



Submit by 2359 GMT on Monday 29 January 2018

## Darwin Initiative Application for Grant for Round 24: Stage 2

Before completing this form, please read both the Fair Processing Notice on pages 17 and 18 of this form and the [Guidance](#). 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)

<b>Applicant Organisation Name:</b>	<b>WWF-International (Laos Programme Office)</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>House No.39, Unit 05, Saylom Village, Chanthabouly District</b>
<b>City and Postcode:</b>	<b>Vientiane 01000</b>
<b>Country:</b>	<b>Lao PDR</b>
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	

#### 2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

<b>Stage 1 Ref:</b> <b>4370</b>	<b>Title (max 10 words):</b> Prosperous Mekong Communities Through Fisheries Co-management That Protects River Biodiversity
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#### 3. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](#). Please bear this in mind, and write this summary for a non-technical audience.

##### (max 80 words)

This project aims at improving freshwater biodiversity and promoting sustainable livelihoods that better manage natural resources, leading to reduced poverty in 10 communities living in the Xebanghien River basin, Savannakhet province, Lao PDR. Key activities include setting up fish conservation zones (FCZs) and fisheries management committees (FMCs), developing women-led alternative livelihoods models and advocating with policy makers to further support the establishment of fisheries co-management structures throughout the country.

#### 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.

<b>Country 1:</b> Lao PDR	<b>Country 2:</b>
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#### 5. Project dates, and budget summary

<b>Start date:</b> 1 July 2018		<b>End date:</b> 30 June 2020		<b>Duration:</b> 24 months
<b>Darwin funding request (Apr – Mar)</b>	<b>2018/19</b> £ 104,049	<b>2019/20</b> £ 110,272	<b>2020/21</b> £ 25,225	<b>Total</b> £ 239,546
<b>Proposed (confirmed &amp; unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost</b>				<b>24%</b>

**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	WWF Laos	Department of Livestock and Fisheries	Savannakhet Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office
<b>Surname</b>	GUEGAN	VIENGSOBATH	HOMEKINGKEO
<b>Forename (s)</b>	Francois	Bouasavanh	Phansy
<b>Post held</b>	Conservation Director	Deputy Director	Deputy Director
<b>Organisation (if different to above)</b>		Fisheries Section	Provincial Livestock and Fisheries Section

Details	National University of Laos	Monash University, Melbourne, Australia	
<b>Surname</b>	PHOUSAVANH	SANTOS	
<b>Forename (s)</b>	Phouvin	Paulo	
<b>Post held</b>	Freshwater Fisheries Ecologist	Senior Lecturer	
<b>Organisation (if different to above)</b>	Faculty of Agriculture	Department of Economics	

**7. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)? No**

**If so, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title

**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)**

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	2001 (Laos Programme Office)
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO                      Yes Government            No University                No Other (explain)

How is your organisation currently funded?	Laos Programme Office only: - 5% from WWF network support - 30% from Public Sector Partnerships through WWF Network - 65% from direct Public Sector Partnerships
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?	Yes (WWF International, in which WWF Laos Programme Office is included – refer to pages 7 and 8)

**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.**

1. Title	Conservation and sustainable use of the Mekong's natural riverine habitat in Southern Lao PDR and Cambodia
Value	EUR 481,882 (Lao PDR only)
Duration	4 years (01 Jan 2012 to 21 Dec 2015)
Role of organisation in project	Implementation together with Government counterparts
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>The general objective of the project was to contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Lao PDR through the management and sustainable use of fisheries and aquatic natural resources in the Siphandone area of Champassak Province.</p> <p><i>Specific objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Management plans for one priority wetland site, Siphandone, of global significance along the Mekong River are developed, approved, and ready for implementation.</li> <li>• Objective 2: An improved system of monitoring river-related activities and law enforcement is in place.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Diversified local livelihoods and enhanced environmental awareness strengthen communities' capacity to adapt to continuously changing environmental conditions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015-2025 Siphandone fisheries management plan officially adopted</li> <li>• 37 Fish Conservation zones and 31 Fisheries Management Committees created</li> <li>• 1,870 villagers trained in various agriculture extension techniques and organized in production groups</li> <li>• 5 green schools created and functioning</li> <li>• 10,976 person/days of river patrols conducted in 18 months</li> <li>• 2 rounds of fish catch monitoring completed and report published</li> <li>• First-ever last sighting date interviews consolidated and research paper published</li> </ul>
Client/independent reference contact details	

2. Title	Improving food and income security of local people along the Mekong River through sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation
Value	EUR 709 555 (Lao PDR only)
Duration	3.5 years (01 Aug 2016 – 31 Dec 2019)
Role of organisation in project	Implementation together with Government counterparts
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>The overall objective is to contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Lao PDR, and in particular that of Agriculture and Forestry, through the management and sustainable use of fisheries and aquatic natural resources in the Mekong River.</p> <p>Specific objective of the Project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific objective 1: Unsustainable fishing activities are effectively and permanently reduced through effective patrolling of the river.</li> <li>• Specific objective 2: The local management of aquatic resources is strengthened through the creation of Fish Conservation Zones and Fisheries Management Committees and the raising of awareness of the Lao legislation with regards to fisheries.</li> <li>• Specific objective 3: Alternative sources of livelihoods, with a special focus on aquaculture, are developed and contribute to the diversification of income of Siphandone inhabitants.</li> </ul> <p>Project still under implementation, so no outcomes to discuss as of yet.</p>
Client/ <b>independent</b> reference contact details	

3. Title	The Agro-biodiversity Initiative (TABI), Project Sustainable Rattan Supply Chain
Value	USD 442,440
Duration	2.75 years (01 Sep 2013 to 30 Jun 2016)
Role of organisation in project	Implementation together with Government counterparts
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>The main objective of the project was that by 2016, sustainable FSC certified rattan from Lao PDR supplies the international market with FSC products. This supports local livelihoods (2,690 HH) and contributes to conserving 25,000 ha of forest.</p> <p>Specific objective of the Project were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Strengthening technical capacities of rattan and bamboo producers regarding management of rattan and bamboo resources and expansion of FSC certified forest area for rattan and bamboo.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Improved land use planning in target village</li> <li>• Objective 3: Work to connect producers and buyers and increase management and production capacity of Lao rattan and bamboo SMEs (processors and traders) to match international standard and promote FSC products to be able to do business once the donors have pulled out.</li> <li>• Objective 4: Assistance to national and local authorities regarding</li> </ul>

	<p>policy and legal framework revision in order for the rattan industry to become profitable and competitive with neighbouring countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 5: Development of sustainable financing services for SMEs to invest in the sustainable rattan and bamboo supply chain.</li> </ul> <p><i>Outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 tons of FSC-certified rattan produced</li> <li>• 2 SME FSC CoC-certified</li> <li>• 1,334 HH benefiting from the rattan business (including non-financial benefits)</li> <li>• 10,949 ha of forest FSC-certified in FY17</li> <li>• 28,688 ha of forest well managed.</li> <li>• USD 26,789 of additional income for 133 households i.e. approximately 200 USD of additional income generated on average - range from 30 to 800 USD</li> <li>• 51.4% of the total 1,477 participants in FY17 were women</li> </ul>
<p>Client/independent reference contact details</p>	

**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)**

**Aims (50 words)** Our vision is that the human footprint stays within Laos' capacity to maintain the full spectrum of biological diversity and ecosystems, and the key services they provide, to enhance Lao people's livelihood resilience and contribute to the sustainable conservation of the overall ecological integrity of the Greater Mekong region.

**Activities (50 words):**

- Sustainable forest management
- Protection of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) in protected areas
- Conservation of Asian elephant, Saola, Eld's deer and other key ungulates in protected areas through community management, law enforcement et community livelihoods diversification
- Conservation of freshwater habitats and Mekong megafauna through fisheries co-management

**Achievements (50 words)**

- 10,949 ha of forest FSC certified for rattan
- No elephants poached for 3 consecutive years in Nam Poui protected area
- Eld's deer population in Savannakhet recovered from 20 to 100 individuals in 6 years
- More than 250 fish conservation zones created in 7 provinces since 2004

**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.**

<p><b>Lead institution and website:</b> World Wide Fund for Nature – Laos <a href="http://www.wwflaos.org">www.wwflaos.org</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</b></p> <p>WWF Laos has been working on fisheries co-management in the Lao PDR since 2002, with collaborative programme activities alongside the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) extending to seven provinces. Altogether, WWF Laos has supported the creation of over 250 fisheries co-management structures. WWF Laos is a key, trusted, partner of the DLF for the effective development of fisheries co-management structures, able to draw on extensive experience of working in the Middle Mekong region.</p> <p>WWF Laos is to have the following roles and responsibilities in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading project design, definition of project outputs, outcomes and impact, and the coordination of project partners and stakeholders to input into these processes;</li> <li>• To carry out all activities at village level in close collaboration with the Department of Livestock and Fisheries and provincial counterparts, in accordance with internal policies and donor regulations, as per the MOU signed with the Government of the Lao PDR, plan and budget approved by the Implementation Management Committee (IMC);</li> <li>• To manage the finances of the project and report to the IMC and donor as per donor regulations;</li> <li>• Also, among others, recruitment and management of staff, monitoring, reporting and evaluation; networking; organization of IMC meetings; etc.</li> </ul>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>Department of Livestock and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  <a href="http://dlf.maf.gov.la/">http://dlf.maf.gov.la/</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</b></p> <p>The DLF, under the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry (MAF), is responsible for the management and development of livestock production, veterinary services, aquaculture and capture fisheries in the Lao PDR, including fisheries co-management. The administrative structure of the DLF is divided into two parts: the central administration and provincial departments. The central administrative part includes 6 divisions and 4 research centres; and the provincial agencies include 18 provincial Livestock and Fisheries Sections and 148 district Livestock and Fisheries Offices.</p> <p>The DLF is to have the following roles and responsibilities in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to project development process led by WWF Laos;</li> <li>• Be the signatory of the project agreement with WWF Laos;</li> <li>• Provide central level coordination and policy support, in particular with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA);</li> <li>• Be part of the Project Implementation Management Committee and as such provide advice on strategic project direction and adaptive management;</li> <li>• Co-authorize activity implementation budgets with WWF Laos and the Savannakhet Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO)</li> </ul>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>Savannakhet Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  <a href="http://dlf.maf.gov.la/">http://dlf.maf.gov.la/</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</b></p> <p>The Savannakhet Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) is under the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry (MAF) and bears responsibility for all MAF activities in Savannakhet Province. It is technically supervised by the DLF, including with regards to fisheries co-management. The Savannakhet PAFO has supported 42 fisheries co-management structures together with WWF Laos and many others with hydropower companies and other international NGOs.</p> <p>The Savannakhet PAFO is to have the following roles and responsibilities in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to project development process led by WWF Laos;</li> <li>• Implementation of all project activities at village level together with WWF Laos staff based in Savannakhet;</li> <li>• Liaise with the District Agriculture and Forestry Offices and the District Governor offices to issue FCZ decrees;</li> <li>• Be part of the Project implementation Management Committee and as such provide advice on strategic project direction and adaptive management;</li> <li>• Co-authorize activity implementation budgets with WWF Laos and the DLF</li> </ul>
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Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?	No, as only the DLF is considered to have the authority to sign agreements with International NGOs on behalf of PAFOs
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<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>Faculty of Agriculture National University of Laos</p> <p><a href="http://www.nuol.edu.la/index.php/en/faculty-of-agriculture.html">http://www.nuol.edu.la/index.php/en/faculty-of-agriculture.html</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</b></p> <p>The Faculty of Agriculture (FoA) of the National University of Laos (NUoL) was established together with NUoL in 1996. It is the highest agriculture academic body in the country and teaches crop production, plant protection, livestock and fisheries management, climate change adaptation, natural resource uses and management, agricultural policies, etc. In 2017, the FoA participated in a research in partnership with the Department of Economics of Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, to assess the biodiversity benefits of freshwater programmes. Cooperation in this project builds on the experience acquired in the course of that research.</p> <p>The Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Laos is to have the following roles and responsibilities in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support in the design of all surveys;</li> <li>• Participate in field work necessary to conduct the surveys;</li> <li>• Analysis of the data collected.</li> </ul>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?	Yes



<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>Department of Economics Monash University</p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</b></p> <p>The Department of Economics of Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, will participate in the monitoring and evaluation activities of this project building on past collaboration with WWF-Laos and the Faculty of Agriculture at the National University of Laos, implemented during 2017. The results of this collaboration are presented in Butorac, Santos, Win and Guegan (2017) <i>Can conservation programs improve biodiversity? An evaluation of the impact of a fisheries conservation program in Lao PDR</i>, Food Security in the Northern Uplands Discussion Paper 5, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. The research shows among others, that the fisheries co-management structures set up with WWF Laos led to a big increase in biodiversity (on average, +21 species than in communities that did not benefit from the programme).</p> <p>The Department of Economics of Monash University is to have the following roles and responsibilities in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of the appropriate comparison group, with the objective of identifying the causal impact of the project on biodiversity and human outcomes;</li> <li>• Definition of monitoring instruments, particularly those integrated in multi-modular household surveys;</li> <li>• Analysis of the data collected.</li> </ul>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?	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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached*?
Francois GUEGAN	Project Leader	WWF Laos	8%	Yes (CV)
Soutchai KHAMPHOUXAY	Project Manager	WWF Laos	100%	Yes (CV)
Bouasavanh VIENGSOBATH	Project Coordinator	DLF	5%	Yes (JD)
Phansy HOMEKINGKEO	Provincial Advisor	Savannakhet PAFO	10%	Yes (JD)
Phouvin PHOUSAVANH	Project Advisor	NUoL	5%	Yes (JD)
Paulo SANTOS	Project Advisor	Monash University	5%	Yes (CV)
<p><b>*If you cannot provide a CV, please explain why not.</b> Personnel from DLF, PAFO and NUoL are from Government of the Lao PDR and it was not possible to obtain CVs in the time imparted. Brief job descriptions are provided instead.</p>				

## 11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and 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?

(Max 300 words)

The Mekong River basin is the world's most productive inland fishery, underpinning the economies of all countries in the Greater Mekong. It is also home to 12 critically endangered species, a unique concentration of threatened endemism. It supports fisheries totalling 2.6 million tons yearly, providing 75% of the animal protein, and 35% of the total protein intake, of 60 million people. According to the Lao Agricultural Census Office (2012), in 2010-11, 71% of all farming families in Laos practiced capture fisheries. In short, wild fish biodiversity and abundance provides a poverty safety net for those who rely on fish protein for subsistence.

However the Mekong River's ecology is impacted by population growth and overexploitation, economic development, including infrastructure and sand/gravel extraction. These have impacts on the spawning grounds of many species of fish, which become at risk due to the changes to the ecology of the deep pools. These changes affect mostly rural people dependent on fish for their subsistence and puts them at risk of falling into (further) poverty. The poorest people are being hardest hit because fishing is their only source of protein. As a result, communities resort to **overexploitation**; fish stocks continue to decline and villagers spend more time fishing for smaller catches, sometimes leading to conflicts between communities. Women, who rely on fish not only for food (protein) but also income generation (product transformation) are particularly negatively affected by this situation.

These issues were relatively unknown (to people not directly impacted) until reports of fish catch declines were made by fishing communities to WWF and its partners, among other reports that species such as the Mekong giant catfish had all but disappeared. These reports continue to come to WWF Laos' attention, included from the Xebanghien River basin, where this project intends to intervene.

## 12a. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Your project must support the objectives of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

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

## 12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement

(Max 500 words)

Links to the Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity:

**Target 1:** Awareness-raising and active participation of communities are an essential component of each step in the setting up of the fisheries committees and conservation zones. As a result of the project, community members will be more aware of the values of biodiversity and how to conserve and use it sustainably.

**Target 2:** WWF Laos helped develop the 2009 Fisheries Law that allowed for community fisheries to exist in Laos. An important aspect of this law is to have communities at the centre of conservation. As a result, the biodiversity value of freshwater resources have been integrated into the national development and poverty reduction strategies. This project aims to continue this effort by supporting 10 communities while reflecting on the long term impact and sustainability of the model to inform development and poverty reduction strategies.

**Target 6:** By supporting 10 communities to better managed fish stocks and harvest them sustainably, overfishing will be avoided so that the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

**Target 11:** The importance of freshwater protected areas is often hidden by forest protected areas and marine parks and have in the past received little attention by conservationists. However, they play a vital role in supporting river biodiversity, especially since there are no other way to conserve wild fish in a tropical river system such as the Mekong, and because they are areas of unmatched importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services to the local communities.

**Target 12:** This project focuses on contributing to the achievement of this Target through improving the conservation status of threatened Mekong Megafauna. These species are chronically threatened largely through unsustainable fishing practices resulting in over-fishing. Through using science to identify conservation zones and employing a method successfully implemented for fish recovery in numerous sites, the project will contribute to improving conservation status, and thus reduced extinction risk, for endangered species that benefit from lowland seasonal flooding in Mekong tributaries such as the critically endangered Mekong giant catfish, and lesser known threatened species such as the *Wallago attu* or *Bagarius yarrelli*, both of them near-threatened and with population rapidly decreasing.

**Target 14:** In the villages of the project areas, fisheries are an essential part of livelihoods. Other livelihood options come in addition to fisheries, including paddy rice, and vegetable cultivation, etc. but fisheries are central. Hence by improving fisheries management, and eventually increasing fish stocks, the project will be restoring and safeguarding ecosystems services that sustaining the health, livelihoods and well-being of communities.

**Target 19:** The comprehensive M&E framework that this project will follow is not only focused on project delivery within the imparted timeframe, but also on previous community fisheries accomplishments, to assess their long term impact on biodiversity. By means of thorough scientific examination, the impact of existing fisheries co-management structures will be assessed and the results will be shared and transferred, with a view to improve, if necessary, the regulatory frameworks.

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

Yes  No      if yes, please give details:

#### **12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)**

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

(Max 250 words)

Our project is expected to make a three-fold contribution to the SDGs.

First, by conserving fish biodiversity, the project will support **SDG15 (Life on Land)**. Freshwater fish are an essential part of terrestrial biodiversity and as such our project will make significant contribution to SDG15 by conserving fish species (indicators 15.1, and 15.5).

Second, not only by increasing fish stocks, but also by offering livelihoods diversification options, the project will support livelihoods improvement, with positive impact especially in terms of food security, nutrition and overall health. This contributes to **SDG1 (No Poverty)**, as the project will set up structures that ensure equal access to natural resources (indicator 1.4)

and also support resilience to climate change and disasters (indicator 1.5). This also contributes to **SDG2**, in particular indicators 2.1 and 2.2, as fish are a key source of protein for local communities in the target area, as well as indicator 2.4 with reference to “sustainable food production systems [...] that increase productivity and production, and that help maintain ecosystems”.

Third, by empowering communities to manage their resources effectively, in particular by supporting the needs of women in deriving benefits from improved aquatic natural resources management, the project will support **SDG5**, in particular indicators 5.5 and 5.A, as women will be included and their voices promoted in the fisheries management committees. Finally, by promoting the implementation of the Fisheries Law, the project will contribute to SDG16, indicator 16.3, which encourages the rule of law.

### 13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome 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 – this may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you may update or refine as necessary. Tracked changes are **not** required.)

Output 1 will support the creation of fish conservation zones (**FCZ**) and fisheries management committees (**FMC**) in 10 communities in the Xebanghien River basin. The entire process takes from 4 to 12 months and involves 6 steps, based on communities’ desire to protect their resources. It is facilitated by WWF Laos and Province and District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) staff during multiple inclusive discussions with communities. In each village, the discussions start with consensus building (site selection, situation analysis, problem identification, defining objectives), during which awareness raising sessions are organized with the whole community (on the Fisheries Law, the benefits of FCZs, gender equality, prohibited species, etc.). Then regulations are drafted and revised. These regulations are eventually approved by the village, after which an agreement is signed between the village and the DAFO. The District Governor then issues a decree, and the FCZ is officially promulgated. It is then monitored by PAFO/DAFO staff and regulations can be updated at the request of the FMC. Throughout the process, WWF Laos and DAFO staff follow the WWF/DLF guidelines on fisheries co-management (2009, attached as appendix).

Output 2 will focus on developing alternative livelihoods models for women groups in all target villages. This component builds on the success of previous WWF initiatives in which women were supported to create production groups to maximize the use of freshwater resources and hence, contribute to the socioeconomic development of their village. As above, the process is facilitated by WWF Laos and province and district staff during multiple visits to target villages. During group discussions, the priorities for livelihoods diversification are identified by the women and men in the village. Groups set up is decided by the village authorities and approved by DAFO and WWF Laos. Trainings and material procurement is then organized by DAFO and WWF Laos.

Output 3 aims at evaluating the successes – and challenges – of 42 fisheries co-management structures set up in Savannakhet Province in order to inform capture fisheries policy both locally and nationally. The methodology to conduct the assessment is twofold: 1)/ rapid survey of all 42 villages; 2)/ thorough assessment in at least 8 selected villages based on the results of the first step (create homogeneous groups in terms of linking structure (i.e. law enforcement) and performance (i.e. biodiversity), using a cluster analysis of classification trees. The results will be disseminated local media (printed newspapers), written material (policy brief), and social media (written content, pictures, movie and short clips). In addition, the project will organize a multi-stakeholder advocacy workshop to present the results, lessons learnt and recommendations for further policy development.

The monitoring and evaluation of the outputs, outcomes and impact will be conducted in partnership with NUoL and Monash University (more details in the logical framework and in

section 24). To ensure activity implementation is on track, the project will use WWF Laos' project monthly monitoring report (MMR) as well as 6-monthly meetings with all project partners to ensure potential adaptive management measures can be applied.

#### 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 (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. 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.

(Max 500 words)

In the short term, the project will benefit:

- The members of the FMC, totalling 70 persons, including at least 10 women. They will benefit from increased awareness of the benefits of fish conservation, fisheries co-management capacity, and voice in the management of natural freshwater resources.
- The members of the women production groups, anticipated to represent a total of 100 women. They will benefit from technical training, seed funding for small-scale business investment, and marketing training.
- The district agriculture and forestry staff, totalling 18 persons, including 6 women, the Savannakhet provincial agriculture and forestry staff, totalling 3 persons, including one women, the central DLF's fisheries section, totalling 5 persons, including 2 women, will benefit from increased knowledge and direct experience of supporting fisheries co-management structures.
- Students of the Faculty of Agriculture of NUoL (numbers to be determined at a later stage) participating in M&E activities, will build their capacity through on-the-job trainings.
- At national level, the DLF and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) policy makers will directly benefit from the results of output 3 by gaining access to lessons learnt from the assessment of 42 fisheries co-management structures.

In the long term, the project will benefit:

- Members of the FMC: they will continue to benefit from added voice in the management of natural freshwater resources, in particular women, who traditionally are not directly involved in such discussions. Their social status will also increase as a results of being part of the FMC.
- Members of the women production groups: they will benefit from increased subsistence and income generating opportunities, as well as added voice in the household through added income.
- DLF, provincial and district staff: they will benefit from added knowledge and experience, to be used and replicated in further initiatives,
- Students of NUoL: they will also benefit from added knowledge and experience, placing them more favourably on the job market,
- Eventually, lessons learnt by the DLF and MAF policy makers will be applied nationwide and benefit all communities depending on fishing for their livelihoods (71% of all farming families in Laos).

In the long term, the project will benefit the total population of the target villages (estimated 7,300, including 3,700 women):

- Setting up FCZs will lead to increased biodiversity and fish stocks, as demonstrated in Butorac et al. (2017). Hence, it is anticipated that there will be a 20% decrease in

fishing effort for the same yield after 2 years. As a result, villagers will devote additional time to diversified livelihoods and income-generating activities.

- Thanks to trainings and seed funding provided to the women production groups, it is expected that other households will replicate livelihoods diversification initiatives. This will increase their subsistence and income generating opportunities and allow them to cope better with economic stress.
- Diet variety (measured by the food consumption score) is expected to increase by 10% in the 4 years after FCZs are set up.
- Malnutrition among girls (considered the most at-risk population group for the purpose of food and nutrition security) will also be significantly reduced.

## 15. Gender

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

(Max 300 words)

WWF Laos believes that women are the most efficient agents of change and hence most of our projects rely in the inclusion of women in community-based organizations (e.g. fisheries management committees) and other community mobilisation mechanisms.

As in many rural areas in Laos, women in target communities tend to be under-represented in village political decision making processes and hence suffer from decisions that often disregard their wellbeing. Through the project's outcome 1, women will be represented in the fisheries committees, and will hence benefit from increased voice in the fisheries decision making processes.

Through outcome 1, it is also expected that all households' members will benefit from reduction in fishing effort. As fishing, which is mostly done by men, becomes more regulated and harvest more predictable, women are able to plan and develop small businesses in fish transformation (e.g. fermented or dry fish), or agriculture extension, and increase their income. Eventually, thanks to reduced fishing time, families – both men and women – have the possibility to diversify their income. This allows them to cope better with economic stress.

In order to support this, the project will raise the awareness of target communities with regards to gender equality in natural resources management, using material used in other projects that have demonstrated a positive impact on women's participation in the villages' natural resources management processes.

Through the project's outcome 2, women will benefit from increased income from livelihood diversification. This will in turn increase their voice in household decision making so that they have a stronger voice, among others, in natural resources management.

As in all our projects, this project will disaggregate data by gender in all three outputs starting with baseline, and in all follow-up surveys. This will allow us to monitor women's participation, representation, and how women benefit from the project.

## 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)

The project will reach a stable and sustainable end point in the 10 target communities through the creation of 10 co-management structures that will continue to manage fisheries after project end as well as diversified livelihoods that will benefits women and men in target communities in the long term.

These communities live on the Xebanghien River, which is one of the only Mekong tributaries on which there are no large dams yet, which is likely to remain so due to its low elevation profile. This guarantees the sustainability of conservation efforts on the river as well as supporting the fish spill-over effect to the Mekong main stem.

Aside direct biodiversity sustainability, our exit strategy consists of enhancing the capacity of villagers and setting up structures enabling communities to manage their commons. This approach aims at building the systems and knowledge base required for longevity of behaviour changes. This is reinforced through demonstrating the value of FCZs through awareness-raising efforts (sessions supported by information, education and information (IEC) material, consensus building, group discussions, etc.). Eventually, adult villagers will fish more responsibly and take an active part in fisheries co-management (e.g. be part of the management committee), making this project sustainable.

### 17a. Harmonisation

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

(Max 200 words)

This project is part of a larger fisheries co-management programme implemented by WWF Laos and its partners, most importantly the DLF, since 2004. At the time of writing, this programme includes 2 main projects:

1 – “Lao-Thai fisheries”, operating on the Mekong main stem and tributary confluences in Bolikhamxay and Khammouan provinces, based on transboundary cooperation with Thai communities and local authorities, financed by WWF Switzerland.

2 – “Siphandone phase 2”, operating on the Mekong main stem in the 2 districts adjacent to the border with Cambodia, financed by the Government of Germany (BMZ).

This project comes as a development of the programme by scaling up a combination of methods that have proven to have a positive impact-multiplying effect when implemented together (i.e. fisheries co-management and livelihoods diversification, in particular when led by women), as well as putting a strong emphasis on monitoring and evaluation, the sharing of lessons learnt, research and partnerships. Output 3 in particular, is aiming at informing this programme, as well as fisheries policy makers, of the long term successes and challenges of fisheries co-management for further improvement of the fisheries policy framework.

### 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. Explain 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.

### 18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative’s key principles for research ethics as outlined in the [Guidance](#).

(Max 300 words)

Having worked in Laos for more than 15 years, WWF Laos is intimately familiar with the communities we work with. Beneficiary participation and wellbeing are underpinned by WWF network’s Social Policies, including grievance mechanisms, recognising and supporting the rights of indigenous peoples to benefit equitably from conservation and sustainable use of natural resources within their territories.

In all of WWF Laos' endeavours, and through all partnerships developed, communities are at the centre of sustainability goals, since it is WWF Laos' belief that conservation initiatives cannot be successful and sustainable if they do not benefit local people. This starts with using local ecological knowledge in all our research endeavours in order to both promote local expertise and avoid scientific errors. Free, Prior and Informed Consent is obtained from these communities as standard.

As in past initiatives, and through partnerships with two universities and their researchers, project staff involved in research will observe the integrity of the research process and ensure intellectual detachment from personal opinions and convictions. Participants in the project research will be informed of the project's goals and privacy arrangements prior to the collection of personal data, and respondents will have the option to opt-out of their involvement, should they wish.

This project will be implemented within the legal obligations of both donor and local government in all aspects, including human rights obligations and values, ethics, and financial management and accountability. The project will be implemented by WWF Laos staff in cooperation with partners, while WWF Laos is to be accountable to the donor as well as to local authorities and communities. A project steering committee made of all project representative stakeholders will meet six-monthly to provide a transparent framework for monitoring, exchange of information and generating feedback.

### **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 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)

In Laos as in many countries around the globe, WWF has a strategy of working at multiple levels, from communities to Government and the private sector, to influence the drivers of change at all levels. This project will follow this strategy by working directly with communities and support their better management of biodiversity, but will also influence policy makers by sharing lessons learnt and promoting the fisheries co-management concept at local and national levels (through regular coordination meetings with national and local partners and a multi-stakeholder advocacy workshop presenting the results of the research work of outcome 3).

At community level, the project will use information, education and communication (IEC) resources that were designed in previous projects e.g. posters promoting the fisheries law, showing illegal fishing gear, promoting gender equality, describing prohibited species, etc. in awareness-raising sessions during consensus building and follow-up community consultations. With local government agencies, the project will make use of the fisheries law and raise Government staff's awareness of it, also with the support of the fisheries co-management guidelines developed by WWF and DLF in 2009.

Finally, the project will make use of both printed (brochures and press releases to local newspapers) and online platforms (such as WWF Laos' own website and social media, short movie and short video clips), to promote the benefits of fisheries co-management to the general population in Laos (with and without internet access), who in general still has a limited understanding of how important, and threatened, capture fisheries are in Laos.

### **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)

As mentioned in section 16, capacity building is essential to the project's sustainability. With the Savannakhet Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO), its Fisheries Section and the District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO), the project will provide on-the-job capacity building, as all activities will be implemented jointly with the PAFO/DAFO staff. In addition, PAFO/DAFO staff participate actively in project planning, monitoring and evaluation, reinforcing their capacity to continue their part of co-management in the future.

By providing individuals with direct experience of the inputs and results of fisheries co-management, the project is expected to raise the profile of fisheries co-management among Government agencies and help public institutions earmark budget for it, allowing co-management structures to be supported going forward.

At the community level, the project will work with and train fisheries committee members to reinforce their understanding of conservation and sustainable fisheries management. This is done during each step of setting up the co-management structures: consensus building, drafting regulations, including demarcation of fish conservation zones and creation of fisheries committee, revisions and update of regulations, village approval of regulations, District approval (decree) and finally announcement and dissemination of regulations.

The observed benefits of sustainable fisheries are expected to be the source of enough reasons (i.e. subsistence and income generation benefits) for fisheries committee members to perpetuate the culture of sustainable fishing in the whole community.

Output 2 will focus on building the vocational skills of women, using local knowledge and local market capacities to ensure skills are sustained and used on a regular basis.

## 21. Access to project information

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

(Max 250 words)

This project will generate various outputs that may be of interest to other stakeholders, so all outputs will be made available for free, either online on the WWF-Laos website or through request by contacting our website. This will include, but not be limited to: FCZ locations and specifications, raw data on biodiversity surveys, survey results, whether published or not, as well as pictures, short movie and video clips in accordance with WWF policies and privacy regulations (as described in section 18), and IEC material. Those who are not connected to the internet on a regular basis and may benefit from information on the project's deliverables i.e. district, province and central level Government technicians and policy makers, will be able to access it through the distribution of periodical reports during the project's 6-monthly and yearly monitoring meetings.

In order to raise awareness about the project from all stakeholders, WWF will produce a project brochure in the early months of the project, to be printed and put online, so that interested stakeholders, either local or international, can contact us for more information.

No costs other than printing IEC material, project brochures and producing video material is sought from the Darwin Initiative. Should research material be published after the grant period, WWF Laos will be in a position to pay the publication costs, as we have done in the past in the context of other similar projects.

## Project Monitoring and Evaluation

### Measuring Impact

#### 22. Logical Framework

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome if funded. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome 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
<b>Impact:</b> (Max 30 words) Improved freshwater biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods that better manage natural resources lead to reduced poverty in the Middle Mekong.			
<b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words) Fish stocks and fish biodiversity have improved and poverty reduced in ten villages in the Xebanghien River basin through effective community-based conservation of freshwater resources and alternative livelihood models	0.1 → By June 2020, an average of 10% decrease in fishing effort for the same yield (catch per unit effort) is observed by all fishing households in 10 villages ( <b>baseline</b> to be determined during pre-project surveys)  0.2 Time freed from fishing is reallocated to other livelihood options in at least 50% of fishing households in 10 villages ( <b>baseline</b> to be determined during pre-project surveys)  0.3 → By June 2020, mean last capture dates for 2 selected endangered endemic species show a decrease from project start in 10 villages ( <b>baseline</b> to be determined during pre-project surveys)  0.4 → By June 2020, the knowledge, attitude and practice (enforcement) of the Fisheries Law in 10 villages has increased by at least 50% ( <b>baseline</b> to be determined during pre-project surveys)	0.1 → Time use module surveys pre and post-project with selected households   0.2 → Time use module surveys pre and post-project with selected households   0.3 → Local ecological knowledge surveys (last sighting date interviews) pre and post project with selected households   0.4 → Knowledge, attitude and practice surveys pre and post-project with selected households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No new major infrastructure developments (e.g. dam) will begin within the project lifetime in lowland areas</li> <li>- Fish populations can increase despite existing pressures by infrastructure construction at the Mekong Basin level</li> <li>- No major socially disruptive event (e.g. drought, abnormal and/or non-seasonal flood, social unrest) prevents independent impartial monitoring</li> <li>- People in control villages are willing to participate in survey effort</li> </ul>

<p><b>Outputs:</b> 1. 10 communities on the Xebanghien River manage their freshwater resources through effective fisheries co-management structures</p>	<p>1.1 → 10 fish conservation zones (FCZ) officially announced by District authorities in the Xebanghien River basin by January 2020 (<b>June 2019 milestone:</b> FCZ process in 10 villages 70% complete on average)</p> <p>1.2 → 10 fisheries management committees (FMC) officially set up, each including women representatives, approved by District authorities and functioning in 10 villages in the Xebanghien River basin by January 2020 (<b>June 2019 milestone:</b> all FMC members are selected in 10 villages)</p>	<p>1.1.1 → Publication of FCZ District decrees 1.1.1 → Project monitoring records</p> <p>1.2.1 → FMC official members lists 1.2.2 → Project monitoring records</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FCZ locations allow efficient monitoring and law enforcement by communities</li> <li>- Village leadership is stable and pushes for regulations to be enforced</li> <li>- No new major infrastructure developments (e.g. dam) will begin within the project lifetime in target villages or directly upstream</li> </ul>
<p>2. Households (and, in particular, women) in fisheries-dependent communities benefit from reduction in fishing effort and devote additional time to increase revenue and food availability derived from more diversified livelihoods</p>	<p>2.1 → 10 women-led production groups set up in 10 villages in the Xebanghien River basin by December 2018</p> <p>2.2 → Livelihood diversification options identified by 10 women-led production groups in 10 villages in the Xebanghien River basin by January 2019</p> <p>2.3 → 10 women-led production groups in 10 villages in the Xebanghien River producing outputs by December 2019</p> <p>2.4 → Time spent by women to diversify both food availability and income increased by 20% in 100 target households in 10 villages in the Xebanghien River basin by June 2020</p>	<p>2.1 → Production groups registration</p> <p>2.2 → Groups meeting minutes</p> <p>2.3 → Products for sale or consumption</p> <p>2.4 → Time use surveys pre and post-project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raw materials can be obtained locally and/or purchase is affordable</li> <li>- Access to markets is affordable</li> <li>- No major socially disruptive event (e.g. drought, abnormal and/or non-seasonal flood, social unrest) prevents people from investing in new livelihoods activities</li> </ul>
<p>3. Successes and constraints of fisheries co-management structures in the Middle Mekong are assessed and inform Lao fisheries policy makers</p>	<p>3.1 → Rapid evaluation report of 42 fisheries co-management structures in Savannakhet Province, completed by December 2018</p> <p>3.2 → Evaluation report of at least 8</p>	<p>3.1.1 → Law enforcement practice and perception surveys 3.1.2 → Rapid biodiversity surveys using local ecological knowledge</p> <p>3.2 → Evaluation report and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access is physically possible to all 42 villages</li> <li>- Villagers in communities where fisheries law enforcement has been weak are willing to participate in surveys</li> <li>- Subject gathers enough attention for</li> </ul>

	<p>fisheries co-management structures in which change can be attributed to previous WWF/DLF interventions, including recommendations, completed by June 2019.</p> <p>3.3 → Publication of results and recommendations through local media (local newspapers), written material (policy brief), and social media (articles, movie, clips), by March 2020 (<b>milestones</b>: first news items published before December 2018; short movie completed by September 2019)</p> <p>3.4 → Commitment made by Fisheries authorities to promote fisheries co-management nationwide and the project's research recommendations during multi-stakeholder advocacy workshop presenting the results of both surveys and previous research, conducted before March 2020.</p>	<p>recommendations</p> <p>3.3.1 → At least 2 press releases and newspaper articles, one policy brief and at least 10 social media content 3.3.2 → One short movie and 2 short clips promoting fisheries co-management</p> <p>3.4 → Participants list and minutes of meeting, recommendations, public statement by fisheries authorities</p>	<p>press releases to be published in local media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No major disruption (either internal or external) prevents the completion of all surveys and data can be processed on time</li> <li>- Policy makers are willing to participate in dissemination meetings and take on the recommendations for follow up actions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b> (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)</p> <p>1.1 → Desk review and GIS mapping of potential new target villages on the Xebanghien river and its tributaries, included 10 target villages and 10 control villages</p> <p>1.2 → Selection of 10 target villages and 10 control villages and seek FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent)</p> <p>1.3 → Survey 10 target villages and 10 control villages pre-project (surveys including: law enforcement KAP, time use module, food consumption and anthropometric measurements from local health centres) with village authorities and randomly selected household representatives</p> <p>1.4 → Conduct last sighting date interviews in 10 target villages and 10 control villages pre-project</p> <p>1.5 → Start process of setting up Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs) and Fisheries Management Committees (FMC) in 10 target villages: Consensus Building, with awareness raising sessions on the benefits of FCZs, prohibited fish species, Fisheries Law and gender equality</p> <p>1.6 → Continue process: Draft Regulations, including demarcation of FCZ and creation of FMC</p> <p>1.7 → Continue process: Revisions and Update of Regulations of village fisheries</p> <p>1.8 → Continue process: Village Approval of regulations</p> <p>1.9 → Continue process: District Approval (decree) of regulations</p> <p>1.10 → Finalize process: Announcement and Dissemination of regulations</p>			

- 1.11 → Survey 10 target villages and 10 control villages post-project (surveys including: law enforcement KAP, time use module, food consumption and anthropometric measurements from local health centres) with village authorities and randomly selected household representatives
- 1.12 → Conduct final last sighting date interviews in 10 target villages and 10 control villages post-project
- 2.1 → Survey 10 target villages and select pilot households to develop women-led production groups; seek FPIC
- 2.2 → Form 10 women production groups (one in each village)
- 2.3 → Survey group members pre-project (combine with activity 1.3)
- 2.4 → Select livelihoods diversification activities to be supported and funded through the project
- 2.5 → Disburse funds to production groups
- 2.6 → Organize vocational trainings based on the needs identified by the members of the production groups
- 2.7 → Provide equipment to support the starting of community enterprises (handicraft, agriculture, tourism enhancement, marketing and sales, etc.)
- 2.8 → Organize marketing trainings based on the vocational skills acquired
- 2.9 → Survey group members post-project (combine with activity 1.11)
- 3.1 → Desk review of 42 fisheries management structures set up in Savannakhet province (mapping, current infrastructure development, confirmation of village location and metadata, etc.)
- 3.2 → Field visit of all 42 villages and survey of their fisheries management structures and biodiversity (surveys of 1/ village authorities eliciting which rules are in place and perceptions of how they are implemented (law enforcement) and 2/ local ecological knowledge on river biodiversity)
- 3.3 → Data treatment: create homogeneous groups in terms of linking structure (i.e. law enforcement) and performance (i.e. biodiversity), using a cluster analysis of classification trees
- 3.4 → Publish preliminary report and disseminate of lessons learnt through press releases, policy brief and online content
- 3.5 → Conduct a qualitative survey of at least 8 villages (final number to be determined during activity 3.3) to understand why some rules were changed or not (focus group discussions) and how did they change lives (most significant change methodology)
- 3.6 → Writing of evaluation report
- 3.7 → Production of a short movie presenting the concept of fisheries co-management and its benefits for conservation and local people's livelihoods
- 3.8 → Organize a multi-stakeholder advocacy workshop presenting the results of both surveys and previous research

**23. 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 (starting from Q2 July 2018)**

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity	No. of months	2018/2019			2019/2020				2020/2021			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1			
<b>Output 1</b>												
1.1 Desk review and GIS mapping of potential new target villages on the Xebanghien river and its tributaries, included 10 target villages and 10 control villages	0.5	x										
1.2 Selection of 10 target villages and 10 control villages and seek FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent)	1	x										
1.3 Survey 10 target villages and 10 control villages pre-project (surveys including: law enforcement KAP, time use module, food consumption and anthropometric measurements from local health centres) with village authorities and randomly selected household representatives	1	x	x									
1.4 Conduct last sighting date interviews in 10 target villages and 10 control villages pre-project	1	x	x									
1.5 Start process of setting up Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs) and Fisheries Management Committees (FMC) in 10 target villages: Consensus Building, with awareness raising sessions on the benefits of FCZs, prohibited fish species, Fisheries Law and gender equality	3		x	x								
1.6 Continue process: Draft Regulations, including demarcation of FCZ and creation of FMC	3			x	x							
1.7 Continue process: Revisions and Update of Regulations of village fisheries	2			x								
1.8 Continue process: Village Approval of regulations	2				x	x						
1.9 Continue process: District Approval (decree) of regulations	3					x	x					
1.10 Finalize process: Announcement and Dissemination of regulations	2						x					
1.11 Survey 10 target villages and 10 control villages post-project (surveys including: law enforcement KAP, time use module, food consumption and anthropometric measurements from local health centres) with village authorities and randomly selected household representatives	1									x		
1.12 Conduct final last sighting date interviews in 10 target villages and 10 control villages post-project	1									x		
<b>Output 2</b>												
2.1 Survey 10 target villages and select pilot households to develop women-	1	x	x									

Activity	No. of months	2018/2019			2019/2020				2020/2021		
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
led production groups; seek FPIC											
2.2 Form 10 women production groups (one in each village)	1		x								
2.3 Survey group members pre-project (combine with activity 1.3)	1		x								
2.4 Select livelihoods diversification activities to be supported and funded through the project	1			x							
2.5 Disburse funds to production groups	1				x						
2.6 Organize vocational trainings based on the needs identified by the members of the production groups	3				x	x	x				
2.7 Provide equipment to support the starting of community enterprises (handicraft, agriculture, tourism enhancement, marketing and sales, etc.)	3				x	x	x				
2.8 Organize marketing trainings based on the vocational skills acquired	1						x				
2.9 Survey group members post-project (combine with activity 1.11)	1								x		
<b>Output 3</b>											
3.1 Desk review of 42 fisheries management structures set up in Savannakhet province (mapping, current infrastructure development, confirmation of village location and metadata, etc.)	1	x									
3.2 Field visit of all 42 villages and survey of their fisheries management structures and biodiversity (surveys of 1/ village authorities eliciting which rules are in place and perceptions of how they are implemented (law enforcement) and 2/ local ecological knowledge on river biodiversity)	3		x								
3.3 Data treatment: create homogeneous groups in terms of linking structure (i.e. law enforcement) and performance (i.e. biodiversity), using a cluster analysis of classification trees	1			x							
3.4 Publish preliminary report and disseminate of lessons learnt through press releases, policy brief and online content	1			x							
3.5 Conduct a qualitative survey of at least 8 villages (final number to be determined during activity 3.3) to understand why some rules were changed or not (focus group discussions) and how did they change lives (most significant change methodology)	1				x						
3.6 Writing of evaluation report	1				x						
3.7 Production of a short movie presenting the concept of fisheries co-management and its benefits for conservation and local people's livelihoods	4				x	x					

Activity	No. of months	2018/2019			2019/2020				2020/2021		
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
3.8 Organize a multi-stakeholder advocacy workshop presenting the results of both surveys and previous research	0.5							x			



## 24. 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.

(Max 500 words)

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will not just be a side element of this project, but will incorporate scientific methods to feed into the delivery of the project.

Within WWF Laos, the M&E Coordinator is responsible to ensure our standards are adhered to and that project monitoring tools are used and maintained appropriately by the Project Manager. The M&E Coordinator also ensures the surveys are designed to capture what information is needed, and in a format that can be analysed. In addition, the Conservation Director provides quality control on the content of monitoring and on final products such as reports to government, donors and publications.

To measure the impact of the project in a causal way, we will adopt the scientific approach of building a counterfactual (i.e. what happens in the absence of the project): through the use of statistical methods (either randomization or optimization of matched pairs of villages), we will define the appropriate control group (10 villages which will be statistically indistinguishable from the 10 target villages) and measure the causal impact of the project on biodiversity and human outcomes by comparing project villages with control villages both before and after the implementation of the project (the difference-in-differences approach). We will also design suitable monitoring instruments, particularly those integrated in multi-modular knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) household surveys.

The design of the surveys and analysis of the data will be conducted in partnership with researchers in the Department of Economics at Monash University (Melbourne, Australia) and the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Laos. This partnership will build on past collaboration between the three institutions (WWF-Laos, Monash University and NUOL) in 2017 (the results of this collaboration are presented in Butorac et. al (2017), attached as appendix). In addition, NUOL will seek to partner with AVI (Australian Volunteer International) to secure M&E support for at least one year.

Output 3 is, in effect, an evaluation of existing fisheries co-management structures. The methodology to conduct the assessment will consist in a rapid survey of 42 villages followed by a qualitative assessment of at least 8 selected villages based on the results of the rapid survey (create homogeneous groups in linking structure (i.e. law enforcement) and performance (i.e. biodiversity), using a cluster analysis of classification trees.

To monitor and evaluate output 2, we will focus on production group registration and production and, to link with the outcome of the project, on time use surveys pre and post-project.

The project will reach a stable and sustainable end point in the 10 target communities. However, the full impact of the project (in terms of biodiversity and poverty reduction i.e. food and nutrition) cannot be demonstrated within the timeframe of this grant. It is expected that the long term impact will start to be seen approximately 2 years after project end. WWF Laos is committed to the fisheries co-management programme and the communities this project will work with, so WWF Laos will seek to complete a post project survey after 2022.

Number of days planned for M&E	79 (WWF Laos) 264 (NUoL)
Total project budget for M&E	GBP 14,861
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	6.2%

## 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 and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund](#)' document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

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

### 25. 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 calculations made to anticipate the costs of setting up FCZs and FMCs are based on WWF Laos' previous and current experience in similar initiatives. The costs of surveys, other travel, organizing meetings and workshops, printing costs, video production costs, etc. are all based on WWF Laos' experience in current projects (included but not limited to those listed in section 8b). Staff costs are based on WWF Laos' current salary scale, and include cost-of-living adjustments as per our human resources policy and in accordance with the laws of the Lao PDR.

This project proposal offers very good value for money because it is designed to be integrated into WWF Laos' fisheries programme and benefit from the experience gained by our organization since 2004. WWF Laos is uniquely positioned to implement such initiatives in Laos. While other organizations have reproduced the concept in other contexts, WWF Laos is constantly innovating and learning from past experience to ensure projects have long lasting impact and legacy. Output 3 in particular, is aimed at providing the best value for money not only of the current portfolio of fisheries co-management work, but for future initiatives nationwide.

To maximize costs efficiency, some of the costs (for example coordination meetings, staff, consultancies, etc.) will be shared with other projects, nevertheless without duplication. By working with secured and dynamic partnerships, the project also benefits from in-kind contribution of technical expertise, bringing in extra valued-added to the ends of the project.

### 26. 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)

The project intends to purchase 2 motorcycles, Honda Wave 100cc models, to facilitate transportation in Savannakhet Province's districts. It is anticipated that the motorcycles will be handed over to the Savannakhet Fisheries Section once the project ends.

### 27. 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:**

£XX,XXX from WWF Switzerland, from July 2018 to June 2019. £X,XXX from Monash University (in kind)

**27b) 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.

<b>Date applied for</b>	<b>Donor organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Anticipated in February 2018	Australian Volunteer International	£XX,XXX	Amount only an estimation. Funding to be applied for by NUoL.

**27c) None**

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

(max 100 words)

WWF Laos is not at this stage intending to seek additional match funding itself. However, the funding request to AVI will be made by NUoL, a key partner to this project. The time of the AVI is expected to be 50% dedicated to this project.

**28) Financial Management Risks**

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

(max 200 words)

WWF Laos has been implementing projects in Laos since the early nineties and has had an official representation office in Vientiane since 2001. Fraud risks and bribery threats by individuals in partner organizations are an everyday reality for our staff in the field and in Vientiane. Laos being one of the most corrupt countries in the world, we have developed strong financial management policies, which all staff and third parties are contractually obliged to follow, to protect them as well as the image of WWF and the donors that support our work. For example, we have designed our own daily subsistence allowance (DSA) policy in order to avoid abuse of per diems and accommodation costs, in line with the official guidelines of the Government of the Lao PDR. This policy is reviewed on a yearly basis, its implementation evaluated, and improvements are made continuously to adapt to potential new challenges.

One main assumption made when working out the budget is that currency fluctuations remain manageable during the life of the project. It is particularly important since project expenses are made in US dollars. Reducing the number of bank transfers should minimize risks.

PDF

### 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) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)  Yes, advice attached  No

### Certification

On behalf of WWF Laos

I apply for a grant of **£ 239,546** 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.
- I enclose our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports

Name (block capitals)	FRANCOIS GUEGAN
Position in the organisation	CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

## Stage 2 Application – Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you <b>read the <a href="#">Guidance</a></b> ?	v
Have you read and can you meet the current <a href="#">Terms and Conditions</a> for this fund?	v
Have you provided <b>actual start and end dates</b> for your project?	v
Have you provided your <b>budget based on UK government financial years</b> i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	v
Have you checked that your <b>budget is complete</b> , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	v
Has your application been <b>signed by a suitably authorised individual?</b> (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	v
Have you included a <b>1 page CV for all the key project personnel</b> identified at Question 6 and Question 10?	v
Have you included a <b>letter of support from your <u>key</u> partner organisations</b> identified at Question 9?	v
Have you <b>been in contact with the FCO</b> in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	v
Have you included a <b>signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts</b> for the lead organisation?	v
Have you <b>checked the Darwin website</b> immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	v

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Monday 29 January 2018 to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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 - Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete your application, the grant acceptance and the supplier forms.

Defra will use your personal data primarily for the purpose of processing your application for Darwin Initiative funding. By submitting an application, applicants have agreed to any disclosure of the information supplied (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which Defra considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Funds (as detailed in the paragraphs below).

A completed application form signifies agreement to place certain details of successful applications (i.e. name, title, total grant value, project summary, lead organisation and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative websites listed below. A completed application form also signifies agreement to send data on the project proposals during the application process to British Embassies and High Commissions outside the UK, including those outside the European Economic Area.

<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk>;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative>;

Application form data will also be processed by Defra contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative administration, monitoring and evaluation (working within relevant data protection rules).

Defra may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. The Grantee shall assist and co-operate with the Department (at the Grantee's expense) to enable the Department to comply with its disclosure obligations under these enactments.

We may use information, including personal data, to test computer systems to ensure that they work effectively and efficiently and to develop new systems in order to improve efficiency and the service that we provide to you and other persons. Any use of information for testing or developing computerised systems will be conducted in a secure manner in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to safeguard the privacy of the information that you have supplied.

Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, is on the Defra section of Gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, please telephone the Defra helpline 08459 33 55 77 and ask to speak to the Data Protection Officer for a copy of the Information Charter.