Submit by Tuesday 1 December 2015

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 22: 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. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

ELIGIBILITY

1. Name and address of organisation

(NB: Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 6)

Applicant Organisation Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society
Address:	2300 Southern Blvd.
City and Postcode:	Bronx, NY
Country:	10460
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref: **3206**	**Title (max 10 words): Improving livestock management for economic-environmental stability in Mesoamerica's Mosquitia**

3. Project description (not exceeding 50 words)

(max 50 words)
The project will deliver technical assistance for sustainable, environmentally responsible, and productive livestock management to indigenous and ladino communities in a binational complex of protected areas in Nicaragua and Honduras, in order to elevate local peoples' standard of living, reduce deforestation, and protect biodiversity.

4. 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: Nicaragua	**Country 2: Honduras**
Country 3:	**Country 4:**

5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 April 2016		**End date: 31 March 2019**		**Duration: 3**
Darwin request (FY Apr-Mar)	**2016/17** **£ 109,932**	**2017/18** **£ 87,340**	**2018/19** **£ 102,427**	**Total request** **£ 299,700**
Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost				**34%**
Are you applying for DFID or Defra funding? (Note you **cannot** apply for both)		DFID		

6. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed. You may copy and paste this table if necessary.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2
Surname	Polisar	Somarriba Chang	Sinclair Gutiérrez
Forename (s)	John	Matilde	Reuban
Post held	Coordinator, Jaguar Conservation Program; National, territorial, and academic cooperation in Bi-national Initiative	Dean of Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment	Docente – Director de Investigación
Organisation (if different to above)	WCS	National Agrarian University (UNA)	National Agrarian University (UNAG) Honduras
Department	Latin America and Caribbean Program	Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment	
Telephone			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 3	Project Partner 4	Project Partner 5
Surname	Fernández Zacarias	Ramos Castro	Samayoa
Forename (s)	Granicio	Freddy José	Daisy Johanna
Post held	President	President	Specialist, Productive Landscape Conservation
Organisation (if different to above)	Gobiernos Territoriales Indígenas (GTI) Kipla Sait Tasbaika (KST)	Gobiernos Territoriales Indígenas (GTI) Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSBu)	Secretaría de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas (MiAmbiente)
Department			
Telephone			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 6	Project Partner 7
Surname	España	Martínez
Forename (s)	Pastor	Erwin
Post held	President	President
Organisation (if different to above)	Red de Manejo de Bosques Latifoliados de Honduras REMBLAH	Gobiernos Territoriales Indígenas (GTI) Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum
Department		
Telephone		
Email		

7. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)**? If so, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
22-016	Ambroise Brenier	Securing livelihoods, health and biodiversity through seascape-scale sustainable fisheries co-management
22-014	Janet Gibson	Maximizing benefits of marine reserves and fisheries management in Belize
22-011	Miguel Leal	Conserving biodiversity by improving farming practises and livelihoods in Hoima
22-008	Tom Clements	Diversifying Indonesian fisheries to protect elasmobranchs and alleviate poverty
21-004	Lilian Painter	Sustainable ranching and participatory land use planning in Bolivia and Paraguay
20-008	Roan Balas McNab	Evaluating community-based conservation agreements in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve

8a. If you answered 'NO' to Question 7 please complete Question 8a, b and c.
If you answered 'YES', please go to Question 9 (and delete the boxes for Q8a, 8b and 8c)

8b. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 7.

Provide detail of 3 contracts/awards held by your organisation that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed. These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

8c. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 7.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department)

9. 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.

Lead institution and website:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)**
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) http://www.wcs.org/ http://www.wcs.org/our-work/species/jaguars http://www.wcsnorthamerica.org/AboutUs/Publications/tabid/3437/Categoryid/1535/Default.aspx	In Latin America, WCS has more than 20 years of experience in seven countries working on sustainable cattle ranching and environmental protection. For example, in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve we have delivered technical assistance for sustainable livestock management and grazing systems to increase animal production and protect biodiversity and ecosystem services. Through previous Darwin funding, we have also implemented, tested, and refined Community Conservation Agreements as a method of explicitly guaranteeing community commitments to conservation in exchange for technical and development assistance. WCS has assembled numerous key partners for this project and included their input into the design of this proposal. In this project, WCS will: • Lead the implementation of improved sustainable ranching practices • Establish mechanisms to engage local indigenous people, municipal governments, and cattle ranchers through meaningful participation in all project activities, including the final evaluation • Foster local synergies and articulation with other similar initiatives to avoid overlap and maximize the rational use of resources • Ensure appropriate financial management, technical quality assurance, and timely completion of activities including technical and reporting commitments • Design and carry out research to evaluate project impacts on biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction • Develop reports, peer-reviewed journal submission, and dissemination materials
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name and website:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Universidad Nacional de Agricultura, Catacamas, Department of Olancho, Honduras (UNAG) http://www.unag.edu.hn/	UNAG is a public institution of higher education created to educate Hondurans in areas that are critical to the social and economic development of the country. UNAG has strong departments and field extension offices that can lend technical and operational support to the proposed project in the areas of biodiversity, wildlife management, conservation and rescue, veterinary medicine, sustainable agriculture, animal science, capacity building, and grassroots extension work with ranchers and indigenous groups. UNAG is already operating throughout the Mosquitia region through its extension program with the Tawahka population and has plans to open a regional center in Mistruck, Puerto Lempira to focus on agro-ecology and risk management. The university has a specific commitment to educating people in remote Mosquitia, including delivering environmental education in the primary schools of Mosquitia, and recruiting college students. WCS will provide a subagreement to UNAG for leadership and local capacity building in sustainable ranching in Honduras. The primary liaison is a biodiversity investigator who has directed World Bank-funded conservation programs. Members of this field team have a decade of experience working on biodiversity and agricultural and conservation issues in some of the most remote communities of Mosquitia and understand its cultural makeup.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name and website where available:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Universidad Nacional de Agraria, Managua, Nicaragua (UNA) www.una.edu.ni/	UNA is an institution of higher education created to educate Nicaraguans in areas that are critical to the social and economic development of the country. We will be partnering directly with the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment, where the Dean has invited our collaboration. The proposed project will help strengthen their field research program and provide thesis opportunities for students, some of whom are from the indigenous territories where we will work. UNA will support the project by making available technical support capabilities in sustainable resource management, lending technical advisory teams and research faculty in agricultural issues and veterinary medicine, and by providing student researchers to support our efforts. The Dean will help us coordinate across university departments.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
The Red de Manejo del Bosque Latifoliado de Honduras (REMBLAH)	REMBLAH has been working cooperatively in the Honduran agroforestry sector to achieve coordinated efforts within natural resource best management practices for over ten years. REMBLAH has signed a collaborative agreement with MiAmbiente/Secretary of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines – another project partner – and is well equipped to work collaboratively on a large scale. REMBLAH has well-established relationships and experience with participatory processes at the local level to support good natural resource management and has extensive experience in all of Honduras' geographic departments. They also have significant experience in capacity building in rural areas and work with the support of local actors and communities. The joint effort of our institutions will be directed towards the development of new ranch management strategies to improve animal health and nutrition, increase productivity, and increase the standard of living of rural communities under the same technical assistance given to forest, wildlife, and water conservation.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name and website:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
MiAmbiente (Secretary of Energy, natural Resources, Environment and Mining), Honduras www.Miambiente.gob.hn https://www.facebook.com/MiAmbienteHonduras/	MiAmbiente is the leading governmental agency related to this initiative's focus in Honduras. Throughout project development, MiAmbiente has voiced its commitment to promote the proposed ranching project and serve as a political partner, helping coordinate with Honduran institutions and territories. MiAmbiente actively seeks to contribute to the improvement of livestock management on the edges of protected areas in the Honduran Mosquitia. New systems will focus on sustainability and productivity and work to reduce negative impacts on natural forests, wildlife, and water sources. MiAmbiente's main focuses overlap with sustainable ranching issues in the Yoro, Atlantida and the northwest Olancho Departments, and will actively be sharing lessons learned and experiences with us to help drive project success.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Territorial indigenous government of Kipla Sait Tasbaika (KST)	WCS personnel initiated collaborative projects with the indigenous territory Kipla Sait Tasbaika (KST) in 2003 that have included capacity-building studies on forest composition and potential timber resources, hunting and game populations, jaguars and their prey, and small pilot projects to reduce human-jaguar conflicts. The remote 1,134km² territory is particularly important for bi-national Honduras-Nicaragua biological connectivity. The KST territorial government has committed to ensure participation and dissemination of results, welcoming us into their territory to collaboratively perform research and build awareness around sustainable ranching and biodiversity conservation issues.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Territorial indigenous governments of Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSBu)	WCS personnel initiated collaborations with the 1,027km² indigenous territory of Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSB) in 2001 with studies that included hunting and game populations, avian inventories and monitoring, and the first jaguar camera trap survey ever conducted in Nicaragua, 2006, deep in remote uplands of the reserve/territory. More recently, we initiated pilot silvopastoral/forage bank projects, the results of which will help inform the proposed Darwin project. The history of collaboration is long and deep in this territory and the MSB territorial government and long term partners have committed to ensure broad participation and dissemination of results, along with welcoming us into their territory to collaboratively perform research and build awareness around sustainable ranching and biodiversity conservation issues.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Territorial indigenous governments of Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum (MITK)	WCS personnel initiated collaborations with the indigenous territory Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum (MITK) in 2005, starting with a system of linear foot transects that sampled game populations in every land use zone in the territory, complemented by hunting off take studies, all conducted in the same capacity-building and participatory manner as the projects in the other two territories. Additional collaborations in this 682km² territory have included environmental education – both broad and jaguar focused, and an initial analysis of the issues, needs, and recommendations for improved livestock management, the latter of which helps inform the need for this Darwin project. MITK needs alternative solutions to high-impact ranching, and seeks the most sustainable options available, to ensure land health, community health, and improved health for domestic animals. The territorial indigenous government of MITK community has committed to participation and dissemination of results, welcoming us into their territory for collaborative research to build awareness around sustainable ranching and biodiversity conservation issues.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

10. Key Project personnel

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
John Polisar	Project Leader – Bi-national Coordination of Agricultural Initiative and Biodiversity Evaluation Components, liaison with Nicaraguan territories an bi-national academic institutions	WCS	24	Yes
Fabricio Diaz Santos	Nicaragua Coordination Biodiversity and Silvopastoral Systems, liaison with territories and researchers	WCS	34	Yes
Juan Pablo Suazo	Honduras Coordination of Biodiversity Evaluations, liaison with territories and researchers	UNAG	25	Yes
Reuban Sinclair Gutiérrez	Honduras Coordination for field delivery of capacity building in territories, liaison with the territories	UNAG	25	Yes
Orlin Ramirez Alvarado	Director of Veterinarian Medicine for UNA at national level, specific expertise cattle management in remote poor communities	UNAG	25	Yes
Santos Marcellini Espinal	Expert in tropical cattle	UNAG	10	Yes
Katrina Spillane	International Program Coordinator, Office of External Relations	UNAG	15	Yes
Dr. Matilde Somarriba Chang	Dean of National University of Agriculture in Nicaragua's Natural Resources Program, Liaison between Biodiversity and Animal Sciences, Academic adviser, and student coordination, greater Managua and field based interchanges between WCS and university	UNA	5	Yes
Jeremy Radachowsky	Director, Mesoamerica and Western Caribbean Program	WCS	10	Yes
Victor Hugo Ramos	Specialist in monitoring, analysis, and management of geospatial information for Mesoamerica	WCS	10	Yes

11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and (essential for DFID projects) its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

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 300 words)

Mosquitia:

Spanning 22,568 km², the binational "Heart of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor" of Nicaragua and Honduras is the second largest wilderness in Central America. This remote area, known as Mosquitia, harbours intact forests, high biological diversity, and wildlife at risk regionally including jaguar, harpy eagle, scarlet macaw, white-lipped peccary, and migratory birds. It also hosts over 100,000 inhabitants, including Miskito, Mayangna, Pech, and Tawakha indigenous groups, living in extremely remote communities. Over the past decade, this complex of protected areas and indigenous territories has experienced increasingly rapid forest loss (the highest in Central America) and forest degradation due to unsustainable cattle ranching.

The cattle conundrum:

Remote poor members of every cultural group view livestock as a reliable protein source and a way to ensure economic stability. However, due to challenging access, communities have not received training in livestock management practices – especially techniques adapted to forested protected areas. Current livestock management techniques do not fully realize economic or food security goals, and stimulate perpetual clearing of natural forests, conflict and retaliatory killing of predators, and overhunting. The loss of structural diversity and keystone predators in natural forests results in catastrophic losses for biodiversity, and the loss of ecosystem services and natural resources lowers the quality of life for humans, perpetuating a poverty-biodiversity destruction cycle.

Need for Change:

To address these gaps we will deliver technical assistance in environmentally responsible and productive livestock management techniques to seven key remote indigenous and ladino communities in the Mosquitia, thereby increasing production efficiency, income, and access to protein. To explicitly tie livestock management to broader biodiversity benefits and ensure that increased efficiency does not lead to expansion of ranching, project beneficiaries will explicitly commit to conservation outcomes through conservation agreements. This combination of technical support and shared responsibility will provide a model scalable to Mesoamerica.

12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

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

Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	No
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	No

12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the convention(s), treaties and agreements 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)

This project addresses all five goals under the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and Aichi targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, 14, 15, and 19. In particular, we will reduce direct pressures on biodiversity, promote sustainable use, and strengthen local capacity for participatory territorial planning and management.

We will also be supporting the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity and the Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity.

12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/ABS/ITPGRFA/CITES focal point in the host country?

Yes, we will maintain communication with and update CBD focal points in Honduras and Nicaragua on project activities and results. See “Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity” section for details

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)

Project activities will focus on the agricultural and buffer zones of Nicaragua’s Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, and the cultural and buffer zones of Honduras’ Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO World Heritage in Danger), Patuca National Park, and Tawahka Asigni Reserve. Interventions will most intensively target approximately 40,000 hectares of community-managed forests in seven strategic communities within these protected areas.

1) Improved livestock management via participatory pilot projects: WCS will work with at least 200 families in seven communities across four ethnic groups (two Miskitu, two Mayagnga, one Sumo, and two ladino communities) to identify and implement improvements needed to achieve environmentally sustainable small-scale livestock production with relevance as models across the bi-national wildland complex. In each community, a high-capacity individual from the village will be employed and trained as a local project coordinator, community liaison, and teacher-trainer for consistent accompaniment and communication with technical experts. Techniques delivered to improve livestock production and support ecosystem services will focus on animal nutrition and health via pasture productivity; forage banks using native trees; silvopastoral systems that combine leguminoids, food producing trees for cattle and wildlife, and graminoids; veterinary care; forest recuperation; livestock-carnivore conflict reduction methods; and ranch plans. The pilot projects will ensure equal gender inclusion across ethnic groups, include local women’s groups, and ensure training is equally distributed across genders. To further expand project impacts, we will invite at least 50 farmers from nearby communities to tour farms with improved techniques, exposing them to the concepts and practices in a participatory fashion with challenges and successes openly discussed.

2) Community conservation agreements for broader conservation impact: We will develop explicit agreements at the family and community level through which project beneficiaries commit to conservation outcomes in exchange for technical and in-kind support. Local authorities will be intimately involved in this process, and all agreements will be undertaken with free, prior, and informed consent. Conservation commitments will include controlling deforestation, respecting zoning, limiting consumption of vulnerable game species with low

reproductive rates, and tolerating large carnivores. Annual meetings will be held in each community to jointly review and discuss results achieved, and ongoing challenges of conservation agreements. This project builds directly upon methodological advances made from Darwin support for piloting the Community Conservation Agreement model in Guatemala. Lessons learned from this previous Darwin project can now be leveraged while replicating the model throughout Mesoamerica.

3) Learning and outreach: We will rigorously monitor project activities and outputs – as well as conservation and development impacts including forest cover, biodiversity, human-livestock conflict, livestock production, and attitudes and perceptions – as specified in detail in the logframe. We will develop a working paper to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of sustainable ranching interventions on conservation and development across the spectrum of cultural contexts and present the results to all participating communities for feedback. After incorporating community input, we will submit one article for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Written reports will be delivered to relevant actors and four separate presentations will be given to relevant local and national leaders.

14. Change Expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term and b) in the long-term.

- If you are applying for Defra funding this should specifically focus on the changes expected for biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.
- If you are applying for DFID funding you should in addition refer to how the project will contribute to reducing poverty. Q15 provides more space for elaboration on this.

(Max 300 words)

Increased livestock management capacity with economic benefits to seven communities across four ethnic groups in two countries: We will establish basic agricultural improvements (live fences, improved pasture, forage banks, veterinary care) in two Miskitu, two Mayagnga, one Sumo, and two ladino communities. These will increase capacity and bring economic benefits.

Improved technical capacity on methods to reduce conflicts with carnivores and protect biodiversity and water quality: Simultaneous with the establishment of pilot projects, we will develop explicit agreements with farmers and community organizations and train project beneficiaries in methods that reduce carnivore attacks (and retaliation) and retain healthy forest for its environmental services.

Local women empowered by inclusion of women and women's groups in training and project activities, across ethnic groups.

Improved community conservation capacity and stronger livelihoods: At least 200 Miskitu, Mayangna, and campesino families will experience a 50% increase in livestock productivity for local consumption and sale. 40,000 people from remote riverine communities, some of the most impoverished in Mesoamerica, will benefit indirectly from testing and application of locally-adapted improved livestock management techniques. Included in this are campesino organizations and indigenous associations and territories in both countries.

Conservation of forests, ecosystem services and biodiversity: At least 40,000 hectares of native forests will be conserved through improved management practices. In target communities, conservation efforts will reduce the rate of forest clearing by 30%, and reduce the rate of retaliatory killing of jaguars by 50%.

Improved capacity to meet obligations under CBD: This project addresses Aichi targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, 14, 15, and 19 and all five goals of the CBD. In particular we will reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; strengthen local capacity for participatory territorial planning and management; and enhance the benefits of water provision services for vulnerable rural livelihoods.

15. Pathway to poverty alleviation – ESSENTIAL FOR DFID PROJECTS, OPTIONAL FOR DEFRA PROJECTS

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected to be impacted by your project. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted. (300 words)

The current scenario of unsustainable cattle ranching and rapid forest loss in the Mosquitia is both triggered by and perpetuating poverty. Remote households raise livestock out of necessity for one of two purposes: as a source of food, or for sale in markets. However, under current practices production is extremely inefficient, delivering little food or money per time and resources invested. Furthermore, current practices result in extensive deforestation and soil degradation, which renders pastures unproductive within a few years. This, in turn, forces individuals to push deeper into natural forests in a leapfrog pattern, degrading natural systems and creating conflicts with other landholders and state agencies charged with protected areas management.

This project will address this poverty-biodiversity destruction cycle with more productive, intensive, and environmentally compatible livestock systems that will improve human nutrition and profitability of livestock. Methods to improve forage, pastures, animal nutrition and health that reduce erosion and deforestation will be established with at least 200 Miskitu, Mayangna, Sumo, and Ladino families experiencing a 50% increase in livestock production through the adoption of environmentally and economically sustainable systems. Through conservation agreements, broader protection of forest resources and ecosystems will ensure access to forest products and protection of water sources. We anticipate substantial participation and leadership of women in every aspect of this project, from implementing systems, to evaluations of efficacy and impact.

16. 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)

Integrated livestock systems can be established and produce measurable results within the three-year Darwin project lifetime. However, full realization of mature and structurally diverse silvopastoral systems will require more time and sustained effort. Therefore, during this project we will focus both on initiating improved practices, as well as building knowledge, capacity, and support systems to ensure continuity after the project endpoint.

In each of the seven target communities, we will employ select individuals as teacher trainers. Experienced professionals from WCS and local agricultural university extension programs will work with these local liaisons, training them in animal husbandry and livestock management in integrated systems, human-jaguar conflict reduction tools, and biological monitoring. These individuals will ensure consistent accompaniment of participating families during the project lifetime, and continuity of local capacity and relationships with local universities after the project ends.

The documentation and dissemination of project impacts will be critical for continuity in participating communities and expansion of methods to additional communities. Concrete, objective evaluations will document the benefits of better management and describe the requirements for sustainable livestock production on the borders of protected areas, allowing other producers to understand the costs and benefits of changing their management practices.

17a. Harmonisation

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

This new initiative will reach communities that have not received extensive prior assistance in livestock management, and responds to numerous explicit requests for support. During activities developed by WCS in Nicaragua in 2006, indigenous leaders requested technical assistance for livestock health and management in order to elevate protein availability and reduce pressures to harvest wild game. In 2009, WCS conducted multi-institutional workshops in Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve in Honduras, and participants were eager for advice on improved domestic animal management. In 2010, WCS conducted an analysis of livestock management in a Miskitu territory in Nicaragua, identifying improvements needed for forest and water conservation, and initiated small pilot projects in Bosawas to improve pig and cattle management. Initial experiences have been promising, but more improvements are needed in both countries for compatibility of livestock and biodiversity conservation. This project will build upon these dispersed, initial experiences, and will be undertaken in coordination with the national agrarian universities of Honduras and Nicaragua, a bi-national GIZ project that focuses on conservation and development priorities in indigenous territories, and ongoing activities to promote regional coordination led by the Honduran Secretary of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment, and Mining (MiAmbiente).

17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? No

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences 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.

We are not aware of any other individuals or organizations carrying out identical work in the Mosquitia. Several projects, promoted by both national agricultural agencies and NGOs, support improved ranching practices in more accessible and populated areas of Honduras and Nicaragua. However, technical assistance for livestock management does not reach the most vulnerable rural communities where the juxtaposition between forest and cattle is most immediate and action most pressing. This is likely because most projects focus on beef production for export markets and are measured by the number of individuals reached, which is maximized in highly populated areas. This project fills a large gap by helping small producers to impede the deforestation-biodiversity eradication- poverty-jaguar elimination cycle that occurs at the wilderness edge - one of the highest priorities for biological conservation in the Neotropics. Beyond lack of support for livestock management, the most remote communities are also distant from the benefits of tourism and other sources of economic activity, creating a greater reliance on self-sufficiency with livestock and agriculture. These extremely remote poor communities are neglected, yet it is exactly with these people that the future of biological conservation in the last of Mesoamerica's wild places will be decided.

Despite the historical lack of emphasis on these communities, we are building relationships with UNAG (the closest agricultural university to the Honduran Mosquitia), the coordinators of a GIZ project focused on indigenous priorities in the bi-national Corazon del Corredor, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Honduran Secretary of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines to coordinate efforts with a renewed focus towards these vulnerable and important rural communities. This Darwin project will serve as a catalyst not only to implement project activities, but also to coalesce and refocus efforts of ongoing governmental and NGO projects where they can have the greatest impact on forest and biodiversity conservation.

18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the guidance notes. (Max 300 words)

WCS systems ensure adherence to labour, finance, banking, and registration regulations specific to each of the nearly 60 countries where we work, alongside US government regulations and donor compliance requirements. WCS has a Duty of Care policy that details obligations of employees, regardless of their nationality, and the institution to create an environment of safety and concern in the fulfilment of our mission, including access to medical care, insurance policies, and crisis management procedures.

Our partnerships with local and indigenous people strive to understand, value, and apply traditional knowledge to addressing biodiversity and poverty alleviation challenges. This contributes to local efforts to improve human wellbeing by affirming cultural identity in the face of rapid change, while making explicit our shared interest in finding alternatives to dominant approaches to economic development. WCS participates in the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights, and our Internal Review Board ensures research carried out by our programs protects rights of human subjects.

Specific to this Darwin project, we will ensure:

- A focus on historically marginalised indigenous and ladino communities
- Free, prior and informed consent used throughout all project activities
- Respect for traditional knowledge and traditional rights
- Transparent and open engagement of communities in the design of Conservation Agreements
- Respect for the rights and privacy of project participants, ensuring no sharing of personal information without consent
- Findings/results will be shared directly with communities and used for their benefit
- Inclusion of women, girls and other marginalized groups

Finally, WCS is committed to building credible and independent science-based understanding of biological diversity and ecosystem integrity and their contribution to human wellbeing. WCS is a leading sponsor of scientific research, and our staff is prolific in generating peer-reviewed publications.

19. 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)

At its core, this is a community advocacy project aimed at local empowerment. However, it also intends to demonstrate the livelihood and conservation value of responsible livestock management at the national and binational levels.

Below we describe the approaches to sharing knowledge and lessons learned through this project:

- **Community conservation agreements** make an explicit and direct link between biodiversity and its financial and nonmonetary values. The voluntary negotiation process itself brings together local, national, and international stakeholders and promotes analysis and reflection about the worth of biodiversity according to different actors.
- **Community Assemblies:** At the local level, WCS will organize annual assemblies in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results

achieved, challenges, and lessons learned. The results of the agreements, including success stories and results of ecological and socioeconomic monitoring, will be disseminated on web sites, at meetings, and through various media outlets, and shared with conservation institutions working in the region.

- **Technical white paper:** A report on project results and analysis of impacts on biodiversity and poverty alleviation, will be produced and distributed to local communities, the NGO community and conservation and development practitioners, as well as being posted on a website and promoted through web releases.
- **A peer-reviewed scientific article**: a more concise version of the white paper oriented towards the research and scientific community will be submitted in order to improve our understanding of, and encourage further research into, the potential of sustainable ranching to affect biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.
- **Targeted events:** WCS will hold at least four events to share the results of conservation agreements at the national level with NGO partners, government entities (including CBD focal points), and bilateral institutions, and will advocate for national policies favouring improved livestock management at the edges of protected areas.

20. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

(Max 300 words)

WCS is dedicated to building the capacity of government entities, natural resource managers and local communities in the landscapes where we work. In this project, we will work with a diverse set of stakeholders, including indigenous and community organizations, municipalities, national governments, universities, and NGOs. These stakeholders have been incorporated into all phases of the project, from design to implementation to reporting of results.

Specific methods of capacity building include:

Direct training: At its core, this project is focused on community capacity building and local empowerment. Technical training in integrated livestock management will be conducted in a nested fashion at the community and household levels, including education, hands on training, and participation alongside expert delivery by agronomists, veterinarians, and conservation biologists.

Teacher-trainers: The process through which training is delivered is as important as the information itself. In each community we will employ and train teacher-trainers, who will serve as field reps and liaisons with community leaders and families.

Social learning: At least 50 farmers from nearby communities are invited to tour farms with improved techniques, exposing them to the concepts and practices in a participatory fashion.

Conservation agreements: Developing conservation agreements is a strategy to ensure that communities and individual project participants take primary ownership and responsibility for implementation and enforcement of conservation actions and outcomes.

Models for conservation and development: The combination of livestock management techniques, coupled with explicit conservation agreements, will serve as a model for national governmental agencies, universities, NGOs and donors for delivery of integrated development and conservation in remote communities.

Post-project learning: We expect that the improved productivity of sustainable livestock management will provide a strong incentive for small-scale ranchers to continue sustainable ranching techniques beyond the project period, and promulgate improved methods to neighbors as part of a broader culture change.

21. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

(Max 250 words)

This project will generate significant new information. Project outputs include: (1) peer-reviewed scientific article; (2) technical white paper; (3) reports to the Darwin Initiative; and (4) training and outreach materials.

These outputs will be made available to local stakeholders in print versions and through oral presentations and workshops, so as not to exclude community members with poor reading skills and/or no internet access.

Outputs will be freely accessible to all interested parties on WCS's website in Spanish and English. We will also disseminate information through mailing lists, social networks, and partner websites, and expect the peer-reviewed scientific article to be available digitally through an open access journal.

Project activities and results will also be actively shared with UK Embassies for Honduras (in Guatemala City) and Nicaragua (in Costa Rica), and the CBD focal points in both countries.

22. Match funding (co-finance)

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:

Total match: £154,634

Match sources: Wildlife Conservation Society (£XXX), Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation (£XXX), Universidad Nacional de Agricultura, Honduras (UNAG) (£XXX)

22b) 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

22c) None

If you are not intending to seek matched funding for this project, please explain why.

(max 100 words)

N/A

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

23. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

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.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Environmentally sustainable livestock management practices are successfully adopted across the bi-national Heart of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, leading to biodiversity protection and improved welfare of vulnerable communities.			
Outcome: Improved livestock management techniques are successfully implemented in ladino and indigenous farms in Mosquitia, leading to rigorously documented improved welfare of vulnerable communities, conservation of biological diversity, and forest cover.	**0.1 Forest cover:** Rate of forest clearing in 40,000 hectares of target communities and household farms is reduced by 30% as compared to the 10-year historical average. **0.2 Biodiversity:** After three years, avian alpha diversity/ species richness in livestock systems and frequency of medium-sized and large mammals adjacent to livestock systems has increased, and species composition between specific livestock production systems and nearby intact forests have become significantly more similar according to the Sorenson quantitative /Bray-Curtis index. **0.3 Human-wildlife conflict:** Retaliatory killing of carnivores, particularly jaguars, reduced by 50% across project farms, households and communities. **0.4 Local Livelihoods:** At least 200 families will experience a 50% increase in livestock productivity due to integrated livestock management (including market value and availability for local consumption and subsistence).	**0.1 Forest cover:** Comparisons between long-term trends and project impacts using remote sensing, validated by on-ground reconnaissance and interviews. **0.2 Biodiversity:** Results of pre- and post- intensive avian sampling in and adjacent to implemented systems and in nearby forest. Results of medium and large mammal sampling adjacent to pilot projects and in nearby forests, using block design. **0.3 Human-wildlife conflict:** Baseline information on attacks from questionnaires compared to frequencies during the project. **0.4 Local Livelihoods**: Project participant surveys; livestock mortality; calving rate; time to market; records of livestock sales from rancher logs (improvements will be disaggregated by gender).	**0.1 Forest cover:** Cloud-free and current scenes of project areas are available for remote sensing analysis. (This is one of the reasons we will also employ on-ground verification). **0.2 Biodiversity:** Relative frequency data reflect true population trends. Fluctuations due to weather, seasons, disease, and wildlife population dynamics remain within normal parameters, allowing detection of the effects of improved agriculture and reduced deforestation. (To mitigate this risk, we will standardize sampling and use robust experimental design.) **0.3 Human-wildlife conflict:** Honest pre- and post- reporting by project participants. **0.4 Local Livelihoods**: Changes due to improved livestock management are measurable and observable within the 3-year project lifetime.

Output 1: Improved Livestock Management: Improved livestock management and community conservation techniques adopted by at least 200 families in seven communities across four ethnic groups in four protected areas and two countries.	**1.1** At least 200 Miskitu, Mayangna, Sumo, and campesino families identified and trained in management techniques (with >40% of participants women) by year 1. **1.2** Improved management techniques adopted and established in seven target communities by year 3. **1.3** At least 50 farmers from nearby communities are invited to tour farms with improved techniques, exposing them to the concepts and practices in a participatory fashion with challenges and successes openly discussed by year 3	Number of households/ farms implementing integrated systems; number of people trained in ranch management plans and methods; notes of meetings with ranchers; field visit reports and photos; rancher logs documenting use of improved practices. Participant lists of inter-community exchanges, tours, and presentations; Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices, ascertained through pre- and-post questionnaires.	Ranchers and vulnerable communities will be interested and incentivized to participate in project activities.
Output 2: Community Conservation Agreements: Explicit agreements through which project beneficiaries commit to conservation outcomes adopted by at least 200 families in seven communities across four ethnic groups, four protected areas, and two countries.	**2.1** Explicit agreements with 200 families with clear commitments to conservation outcomes in exchange for support with livestock management developed, signed, and implemented by year 2. **2.2** A total of 21 meetings (one in each of seven communities annually for 3 years) held to present and discuss results achieved, and challenges of conservation agreements by 2019.	Signed conservation agreements, photos, annual reports, final external report, meeting minutes. Meeting minutes, photos, annual reports. Informational materials produced, list of institutions reached.	Institutional support and legal framework remain favourable to the implementation of community conservation agreements. Communities are able to reach consensus and maintain an adequate amount of cohesion regarding their participation in community agreements.
Output 3: Learning and Outreach: Report on the impacts of improved livestock management practices, evaluating and comparing forest cover, biodiversity, and poverty reduction impacts across the spectrum of cultural contexts. Dissemination of methods and lessons learned to nearby communities, agricultural and protected area agencies, and across the entire NGO, Multilateral, and government community.	**3.1** Pre- and post- intervention measurements of livestock management knowledge, attitudes, and practices, productivity, forest cover, biodiversity, wildlife conflict, and livelihoods at the household and community level by years 1 and 3, respectively. **3.2** Working paper rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of sustainable ranching interventions on conservation and development impacts drafted, presented to participating communities for feedback, and article submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal by year 3. **3.3** Written reports delivered to relevant actors and four presentations are given to local and national leaders by year 3.	Monitoring databases; working paper draft; minutes of meetings with communities and other stakeholders; submission or acceptance letter of peer-reviewed article; 1,000 copies of report printed and delivered and copy of four separate presentations, one local and one national, for each of the two countries.	External factors do not significantly change the socioeconomic or ecological context in a manner that confounds the attribution of impacts of livestock management implementation or conservation agreements (e.g. El Niño impacts on forest fires).

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1: Improved Livestock Management

1.1 *Conduct participatory diagnostics of livestock management and forest conservation challenges* in each community and determine interventions tailored to each target community/household, ensuring at least 40% participants women. Participatory diagnostic of livestock and farm management challenges, will include questionnaires and meetings to assess knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding livestock condition, livestock management, forest clearing, human-jaguar conflicts, sources of livestock losses, nutritional status in households, hunting practices and locations.

1.2 *Deliver capacity-building training in participatory livestock management improvements*. Initiate expert delivery of hands-on participation training in field schools, generating a cohort of future leaders in each target community, working in site specific increasing productivity in target farms, diversification of food sources for livestock sites, elevating nutritional status, effecting protection of water sources, and training in diagnosis of diseases and basic veterinary medicine, as well as education on methods to reduce human-carnivore conflicts.

1.3 *Conduct exchange visits to participating farms*, inviting and supporting at least 50 farmers from nearby communities to tour farms with improved techniques, exposing them to the concepts and practices in a participatory fashion, and openly discussing challenges and successes.

Output 2: Community Conservation Agreements

2.1 *Generate conservation agreements with target communities* through a participatory process, linking technical assistance in livestock management to explicit community commitments to forest and biodiversity conservation outputs that are congruent with protected area conservation objectives.

2.2 *Hold annual assembly meetings* in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges, and lessons learned (a total of 21 meetings, or one in each of seven communities annually for 3 years).

Output 3: Learning and Outreach

3.1. *Pre / post monitoring of livestock management practices and livelihoods indicators and biodiversity and forest conservation indicators* including knowledge, attitudes, practices, and productivity of livestock management, forest cover, avian diversity and abundance, medium and large sized mammals, and human-jaguar conflicts.

3.2. *Working paper* rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of sustainable ranching interventions on conservation and development impacts drafted, shared with all participating communities for feedback, and *one article completed and submitted for publication* in a peer-reviewed scientific journal by year 3.

3.3 *Disseminate informational material* highlighting results and lessons learned to share with institutions working in and impacting the Mosquitia. Share information about conservation agreements more widely in electronic form on social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks and deliver written reports to relevant actors, including four separate presentations delivered to relevant local and national leaders.

24. 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 (Q1 starting April 2016)

	Activity	No of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	**Improved Livestock Management**													
1.1	Participatory diagnostic of livestock and farm management challenges, and deliver questionnaires recording knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding livestock condition, livestock management, forest clearing, human-jaguar conflicts, sources of livestock losses, nutritional status in households, hunting practices and locations. Tailor interventions specifically to diagnostics. Select project coordinators in each community	Three	X											
1.2	Deliver capacity building training through hands on implementation and development of integrated systems, this involves a logical sequence of activities including establishing nurseries for native nitrogen fixing and nutritious tree species, fencing pastures to recover, establishing shrub and trees, improving pastures, training in pasture development and management, and livestock health diagnostics and basic treatments,	Twenty four, systems underway by year three	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
1.3	Conduct exchange visits to participating farms, inviting and supporting at least 50 farmers from nearby communities to tour farms with improved techniques, exposing them to the concepts and practices in a participatory fashion, and openly discussing challenges and successes	Two									X	X		
Output 2	**Community Conservation Agreements**													
2.1	Develop community specific conservation agreements aligned with national protected area zone objectives and territorial priorities and negotiate these with communities in participatory processes	Six, drafting, delivery, negotiating	X	X										
2.2	Hold annual assembly meetings in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges, and lessons learned (a total of 21 meetings, or one in each of seven communities annually for 3 years).	Three				X				X				X

Output 3	**Learning and Outreach**													
3.1	Conservation and development impacts are rigorously monitored and analyzed across the spectrum of cultural contexts, including forest cover, biodiversity, carnivore-livestock conflict, livestock production, and attitudes and perceptions	12 months total, pre- and post-intervention measures	X	X							X	X		
	Forest cover		X								X	X		
	Avian biodiversity			X							X			
	Mammalian biodiversity			X	X						X	X		
	Livestock production, carnivore-livestock production, attitudes and perceptions		X	X							X	X		
3.2	Working paper rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of sustainable ranching interventions on conservation and development impacts drafted, shared with all participating communities for feedback, and one article completed and submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal by year 3	Four									X	X	X	X
3.3	Disseminate informational material highlighting results and lessons learned to share with institutions working in and impacting the Mosquitia. Share information about conservation agreements more widely in electronic form on social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks and deliver written reports to relevant actors, including four separate presentations delivered to relevant local and national leaders	Two											X	X

25. Project based monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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 project's M&E. 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. M&E 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.

Monitoring and evaluation has been integrated into this project to achieve multiple objectives:

1. Provide a rigorous, objective, and independent framework for evaluation of sustainable interventions in livestock management in Honduras and Nicaragua
2. Ensure that interventions respond to the needs of specific vulnerable communities
3. Build a sense of ownership among beneficiaries to promote the sustainability of interventions and their conservation impacts
4. Monitor resources, activities and implementation to ensure effective project operations, value for money, increased national partner capacities, and adaptive management
5. Increase awareness of the potential impact of sustainable farming interventions on biodiversity and poverty alleviation by extracting and publicizing lessons learned

We will monitor logframe indicators pre- and post- implementation to determine impacts on two key metrics:

1) Human well-being

Diagnostics conducted at project outset will help guide interventions and provide metrics of advances at project end. We will collect quantitative data using standardized pre-and post-project questionnaires to evaluate composition of participants by ethnic group and gender, livelihood status, needs, and priorities. Livelihoods indicators at the household and community level will include knowledge, attitudes, and practices with respect to environmentally sustainable livestock management; number and area of household systems in which integrated management is underway; advances in the number of people trained in systems that increase livestock productivity through intensive ecological management; qualitative data on health and reproductive status of livestock; and adoption of methods to reduce human-carnivore conflict.

2) Biodiversity and Forest Conservation

To monitor the number of hectares with improved conservation status we will digitize maps and calculate farming implementation areas and areas affected by conservation agreements. We will measure reductions in deforestation rates using fine grained remote sensing to comparing deforestation during the project with the ten-year historical average. We will compare avian diversity and species composition through standardized mist net capture and point count methods in implementation sites and adjacent natural forest. We will compare medium and large mammal species composition and abundance using a standardized system of camera traps and short transects in forest adjacent to project areas. Project participants will engage in field sampling to increase their appreciation of fauna in the context of their own plots and livestock, agricultural, forest clearing and hunting activities. At project outset, we will assess human-jaguar conflicts: understanding of factors contributing to conflicts and people's awareness and use of management alternatives and tools, measuring the same parameters after project implementation.

Adaptive Management and Dissemination of Lessons Learned

The WCS project manager will work closely with partners and university extension programs to track and report on project implementation and changes in local livelihoods and environmental status. At least once each year, progress will be reviewed with communities, project partners, local governments, NGOs and other stakeholders. This transparent and collaborative analysis process will ensure the adaptation of each subsequent year's project work plan. Lessons learned will be disseminated primarily through the peer-reviewed scientific article, Darwin reports, white paper, and sustainable ranching manuals widely shared across the two countries.

Total budget for M&E	£15, 819
Percentage of total budget set aside for M&E	3%

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. You should also ensure you have read the 'Finance for Darwin' document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

NB: The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

26. 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)

WCS makes long-term, on-the-ground commitments. We leverage those commitments to provide value for money by building upon partnerships, contextual knowledge, and lessons learned to plan and implement culturally-appropriate and feasible projects. WCS is an established partner of local and indigenous groups in Honduras and Nicaragua, positioning us to deliver results and make significant impact.

With an investment of under £300,000, WCS will achieve significant outcomes for biodiversity and poverty alleviation. We will also take several measures to maximize economy and efficiency of the Darwin Initiative's funds, which are outlined below:

- Working in remote parts of the world where government extension services and conservation and development projects do not typically reach
- Ensuring that interventions are inclusive, respond to the needs of vulnerable communities and other stakeholders, build a sense of ownership, and involve the voluntary cooperation of all participants
- Enabling greater investment in local communities and field operations through low indirect costs
- Working with local partners as integral members of the team, which builds long term capacity in country and promotes sustainability
- Consistent accompaniment and participatory evaluation ensure that local partners and communities are meeting obligations, and that interventions provide expected impacts, enabling adaptive management and increasing local capacity

WCS consistently prioritises efficiency and value for money in our conservation and sustainable development field programmes to maximize our impact. At every decision point in developing the field budget, we have considered cost savings and alternatives. We will also use Darwin funding to leverage additional funding, with 34% of the project's total cost to be covered by other partners. Finally, in order to independently verify the responsible, efficient, and transparent use of project funds by WCS and its partners, a financial auditor will be hired to revise all expenses annually.

27. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

(max 150 words)

none

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 your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees of the Wildlife Conservation Society

I apply for a grant of **£299,700** 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 applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

- I enclose CVs for key project personnel and letters of support.
- Our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports can be found at

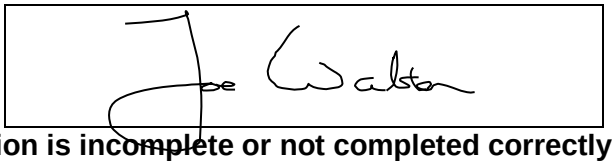
2014
Audit: http://fscdn.wcs.org/2015/07/01/9u4a9to4ni_Audited_Financial_Statements_2014_WCS.pdf

2013
Audit: http://fscdn.wcs.org/2015/07/01/7obodjfqhu_F_180473_13_Unsecured_WildlifeConservationSociety_Subsidiaries_CFSS.pdf

2014 Annual
Report: http://fscdn.wcs.org/2015/07/24/smu9vd9uy_2014_WCS_Annual_Report.pdf

2013 Annual
Report: http://fscdn.wcs.org/2015/07/24/1ng2al16xv_2013_WCS_Annual_Report.pdf

Name (block capitals)	JOE WALSTON
Position in the organisation	Vice President, Field Conservation

Signed**  **Date:** 30 November 2015

If this section is incomplete or not completed correctly the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

Stage 2 Application – Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you **read the Guidance Notes**?	X
Have you provided **actual start and end dates** for your project?	X
Have you indicated whether you are applying for DFID or Defra funding? **NB: you cannot apply for both**	X
Have you provided your **budget based on UK government financial years** i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	X
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?	X
Has your application been **signed by a suitably authorised individual**? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	X
Have you included a **1 page CV for all the key project personnel** identified at Question 10?	X
Have you included a **letter of support from the main partner organisations** identified at Question 9?	X
Have you **been in contact with the FCO** in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	N/A
Have you included a **signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts** for the lead organisation?	X
Have you **checked the Darwin website** immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	X

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Tuesday 1 December 2015 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.