seeking to tackle the complex and ever-changing challenges of poverty and need. In other words, it is about sensible planning.

Impact

The Impact is not intended to be achieved solely by the project. This is a higher-level situation that the project will contribute towards achieving. All Darwin projects are expected to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its products.

(Max 100 words)

The habitat connectivity across the Upper Guinea Forest is improved in a way that is favourable to livelihoods and **forest dependent** wildlife.

The project will contribute to poverty alleviation efforts by improving the livelihoods of cocoa growing communities in key forest habitat connectivity areas and showing how improved cocoa farming can work alongside wildlife conservation. This will be rolled out across the landscape so that mosaic of habitats favourable to livelihoods and wildlife link all GRNP forest blocks together and to the proposed Gola National Park in Liberia.

Outcome

There can only be one Outcome for the project. The Outcome should identify what will change, and who will benefit. The Outcome should refer to how the project will contribute to reducing poverty and contribute to the sustainable use/conservation of biodiversity and its products. This should be a summary statement derived from the answer given to question 14.

(Max 100 words)

(Replaces old outcome statement: Stakeholders of the Gola Rainforest National Park, Sierra Leone are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the dual benefit of livelihoods, biodiversity and habitat connectivity.)

Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) stakeholders are enabled to restore local cocoa plantations for the benefits of livelihoods, carbon, biodiversity and habitat connectivity.

The project will contribute to reducing poverty through supporting the re-emerging cocoa sector cocoa in 30 forest edge communities. 70 households will increase incomes by 10% as a result of improved cocoa farming.

Human wildlife conflict research will inform a land management strategy to direct cocoa restoration to areas that minimises loss of wildlife and loss of cocoa due to conflicts.

The National Cocoa Working Group will recognised the strategy and interest shown by other protected areas in country.

Measuring outcomes - indicators

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving this outcome. You should also be able to state what the change you expect to achieve as a result of this project i.e. the difference between the existing state and the expected end state. You may require multiple indicators to measure the outcome – if you have more than 3 indicators please just insert a row(s).

Indicator 1	At least 40% of the 180 households (450 people) from the 30 project communities that enrolled with farmer field schools and farmer field schools are still actively engaged in them by the EOP. (Refined from stage 1 to specify households, yield indicator now replaced with income indicator in Output 3)
NEW Indicator 2	10% increase in incomes from rehabilitated cocoa for 70 households by EOP.
Indicator 3	The strategy to secure GRNP's habitat connectivity is implemented as part of the GRNP's Annual Operations Plan by EOP. (ambition for national replication is scaled back as only a 3 yr project)
Indicator 4	The GRNP's approach to restore local cocoa plantations for the dual benefit of livelihoods and biodiversity is recognised by the National Cocoa working group (endorsement now by the cocoa group and not other parks)

Verifying outcomes

Identify the source material the Darwin Initiative (and you) can use to verify the indicators provided. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc.

Indicator 1	Farmer field school records.
Indicator 2	GRNP annual operations plan document.(replaces GRNP sign off strategy)
Indicator 3	Representation of the GRNP recorded at National Cocoa working group meetings (replaces endorsement at national workshop for protected areas)

Outcome risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the *outcome and impact* of the project. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1	Agricultural restoration can benefit both wildlife and community incomes.
Assumption 2	Human–wildlife conflict issues are surmountable
Assumption 3	Political stability

Outputs

Outputs are the specific, direct deliverables of the project. These will provide the conditions necessary to achieve the Outcome. The logic of the chain from Output to Outcome therefore needs to be clear. If you have more than 3 outputs insert a row(s). It is advised to have less than 6 outputs sin this level of detail can be provided at the activity level.

Output 1	The impacts on wildlife of restoring agro forestry systems, in particular abandoned cocoa plantations, to different levels of production is assessed
Output 2	Understanding of the costs of human–wildlife conflicts relating to cocoa farming is enhanced, together with knowledge of methods to mitigate

	these conflicts.
Output 3	Selected communities surrounding GRNP have improved capacity, access to advice and support to improve cocoa yields and enhance livelihoods
Output 4	A livelihood development and habitat connectivity strategy that integrates cocoa rehabilitation is developed and adopted by the GRNP and disseminated for selected Protected areas in Sierra Leone. (capacity statement moved to new output 5)
NEW Output 5	Project managed efficiently and effectively and local staff trained so that they can continue to contribute to ensuring the project legacy.

Measuring outputs

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving these outputs. You should also be able to state what the change you expect to achieve as a result of this project i.e. the difference between the existing state and the expected end state. You may require multiple indicators to measure each output – if you have more than 3 indicators please just insert a row(s).

Output 1	
Indicator 1	Target research sites identified by EOY1
Indicator 2	Fieldwork completed by EOY3
Indicator 3	Data Analysis done by EOY3
Indicator 4	Mapping exercise of cocoa plantations completed year 1
Indicator 5	Similarity index for wildlife in rehabilitated plantations verses pristine habitats is measured by end of project (Moved from Outcome indicator)
Indicator 6	Peer reviewed paper submitted by EOP

Output 2	
Indicator 1	HWC attitude survey completed by EOY1
Indicator 2	Review of existing best practice done by EOY2
Indicator 3	Fieldwork and analysis on impact of crop raiding on cocoa completed by EOY2
Indicator 4	HWC mitigation strategy demonstrated in at least 1 community by EOP
Indicator 5	40% of the 30 focal communities have evidence based, agreed understanding of cause and impact of HWC by EOP as compared with baseline.
Indicator 6	10 dissemination workshops held in FECs by EOP.

Output 3	
Indicator 1	140 community members enrol with Farmer field schools by earlyY2
Indicator 2	140 community members trained in improved techniques by EOY2
Indicator 3	Meetings held with 3 new plantations during project

Output 4	
Indicator 1	Zoning map developed by year 2
Indicator 2	Plans for cocoa rehabilitation incorporated into a revised GRNP management plan by the EOP
Indicator 3	National Workshop held and key community, government, private sector and NGO stakeholders attend year 3

Output 5	
Indicator 1	M&E plan in place by mid yr1
Indicator 2	Staff training plan in place by EOY1 and carried out where appropriate throughout project
Indicator 3	Steering committee established by mid yr 1 and meets regularly
Indicator 4	Financial reporting system in place by end of first month and financial expenditure remains with contractual limits

Verifying outputs

Identify the source material the Darwin Initiative (and you) can use to verify the indicators provided. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc.

Indicator 1	Research site selection report.
Indicator 2	Field work summary reports
Indicator 3	Peer reviewed articles submitted.
Indicator 4	Presentations & Posters at international arena (e.g. World Parks Congress 2014)
Indicator 5	HWC mitigation best practice review report
Indicator 6	Community attitude survey baseline, monitoring and end line reports
Indicator 7	10 forest edge community road shows including HWC awareness
Indicator 8	20 radio talk shows including HWC awareness
Indicator 9	Forest edge community Workshop reports and feedback.
Indicator 10	Cocoa plantation distribution Map
Indicator 11	Rehabilitation and connectivity Zoning Map
Indicator 12	Revised Management plan
Indicator 13	National workshop report and attendance list.
Indicator 14	The GRNP through the National Protected Area Authority has disseminated report to selected Protected Areas in Sierra Leone.
Indicator 15	M&E monitoring reports
Indicator 16	Revised Log frame where appropriate
Indicator 17	Training plan document
Indicator 18	Training session reports and content
Indicator 19	Steering group TOR and minutes.

Indicator 20	Financial guidance document and quarterly financial reports
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Output risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the achievement of your outputs. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1	Local communities and staff are receptive to the training and capacity-building we offer.
Assumption 2	The global market for cocoa does not collapse unexpectedly
Assumption 3	WHH are successful in their A4D funding bid.

Activities

Define the tasks to be undertaken by the research team to produce the outputs. Activities should be designed in a way that their completion should be sufficient and indicators should not be necessary. Any risks and assumptions should also be taken into account during project design.

Output 1	
Activity 1.1	Mapping exercise to assess the extent of abandoned cocoa plantations.
Activity 1.2	Camera trapping/point counts of wildlife (mammals/birds) to survey resident and transient wildlife in habitats surrounding GRNP, including restored and abandoned plantations, and within GRNP to compare wildlife populations to the NP forest baseline. This would include measuring changes in wildlife following cocoa restoration.
Activity 1.3	Analysing the camera trapping/point counts of wildlife in order to compare wildlife populations between different habitats (spatial comparison), in particular to the NP forest baseline but also between the farmed habitats studied, and before and after cocoa restoration (temporal comparison).

Output 2	
Activity 2.1	Monitor crop raiding throughout the project in restored and non restored sites
Activity 2.2	Review existing practices of HWC prevention and mitigation.
Activity 2.3	Develop a list/framework of mitigation strategies/recommendations for dealing with HWC which may be applied in the immediate surroundings of the National Park.
Activity 2.4	Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand attitudes.
Activity 2.5	Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation tools are demonstrated in selected GRNP forest edge communities (FECs) and surrounding land owners.
Activity 2.6	Dissemination through awareness building workshops FFS

Output 3	
Activity 3.1	Support thirty FECs to link with farmer field schools which support farmers with tools, advice and support to improve yields.

Activity 3.2	Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand value of cocoa as source of income.
Activity 3.3	Advice to promote a win-win solutions to livelihoods and wildlife is given to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations
Activity 3.4	Multi-stakeholder workshops to enhance local capacity around cocoa cultivation and human wildlife conflict issues so best sustainable landscape practices can be created and evaluated.

Output 4

Activity 4.1	Criteria and principles for selecting priority cocoa development areas to enhance connectivity are produced
Activity 4.2	Develop a map to demonstrate where cocoa can be used in the possible mosaic linking Gola South, with Gola Centre, and Gola centre with the Transboundary corridor to enhance habitat connectivity in the agricultural landscape
Activity 4.3	Exercise to review and update GRNP management plan to include habitat connectivity
Activity 4.4	National conference (end of Project) targeting selected Protected Areas focusing on replication potential focusing on habitat connectivity and human wildlife mitigation issues

Output 5

Activity 5.1	Establish project steering committee from RSPB, GRNP, CSSL and FD and WHH to meet every 6 months.
Activity 5.2	Hold project level workshop to develop monitoring and evaluation plan to establish, roles and responsibilities of partners and associated methods, tools and timetable.
Activity 5.3	Conduct training programme for National Staff from GFP, CSSL, FD and other partners where appropriate.

25. 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
Output 1													
1.1 Mapping exercise to assess the extent of abandoned cocoa plantations.	2												
1.2 Camera trapping/point counts of wildlife (mammals/birds) to survey resident and transient wildlife in habitats surrounding GRNP, including restored and abandoned plantations, and within GRNP to compare wildlife populations to the NP forest baseline. This would include measuring changes in wildlife following cocoa restoration.	12												
1.3 Analysing the camera trapping/point counts of wildlife in order to compare wildlife populations between different habitats (spatial comparison), in particular to the NP forest baseline but also between the farmed habitats studied, and before and after cocoa restoration (temporal comparison).	6												
Output 2													
2.1 Monitor crop raiding throughout the project in restored and non restored sites	12												
2.2 Review existing practice of HWC prevention and mitigation.	2												
2.3 Develop a list/framework of mitigation strategies/recommendations for dealing with HWC which may be applied in the immediate surroundings of the National Park.	2												
2.4 Analyse existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand HWC attitudes.	1												
2.5 Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation tools are tested in selected GRNP forest edge communities (FECs) and surrounding land owners.	4												
2.6 Dissemination through awareness building workshops and farmer field schools	4												
Output 3													
3.1 Support thirty FECs to link with farmer field schools which	30												

Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
support farmers with tools, advice and support to improve yields.													
3.2 Analyses existing socioeconomic data and monitor selected communities throughout the project to understand value of cocoa as source of income.	6												
3.3 Advice to promote a win-win solutions to livelihoods and wildlife is given to ongoing initiatives on cocoa rehabilitation and new plantations	1												
3.4 Multi-stakeholder workshops to enhance local capacity around cocoa cultivation and human wildlife conflict issues so best sustainable landscape practices can be created and evaluated.	1												
Output 4													
4.1 Criteria and principles developed for selecting priority areas for connectivity are produced	1												
4.2 Develop a map to demonstrate where cocoa can be used in the possible mosaic linking Gola South, with Gola Centre, and Gola centre with the Transboundary corridor to enhance habitat connectivity in the agricultural landscape	2												
4.3 Exercise to review and update GRNP management plan to include habitat connectivity.	1												
4.4 National conference (end of Project) targeting selected Protected Areas focusing on replication potential focusing on habitat connectivity and human wildlife mitigation issues	1												
Output 5													
5.1 Establish project steering committee from RSPB, GRNP, CSSL and FD and WHH to meet every 6 months	1												
5.2 Hold project level workshop to develop monitoring and evaluation plan to establish, roles and responsibilities of partners and associated methods, tools and timetable.	2												
5.3 Conduct training programme for National Staff from GFP, CSSL, FD and other partners where appropriate	5												

26. Project based monitoring and evaluation

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the projects monitoring and evaluation.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. Monitoring and evaluation is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact.

(Max 500 words)

A robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan will be established at a project start-up workshop with key players of RSPB, GRNP, CSSL, FD and communities. The workshop will review indicators and establish roles and responsibilities for partners, frequency of data collection, data collection methods, and agree the tools needed to do carry out each monitoring task.

Development of the M&E Plan will be led by RSPB and GRNP, but implementation will predominantly be led by GRNP staff.

Once project sites are selected we will analyse existing data and where necessary develop a baseline survey tool to ensure that all baseline information for performance indicators are in place within year 1. The survey will be repeated at the end of the project to assess overall project impact.

M&E data will be reviewed every 6 months, by the project team. Should certain indicators show that the project is off track then changes will be made to the project to adapt. Changes may relate to a need to increase staff time to address an issue or an adaption of the project approach to the changing situation on the ground.

Progress to **community development outputs** will be monitored through the indicators of baseline and end line attitude surveys, an increase in quality and quantity of cocoa yields by the end of the project, community training reports and feedback, the number of farms rehabilitated by the end of project and the number of farmers enrolled and still enrolled at the end of the project. This socioeconomic monitoring will be done by GRNP and supported by WHH and Cambridge University's CCI project.

Progress towards **biodiversity outputs** will be monitored by the ecological research team. Most indicators here will be progress based looking at the identification of sites by the first year, of research and data analysis completion by the end of the project and ultimately the research findings being accepted for publication by the end of the project. This will be led by the RSPB in partnership with GRNP staff.

The wider **strategy outputs** will be indicated by the development of a landscape map to show the extent of coca plantations in comparison to the forest and important connectivity areas by the end of the project. Further research indicators will be that the scientific findings will be incorporated into GRNP management plans with confidence and national stakeholders react with enthusiasm to the findings of the project and the strategy. These outputs will be led by RSPB and GRNP.

The **Outcome will be indicated** by the number of farmers remaining with farmer field schools at the end of the project and an increase in household incomes from cocoa of 10% for selected households. This indicates farmers see value to remaining in these centres on their own initiative and that the cocoa rehabilitation work is of benefit to them. Indicators are also that the connectivity strategy will be adopted by GRNP—showing that the approach is a useful tool for long term conservation of the forest and livelihood improvement.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

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

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. **Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted.** 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.

27. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(max 300 words)

The budget was **worked out** by the RSPB, GRNP and WHH by email, phone and face to face planning meetings. GRNP and WHH calculated in country budgets. Key budget items were firstly agreed, human resource inputs debated and then the budget calculated. This was then commented on and refined with RSPB inputs.

Value for money will be achieved through several means. Firstly through procurement of supplies and equipment. Most equipment will be purchased by RSPB in the UK, as suitable equipment is generally not available in Sierra Leone, and if available it is often much more costly than in the UK. This will apply to items such as the vehicle, computers, GPS units, binoculars. The use of current equipment and facilities will be optimised to reduce capital investment costs. For example, GRNP vehicles will be available to the project staff if required. Secondly the project will be managed to the highest financial standards and monitored closely through clear financial procedures (developed to ensure they reflect all Darwin contractual obligations) to ensure that funds are expended efficiently and with as little wastage as possible. These controls will demand quarterly financial reports (with monthly transactions lists expected) to be submitted by partners and the project leader. Thirdly, and as much as possible the key implementation work will be carried out by GRNP in accordance with the spirit of our partnership with in-country partners thus keeping the inputs from relatively expensive UK expertise to an optimal limited level. Working as much as possible through local partners will also ultimately contribute to longer term sustainability as capacity is built in country. Over the past 10 years the GRNP has developed its own robust set of financial procedures.

In preparing the budget we have **assumed** annual inflation of 2.5% across all salaries, fuel and travel costs.

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**

[We have been working in Sierra Leone for many years, and have an excellent understanding of the security situation there. In addition, we have strong links with local institutions, and a good relationship with High Commission staff.]

CERTIFICATION 2013/14

On behalf of the trustees of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 I apply for a grant of £271,076 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 institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their
 behalf.*)

**I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our most recent
 audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found
 at (*delete as appropriate*):**

Name (block capitals)	DR DIETER HOFFMANN
Position in the organisation	Head of International Country Programmes

Signed



Date:

3 December 2012

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Y
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	Y
Have you checked that your budget is complete , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	Y
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	Y
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the Principals identified at Question 7?	Y
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner(s) organisations identified at Question 10?	Y
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Y
Have you included a copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	Y
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	y
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	Y

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on Monday 3 December 2012 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**. 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). You are not required to send a hard copy.

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.