



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>	Snow Leopard Conservancy
<b>Address:</b>	75 Boyes Blvd
<b>City and Postcode:</b>	Sonoma, CA 95476
<b>Country:</b>	USA
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	

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

<b>Stage 1 Ref:</b>	<b>Title (max 10 words):</b> Sustaining snow leopard conservation through strengthened local institutions and enterprises
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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) (80)**

This project seeks to improve security and resilience of snow leopards, prey and biodiversity at two model sites in Nepal by institutionalizing conservation financing and stewardship at local levels. Specific objectives are (1) improving herder practices while reducing wildlife-human conflict; (2) piloting snow leopard-linked enterprise/s through training, finance and market linkages; and (3) enabling local institutions and stakeholders through Nepal's newly devolved governance structures to obtain investments and influence policy. Monitoring systems will emphasize adaptive management, and sharing key lessons.

#### 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> Nepal	<b>Country 2:</b>
<b>Country 3:</b>	<b>Country 4:</b>

#### 5. Project dates, and budget summary

<b>Start date:</b> July 1, 2018	<b>End date:</b> March 31, 2021	<b>Duration:</b> 2 years 9 months
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Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	2018/19 £97,523	2019/20 £100,524	2020/21 £113,760	Total £311,807
Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost				18%

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	Project Partner 3
Surname	Peniston	Pradhan	Thakali	Scheuch
Forename (s)	Brian	Meeta	Shailendra	Peter
Post held	Special Projects Director	Co-PI	Co-PI	Founder and Managing Director
Organisation (if different to above)		The Mountain Institute (TMI)	Mountain Spirit (MS)	Ennovent GmbH (Ennovent)

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
n/a		

**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?	2011 (JULY 13)
What is the legal status of your organisation? 501 (c) (3) [EIN 61-1614981] DUNS # 00-970-5919	NGO <b>Yes/No</b> Government Yes/No University Yes/No Other (explain)
How is your organisation currently funded?	(Max 100 words) (74) The Snow Leopard Conservancy's income for 2017 (a typical pattern) accrued through

	private donations (51.6%), Foundations & Grants (35.3%) and Special Events / Sales (13.1%). We have several major donors who have supported our work for 15-20 years (or more); some 30%+ of our foundation grants are multi-year awards; the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) is an important partner for fundraising and capacity-building (see <a href="https://wildnet.org/">https://wildnet.org/</a> ). SLC actively seeks foundation grants for its areas of expertise
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?	<b>Yes/No</b> (Provided IRS 990 Form for 2015 & 2016; NOTE: SLC's 2017 financial report is currently under preparation and will be provided when available; we have a organization-wide audit scheduled for late 2018.

**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	The Asia Foundation
Value	\$70, 217
Duration	5 months (from December 28, 2017)
Role of organisation in project	Lead Organization / Prime Contractor for this study
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	Assessment of impacts of Nepal's local government structures on the sustainability of current and future biodiversity conservation programs: opportunities and risks. Being conducted by a Nepalese team under the direction of B. Peniston.
Client/ <b>independent</b> reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	<b>Client:</b> Dr. George Varughese, Country Representative, Asia Foundation, GPO Box 935, Bhat Bhateni, Kathmandu, Nepal  Website: <a href="https://asiafoundation.org/where-we-work/nepal/">https://asiafoundation.org/where-we-work/nepal/</a>

2. Title	Collaborative Program for Snow Leopard Conservation (Silicon Valley Community Foundation, The Christensen Fund & Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation)
Value	\$ 225,000
Duration	3 years (Dec 2015 - 2018)
Role of organisation in project	Lead agency
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	This project creates pathways for Indigenous Cultural Practitioners (ICPs) to be partners in the research, planning and conservation of snow leopards, building on axis mundi of ancient traditions, legends and beliefs and perception of snow leopards as protectors of sacred mountains, a unifying force, and source of spiritual power and wisdom. A network of about 30 ICPs, including sacred site guardians and shamans, has been established in the Central Asia countries of

	Russia (Altai & Buryatia), Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Known as <i>The Land of the Snow Leopard</i> , this ground-breaking collaboration between Western and Indigenous science, has the immediate goal of providing local perspective inputs to the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Plan (GSLEP), a high-level government collaboration of the 12 snow leopard range states. ICPs are using a smartphone App to monitor wildlife sightings, poaching incidents, and other data in ways supporting GSLEP's overarching goal of securing 20 landscape-level snow leopard populations by the year 2020.
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3. Title	Snow Leopard Research & Conservation
Value	Numerous smaller projects, with cumulative budget ranging from \$100,000 to \$175,000 or more per annum
Duration	Single and multi-year initiatives with range country partners in Nepal, India, Pakistan, Mongolia and Bhutan
Role of organisation in project	Provides funding, technical support and financial review with field implementation by national NGOs and local communities
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	Numerous smaller projects competed targeting comparable threats to snow leopard and biodiversity; see annual reports posted on our website for details

**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) (42)**

Established in 2000, the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) is dedicated to ensuring the snow leopard's survival and conserving mountain landscapes by expanding environmental awareness and sharing innovative practices through community-based stewardship and partnerships in the twelve range states of South and Central Asia.

**Activities (50 words) (44)**

SLC works in partnership with local people, blending traditional knowledge with modern science, increasing environmental awareness, advancing innovative grassroots conservation activities and involving them in non-invasive monitoring of snow leopards. By developing an appreciation for this wild cat, the Conservancy turns conflict into coexistence.

**Achievements (50 words) (50)**

SLC is widely known for pioneering community-based conservation of snow leopards and

habitat in the Himalayan, Mongolia and Altai regions. It was the first to employ camera-trapping and non-invasive faecal genotyping; with its India affiliate, established an award-winning Homestay Programme leading to herders valuing snow leopards alive rather than dead.

**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></p> <p>Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) 75 Boyes Blvd., Sonoma, CA 95476, USA</p> <p>Tel: +1 (707) 938-1700 Website: www.snowleopardconservancy.org</p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</b> (171)</p> <p>Snow Leopard Conservancy is solely dedicated to the conservation of snow leopard populations, their prey species and habitat, in ways beneficial to local communities. We have substantial expertise working on biodiversity conservation, livelihoods improvement, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, participatory action research, increased awareness and strengthened local institutions since 2000, all vital components of this project. Dr. Rodney Jackson, Advisor, a leading world expert has over 40 years of experience in the region. Project Leader Brian Peniston has over 19 years experience working in Nepal, managing a national park and livelihoods programs affecting over 16,000 farmers as Regional Director for The Mountain Institute. Mr. Peniston has managed 8-10 multi-year projects with budgets in excess of \$400,000/year in Nepal, Tibet and Indonesia.</p> <p>We have strong relationships with all of the partners, including active on-going programs in both proposed geographic sites. We developed the project concept, selected the partners and will serve as project lead, delegating tasks to organizations skilled in their implementation. We will provide technical, financial and administrative oversight of all project activities.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not? <i>Not needed, the Advisor / Technical Leader is Lead Organization's Executive Director</i></p>	<p>Yes/<b>No</b></p>

<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>The Mountain Institute (TMI) Himalayan Program, P.O. Box 2785 Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal Email: aroregional@mountain.org Phone: (977 1) 4419356 or (977 1) 4414237 Fax: (977 1) 4410073</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) (200)</p> <p>The Mountain Institute (TMI) has 40 years experience in conserving biodiversity, bolstering livelihoods and supporting indigenous cultures in mountain regions. It has work underway in the Himalayas, Andes, African Rift and North American Cordillera. It has a proven track record for implementing complex, multi-year, multi-partnership projects. Currently, it is leading a partnership with IUCN for a six country multi-million Euro program on research in Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in three mountain regions.</p> <p>TMI has worked in Nepal since the 1980's. In collaboration with the Governments of Nepal and China, it contributed to the creation of the Makalu Barun National Park in Nepal and the adjoining Qomolangma National Nature Reserve in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. These projects were pioneers in co-management of biodiversity and natural resources between government and local people. Today, in Nepal it is supporting mountain livelihood development benefitting over 18,000 agro-pastoralist households, and leading national-level work in EbA.</p> <p>For this project, TMI will develop training modules in collaboration with SLC and other partners. It will also lead in developing survey methodologies and instruments and providing training in their use. TMI will be responsible for overseeing Manang based activities, monitoring and evaluation, and serve as the project's Co-PI.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?	Yes/No

<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>Mountain Spirit (MS)</p> <p>P.O. Box 10185, Kathmandu, Nepal</p> <p>Tel: + 977-1-4422390, Fax: + 977-1-4422390;</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:mountainspirit@wlink.com.np">mountainspirit@wlink.com.np</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.mountainspirit.org.np">www.mountainspirit.org.np</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) (192)</b></p> <p>Mountain Spirit (MS) is committed to environment and culture conservation, resource mobilization and sustainable mountain community development initiatives. It is a Nepali NGO registered in 1996, formed by like-minded professionals of diverse mountain communities to improve livelihoods, protect the environment and conserve mountain cultures through capacity building, participatory research, social empowerment, awareness raising, and sustainable development initiatives with meaningful participation of local communities. It seeks to empower and facilitate mountain women and indigenous communities. The organization's members have a long history of working with rural communities along with local, regional and international NGOs, research institutions and organizations. Currently, MS is working with SLC to assess a Saving and Credit program, managed by women's associations in four settlements at an altitude about 4,000 meter in the Mt. Everest region.</p> <p>MS was the key implementing agency for the European Union-funded 'Community-based Land and Forest Management Project' (2009-2012) in Sagarmatha National Park. They conducted numerous socio-economic and resource surveys, including one related to REDD+ in 5 districts, as well as facilitating numerous workshops and training programs on eco-tourism planning, lodge and hotel management, community development, income generation and forest management in Nepal, Sikkim and Tibet.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>

<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p><b>Ennovent GmbH</b></p> <p>Neubaugasse 11/14 1060 Vienna Austria</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ennovent.com/">http://www.ennovent.com/</a></p> <p><b>Nepal Representative:</b></p> <p><b>Tapas Neupane;</b></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) (179)</b></p> <p>Ennovent catalyses businesses with sustainable solutions for low-income markets based on market research. We partner with the private, public, and third sectors to take novel business ideas to these markets in developing countries.</p> <p>With Trail Angels, an online trail booking and management system, as the lead partner, Ennovent is in the process of setting up Fair Trails, an organisation that will provide ecotourism solutions that create sustainable livelihoods for communities living in the rural Himalayan regions of Nepal. Ennovent and Trail Angels are currently raising funding from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) for this business partnership.</p> <p>The partners will design and initiate the pilot of a <i>Snow Leopard Trail</i> in Manang, as part of the project proposed to be implemented with funding from the Darwin initiative. This will be complementary to the activities conducted with ADA funding. Local stakeholders will be closely involved in the design of the <i>Snow Leopard Trail</i>, and trained in its development and management. Peter Scheuch, Founder and Managing Director will direct all Ennovent activities, with fieldwork conducted by Ennovent Nepal Country Director Tapas Neupane.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>



<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p>Global Primate Network (GPN) Nepal</p> <p>P.O. Box 26288, Kathmandu, Nepal</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.primatelife.org">www.primatelife.org</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) (1998)</b></p> <p>Global Primate Network (GPN) Nepal is dedicated to evidence-based research and conservation of rare wildlife in Nepal since 2008. We have completed several small-scale wildlife research and conservation projects and published these in peer-reviewed and high-impact journals like <i>Biological Conservation</i>, <i>Endangered Species Research</i>, in collaboration with professors and experts from the UK and USA. We have partnerships with local government and community based conservation organizations for both research and biodiversity implementation.</p> <p>Our work has been broadcast on ITV (UK) and PBS Nature (USA). We have trained local citizen scientists for monitoring and conserving Snow Leopards and other wildlife of the Nepal Himalaya. Moreover, the GPN team has long promoted OPEN ACCESS data and project works with the sharing of scientific and traditional knowledge among policy makers, students, scientists and the general public -- posted cost-free in the public domain.</p> <p>For this project, GPN will collaborate with NTNC/ACAP, local Government and the DNPWC for project implementation. GPN is responsible for conducting field-based biodiversity monitoring by deploying remote cameras and sampling non-invasive genetic materials. GPN will also engage in capacity building and will carry out community and school conservation education programmes where possible and as required for this project's sustainability.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>

## 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*?
Brian Peniston	Project Leader	Snow Leopard Conservancy	22	Yes/No
Rodney Jackson	Advisor / Technical Leader	Snow Leopard Conservancy	12	Yes/No
Meeta Pradhan, PhD	Co-PI	The Mountain Institute, Nepal	17	Yes/No
Shailendra Thakali, PhD	Co-PI	Mountain Spirit, Nepal	18	Yes/No
Peter Scheuch (Consultant for Trail Development and Pilot)	Managing Director/Advisor for local staff	Ennovent Global	5	Yes/No
Ganga Regmi	Founder/Director	Global Primate Network	20	Yes/No

(Biodiversity)	& Project Manager	Nepal		
Tapas Neupane (Consultant)	Country Director – Ennovent Nepal	Ennovent Nepal Web: <a href="http://www.ennovent.com">www.ennovent.com</a>		Yes/No
<b>*If you cannot provide a CV, please explain why not.</b>				

### 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) (296)

Snow Leopards (*Panthera uncia*) and recently, wolves (*Canus lupus*), are considered pests by local people, especially herders for killing livestock. They are endangered on Nepal's Red List, and Endangered or Vulnerable on IUCN's Red List. Depredation losses, while generally under 1-3% of total livestock numbers, are overwhelmingly adversely perceived for negatively impacting households and affected communities. Annual per capita household income for herding families is often < \$ 1,500, so with depredation losses of \$360 or greater, the effect on poverty-prone households may be substantial. Compensation, if present, amounts to a fraction of each animal's market value, with verification time-consuming -- so associated risks of retaliatory killing of these globally important Asian high-mountain, top-predators remains at risk and likely increasing. Concurrently, wild prey numbers have been depleted through periodic poaching and ongoing competition with livestock or human activity that drives native blue sheep and tahr to higher, more marginal habitat dominated by bare ground, rock and glaciers.

Although funding for compensation and/or enterprise development is slowly growing, funds are insufficient and herder institutions are insufficiently skilled to capture these. Economically, they are limited by access to marketing opportunities for their livestock products, and over the long-term face declining rangeland condition and reduced biodiversity of these fragile alpine pastures, exacerbated by climate change.

This project will mobilize and institutionalize conservation funding by training local institutions and beneficiaries in baseline monitoring, improved resource management, and strengthening their capture of conservation/development revenues under Nepal's newly instituted governance structure. We will establish at least one *Snow Leopard Trail*, a partner supported initiative involving diverse stakeholders (e.g., SLC's Snow Leopard Scouts, trekking guides, lodge owners, local youth and tourists), aimed at enhancing income generation and supporting biodiversity monitoring (e.g., animal sightings, participatory camera trapping and collection of faeces for population/genetic analysis).

### 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/No
<b>Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)</b>	Yes/No
<b>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and</b>	Yes/No

<b>Agriculture (ITPGRFA)</b>	
<b>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)</b>	Yes/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) (491)

Convention on Biological Diversity: This project will directly contribute to the CBD's objectives, namely: "conservation of biological diversity" and "sustainable use of its components." It will be relevant to attaining multiple Aichi Targets at national levels (and across the Snow Leopard's range via knowledge sharing) including through project activities and interventions that:

- (Aichi Target 1)- Increase awareness and appreciation of Snow Leopards and their ecosystems at local and national levels.
- (3)- Promote local ecologically and Snow Leopard-friendly economic activities.
- (7)- Improve sustainable management of alpine ecosystems.
- (11)- Promote effective and equitable management of protected areas and community lands in project areas, while integrating them into the wider landscape.
- (12)- Improve the status of Snow Leopard populations in the project areas, while ensuring that the status of any other threatened taxa (flora or fauna) are not degraded, and ideally improved.
- (14)- Safeguard and promote the restoration of alpine ecosystems that provide essential services in ways that take into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- (16)- Comply with the requirements of the **Nagoya Protocol** in the unlikely event that genetic resources and related traditional knowledge are involved in project related enterprise development at the two sites with local communities.
- (18)- Respect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and related rights of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources in alignment with national legislation, international obligations, and with the full participation of relevant indigenous and local communities.

In addition, this project will compliment Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (2014-2020) which calls for creation of environmentally friendly economic development and alternative livelihoods opportunities, gender and social inclusion, meaningful participation of local communities, and reduction in human-wildlife conflict.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: In the unlikely event that medicinal plant collection, cultivation and export, or the growing of locally adapted food crop varieties end up being part of proposed enterprises, we will adhere to and support "conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use."

Snow Leopard Action Plans: Our project is aligned with Nepal's 2017-2021 National Snow Leopard Plan and the Global Snow Leopard Environment Protection Plan (GSLEP) which are relevant to many of the Aichi Targets. The GSLEP seeks to promote high-mountain sustainable development using the conservation of Snow Leopards as a flagship. It is a range-wide effort uniting governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector around a shared vision to conserve this species and its ecosystems. The goal is to secure at least 20 Snow Leopard landscapes across the species' range by 2020 (20 by 2020 for short), emphasizing the involvement of local communities and green business. This project will directly contribute to GSLEP objectives in at least one of these landscapes. See: [http://www.globalsnowleopard.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/GSLEP\\_ENG\\_Cover.png](http://www.globalsnowleopard.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/GSLEP_ENG_Cover.png).

**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) (244)

The project will directly contribute to meeting various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets under the United Nations 2030 Agenda through working on the ground with local people, government, and other stakeholders, but also at national levels. Most central to our work will be SDG target 15.4. This aims, by 2030, to ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development. This is under Goal 15, which focuses on protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of "life on land." Other relevant targets under SDG 15, which the project will contribute to meeting, include 15.1, 15.3, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, and 15.9. In addition to this particularly goal, the project will contribute to other SDGs including 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-13; and 16.

In these regards, both project partners' Snow Leopard Conservancy and The Mountain Institute are members of the United Nation's Mountain Partnership (TMI has chaired its steering committee). This is a UN Type II voluntary alliance including 57 national governments and around 300 NGOs and other organizations. It provides an ideal platform for sharing project learning at national levels in Nepal (which is a member) and internationally. We will be able to share examples of proven solutions for securing mountain ecosystems and their services, protecting species' populations, putting impoverished mountain people on a path to prosperity, meeting social equity and gender objects, climate change adaptation, and other matters.

### 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.)

(500) [methods updated] (493)

#### Project Methods and Approaches

Capacity-Building: Local government and stakeholder capacities to institutionalize conservation finance and stewardship will be strengthened through participatory training. Standardized training modules will be developed based on partner expertise and input, research, and adapted for local conditions. Materials will incorporate documented Best Practices, and scientific and social science research, integrated with traditional knowledge. Stakeholder feedback, and annual reviews will refine training materials. A *Training of Trainers* approach involving partners and stakeholders fosters sustainability.

Enterprise Development and Financial Incentives: The project will strengthen local capacities to implement snow leopard-linked enterprises, using market analysis through trainings in a 4-step process: a) enterprise identification, b) business development & planning, c) in-service mentoring, and d) mobilizing sustainable public and private sector resources. Service design for a *Snow Leopard Trail* will be undertaken using Darwin funding, as well as the development of an implementation strategy to pilot the trail under the ambit of the *Fair Trails* enterprise in Nepal. Success will be measured through numbers of community members and organizations

trained, service design and implementation strategies, and an evaluation of pilot Snow Leopard Trail activities. Ennovent will conduct work in partnership with Trail Angels, partner organization staff, and other consultants if needed. Based on feasibility and market studies, a livestock based product enterprise may be piloted by partners.

**Biodiversity Monitoring:** We will contract local biologists to gather baseline data on snow leopards, prey and habitat in Manang, using standard methodologies (sign surveys, camera trapping and double-prey counts; SLIMS, 1996; Jackson et al. 2006; Surywanashi et al. 2012). In Sagarmatha existing data will establish the baseline. Working with park rangers, biologists will collect faecal samples for genetic analysis by the CMDM laboratory (Kathmandu) to estimate snow leopard numbers, and hopefully diet (with technical support from SLC's Associated Geneticist). Standard monitoring protocols will be applied at 2-3 year intervals.

Trained local Conservation Area / Park Rangers, citizens & youths (e.g. Snow Leopard Scouts) will document targeted wildlife species along repeatable transects through representative habitats. Herders will be trained to reliably document depredation incidents, with biologists verifying independently. Paper forms, smartphone/tablets and SLC-developed software (ESRI Survey123) will capture geographically-linked wildlife/habitat observations, supplemented with photographic documentation. Success will measure changes in number of individual snow leopards, sign frequency/density, estimated prey population size, livestock numbers, number of depredation incidents etc.

#### **Project Management:**

SLC will have overall management responsibility, delegating implementation to partners. Partners will develop standardized training modules collaboratively. The Mountain Institute will take responsibility for Manang activities, design all household-attitude surveys, and develop overall project monitoring and evaluation instruments. Mountain Spirit will lead on all Khumbu activities, especially savings and credit and Buffer Zone liaison. Ennovent will lead the design and pilot of the Manang trail. GPN will lead on biodiversity monitoring and non-invasive sampling of genetic materials. Other partners will develop conservation linked micro-enterprise criteria and pilot micro-enterprise projects.

Annual work-plans will be developed in annual Project Management Committee meetings, and will utilize Adaptive Management tools and practices.

#### **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) (500)

The project aims to institutionalize conservation finance and stewardship at local levels. Three major changes are targeted:

**Direct improvements in biodiversity conservation:** By project's end (**short-term** changes) strong community-based monitoring systems of snow leopard and wild ungulate populations and habitats will be in place in two sites (9 communities & up to 750 households trained), with population and ecological baselines established. These will utilize scientific monitoring protocols and methodologies, enriched and improved through traditional knowledge where appropriate. For **long-term**, conditions will be in place for stabilizing or improving wildlife population and securing and restoring habitats, with communities able to monitor trends and apply adaptive management.

**“Snow leopard-linked pilot enterprise” and small grant funded micro-enterprise projects generate sustainable conservation incentives for 175 households:** By the project’s end (**short-term**), 6 local communities (each benefiting 30-50 households, including women) will be involved in a pilot Snow Leopard Trail enterprise in Nyeshang, Manang. The route will be designed, identifying platform, partners and pricing, based on a Model Business Canvas approach. Service design of pilot trail and a detailed implementation strategy will be completed, and initiated. The plan will link enterprise and snow leopard conservation, determined by local priorities and opportunities, based on market analysis and clear criteria . 10+ model snow leopard-based micro-enterprises will be operating, benefitting 100 households including 50+ women.. For the **long-term**, new and viable enterprises will create positive incentives that put impoverished rural mountain communities on a path to prosperity while favouring wildlife and habitat conservation. Economic options developed from this project potentially reach 350-400 more households across the two project areas over 5-10 years.

**Local institutions will be better able to protect species and habitats while meeting the needs of their constituencies:** By the project’s end (**short-term**), local institutions such as Buffer Zone Sub-Committees, Savings and Credit organizations, Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs) and Snow Leopard Committees will be trained in technical and organizational skills and will be able to effectively implement targeted conservation programs. In addition, they will be better able to access funding for local conservation and related sustainable development investments from a variety of public and private sector sources, including emerging decentralized self-government units being established under Nepal’s new Federal Constitution (the rural municipalities or “gaun palikas”). Techniques to mainstream biodiversity conservation into more general decentralized community development planning will be demonstrated in 2 sites, in ways that can be replicated (in the **longer term**) in other protected areas and landscapes, presently covering approximately 23% of Nepal’s land area, and some 750 households).

During and beyond the life of the project, stabilized snow leopard populations, prey species and habitats are expected, as well as increase in numbers of community organizations and members trained in basic enterprise development and business-planning, resulting in diversified livelihood and governance skills beneficial to biodiversity conservation. The project also plans to provide local institutions with organizational development training (transparency, fiscal management and negotiation skills), so that they can effectively interact and engage with Nepal’s emerging decentralized, self-government units over the long-term.

## 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) (282)

We will follow accepted guidelines when collecting gender and caste/ethnicity disaggregated data for all planning, implementation and policy feedback purposes to increase social inclusion and equality. All M&E formats will contain checklists for disaggregated data collection, which will be complemented by use of qualitative methods to gain a better understanding of how project activities impact on gender roles/responsibilities, and how voices of marginalized groups are being recognized, respected and acted upon. Baseline household attitudinal surveys will be administered to men and women of different ages and wealth groups, to get differential perspectives.

High mountain ethnic groups (Sherpas in Khumbu & Gurungs in Manang) dominate in both sites, with women having relatively stronger positions within both households and community, and also being economically engaged. Men are often away from home for long periods – herding yaks, guiding tourists, portering, and as migrant workers to other countries – thus increasing work burdens of women covering reproductive and care-giving roles, subsistence

agriculture, and entrepreneurial activities. Women continue to lag behind in most social indicators (health, education), and have limited representation, and capabilities in political and community leadership and decision-making. The quotas for women and marginalized groups in the new governance system have thrust them into leadership positions, yet their limited capacity will affect their meaningful participation and voice.

The project recognizes these structural and attitudinal challenges and will be working on integrating gender equality approaches and measures in all project activities where relevant. Women will be trained in biodiversity conservation and entrepreneurial activities, and their capacities to have a better understanding of the linkages between biodiversity conservation and livelihoods will help to increase their voices and decision-making in resource allocation in these activities in the long run.

## 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) (199)

SLC and partners in Nepal will offer technical support for sustaining community-driven Snow Leopard & alpine biodiversity conservation via continued enterprise and livelihood inputs after project end. It will take 5-8 years for communities and their institutions to become largely self-operational and reliant in terms of applying "Best Practices" governance, biodiversity conservation, with securing moderate economic independency from outside grants and capacity building.

The sustainability of results will benefit from project-related capacity building of our primary partners (The Mountain Institute, Mountain Spirit), both of which have shown long-term commitment to place in-country. Other partners (e.g., NTNC/ACAP; DNPWC; local government) will also benefit from project provided capacity building.

Complimentary work funded by The Asia Foundation will aid us in establishing partnerships with local municipalities, identifying areas of critical concern and opportunities. These results will help expedite mobilization of federal funds expected at provincial and local levels for underpinning biodiversity conservation and habitat protection by local institutions & people. Potential sustaining beneficiaries/actors of such funds include livestock owners & herders, women entrepreneurs involved in the growing tourist sector, and international green business partners like *Trail Angels* -- aimed at equitable distribution of economic and conservation benefits supported with international market outreach.

## 17a. Harmonisation

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

(Max 200 words) (197)

Our proposed approach strengthening local government organizations and advancing Snow Leopard enterprises (Logframe Outputs 1 and 3) are new. In Mt. Everest, we build upon an existing partnership with Mountain Spirit that established four women-managed Savings & Credit Groups linked to Snow Leopard conservation. These groups contribute loan-based interest revenue (20%) to underwriting community-based biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness raising.

In terms of harmonization, the project will align with opportunities created by local government

structures mandated under Nepal's Constitution promulgated in 2017. Strengthening the capacity of these bodies to raise and control internal Nepali Government funds for conservation will help secure benefits and sources of sustainable funding for conservation. Additionally, Snow Leopard Conservancy and Mountain Spirit are currently undertaking a study, supported by Asia Foundation-Nepal, to provide guidance on "Best Practices" for biodiversity conservation, natural resources utilization, political economy, local governance and constitutional law with input from national experts. Findings from this study (due by mid-2018) will help establish priorities for action and identify opportunities and risks to meet the needs of local stakeholders and government.

Management of the Annapurna Conservation Area (encompassing Manang), is due to be handed over to local government and communities in 2020.

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

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences. 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.

N/A

**18. Ethics**

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

(Max 300 words) (294)

Snow Leopard Conservancy and our partners will adhere to high ethical standards in all phases of project implementation. Only non-invasive sampling of faecal samples will be used for genetic analysis, in full compliance with the laws of Government of Nepal.

All project activities will be developed using participatory techniques, especially those taking place at the local level. The project will focus on local level activities, incorporating local and traditional knowledge into the design of biodiversity monitoring programs, especially local knowledge of trails, wildlife behaviour, and local ecology. Participatory Business planning will be done, combined with rigorous feasibility assessment. Identified enterprises will be screened to meet solid business standards, fair and equitable benefit sharing and strong links to snow leopard conservation. Capacity building of local government bodies will focus on local empowerment, building on and clarifying the impacts of restructured local government mandated by Nepal's new Constitution. The objective of these trainings is to strengthen the ability of local government actors to negotiate more equitable and better benefits sharing agreements with Nepal's Central Government, and secure more funding for conservation. Care will be taken to ensure that indigenous people's voices and concerns are incorporated, as are those of women. Several project villages have been selected as they represent the poorer and more vulnerable portions of society, and these coincide with greater snow leopard populations.

Some activities will be assessed through baseline and perception surveys. Survey methodologies will be designed to be consistent with international research standards. Prior Informed Consent Procedures will be followed, as established by Nepal ethical review boards and consistent with university level social science research norms.

SLC and all project partners will be required to have health, disability and accidental death insurance coverage for all staff, as several sites are extremely remote areas.



## 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) (288)

Conservation-Development projects suffer from a number of short-comings, including weak linkages between conservation action and investment funds that tend to evaporate at the end of the project's term. The other weak point in the conservation mechanism is insufficient attention being paid to modifying stakeholders' underlying perceptions and behaviours leading to erosion of the project's sustainability. A third challenge to make sure that the project's actions are climate adapted (the latter addressed in a recent, applicable WWF-Nepal study).

Under a pre-Darwin grant from the Asia Foundation (Nepal), we are assessing opportunities, risks and pitfalls to raise conservation financing from new governance structures and mainstreaming these under the country's new constitution. Results and recommendations will be published in a Policy Paper, made available to the Government of Nepal and local stakeholders. These results will guide the project and elected national, regional and local decision makers to develop policies and enabling governance regulations and raise sustainable conservation funding at state and local levels. Raising this awareness will create new opportunities for local level initiatives in conservation and in other sectors. We also plan to establish a Website/List Server to continue soliciting comments, Best Practices and suggestions from policy experts, conservation community and local community inputs

This information will also be posted on this website, thereby and used for disseminating information from the project for sharing with other interested conservation-development practitioners and organizations. We plan to share our findings with others, such as the Excited project being conducted by Dr. Helen Schneider, FFI, Cambridge:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/oryx/article/excited-expanding-conservation-impacts-through-enterprise-development/6DFC02EBF2BCA5F3F3270656A56583B4>

Project findings will be also disseminated to the general public via newspaper and popular articles (including the Nepal-produced magazine Snow Leopard), radio and TV programmes -- an area where the Global Primate Network (GPN) is particularly active.

## 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) (299)

Capacity building for biodiversity monitoring occurs through direct training of community members to recognize snow leopard sign, collect faecal samples for genotyping, spot this elusive cat in the wild and appreciate best practices for habitat and wildlife conservation, including monitoring and appreciation of wildlife. The project will link improved skills with guiding of tourists and visitors along special *Snow Leopard Trails*, creating economic incentives for conservation. Some trained individuals will be members of local institutions like the Buffer Zone Sub-Committees and Conservation Area Management Committees, thus building institutional capacity. Partner staff will also benefit technically from these trainings.

A major project goal for the local institutions is improving their understanding for transparent and robust governance, while increasing their skills at negotiation to obtain revenues from Central Government resources and then allocating these for local conservation initiatives.

Nepal's new local governance structure provides a unique and timely opportunity for train local institutions. Project staff will work closely with elected officials to ensure conservation is mainstreamed into the local 5-year plans, thereby better ensuring funding streams are predictable. This will be done through formal training and "on the job" mentoring. Savings & Credit Groups will be formally registered with National Park and Buffer Zone authorities, through mentoring, creating the capacity for them to competitively apply for these new local government funding sources.

Capacity building for business planning and business development will be done through formal training of stakeholder groups, using techniques similar to Participatory Market System Development. Stakeholders, NGOs, and community groups will participate in training. Once trained, project staff will reinforce skills through field visits and mentoring. Phase One *Snow Leopard Trail Enterprise* will be piloted in Manang's Nyeshang valleys, linking private sector support for activities and creating new opportunities for sustainability using market forces, (with Phase Two in Nar/Phu).

### **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) (167)

The Darwin Initiative funding will enable us to launch and test one or more pilot enterprise projects drawing on expert and decision-makers understanding and knowledge resulting from a special conservation policy study of the emerging funding opportunities under Nepal's new Constitution (see Box 8(b) 1 and 19).

We fully concur with data handling and the open access expectations of the Darwin programme, and will ensure that relevant "lessons learned" are posted on the List Server established under the grant from The Asia Foundation - Nepal. We also plan on submitting technical papers to regional and international journals, along with newspaper and local radio/TV updates, and articles in the magazine *Snow Leopard* which targets the Nepali audience interested in wildlife, biodiversity and related environmental topics, especially in Kathmandu and Pokhara, Nepal's two largest cities.

The Global Primate Network and Snow Leopard Conservancy's monthly radio program proceeding the evening BBC Nepali language news broadcast reaches a listening audience estimated at up to 200,000 of the country's mountain region residents.

## Project Monitoring and Evaluation

### Measuring Impact

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b> (Max 30 words) (27) Snow leopard populations are sustained and their prey and habitat protected through institutionalized conservation finance and stewardship at local levels and can be replicated to other sites.			
<b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words) Strengthened local institutions & livelihoods, diversified enterprises, reduced livestock losses, and climate-smart villagers committed to sustaining stable snow leopard and prey populations and better overall biodiversity	0.1 0.1Stable Snow Leopard Density of $\pm 0.5- 1.0 /100 \text{ km}^2$ (Khumbu) & $\geq 1.0- 2.0/ 100 \text{ km}^2$ (Manang)  0.2 > 9 local institutions (+/- 50 Officials) in 2 sites report 25% increase in enterprise & conservation supported activities targeting 750 households  0.3 Up to 750 households in 2 sites engaged in snow leopard & biodiversity protection activities  0.4 Depredation & human wildlife conflicts reduced by 30% over 3 years  0.5 Community understanding increased by 30% of important linkages between climate change, pasture management impacts & snow leopard populations, Baseline Year 1, Results Year 3	0.1a) 2 snow leopard genetic surveys conducted using scat samples over 3 years 0.1b) Prey counts in each site, 2x annually  0.2 Local institutional records, focus groups, local enterprises registered with local bodies  0.3 Project monitoring records  0.4 Local institution & Wildlife Dept /Conservation Area records / reports  0.5 Attitude & Perception surveys toward climate change impacts on pastures on prey & community attitudes towards depredation & predators	Permission to collect scats will be provided by DNPWC  Sufficient Citizen Science volunteers & University students participate in volunteer data collection & monitoring  Depredation rates vary widely by site & are prone to exaggeration in local reports;  Wolf predation increasing dramatically & project reduces wolf-related livestock loss rates to accepted levels based on changing attitudes  Measures to reduce daytime wolf attacks implemented & accepted by herders  Wolves will not displace snow leopards from Khumbu or Manang  No major natural disasters during work period & political situation sufficiently stable or supportive
<b>Outputs:</b> <b>1. Outputs:</b> 1. Training and Capacity building provided for local government and	1.1 20 officials from Two local government institutions trained (6 workshops x 3 days each) in: a) transparent governance; and b)	1.1 Training attendance records, Years 1, 2 and 3 1.11: Before and after training surveys demonstrate increased capacity/skills	Trained people & institutions use their skills to reduce livestock loss & promote snow leopard conservation;

<p>stakeholder institutions; (Savings &amp; Credit Groups, Buffer Zone Sub Committees, Conservational Area Management Committees, Herder User Groups &amp; local Rural municipality (<i>Gaun Palika</i>) governments);</p>	<p>finance management, funds, mobilization &amp; mediation in 2 sites (Year 1: 3 trainings; Year 2: 1 Training; Year 3: 2 trainings)</p> <p>1.2 Conservation Mainstreamed into annual and 5 year plans agreements, measured against the baseline of zero (<b>*NOTE:</b> These are new Government of Nepal Structures under the new Constitution): Assessed in Year 2 &amp; Year 3</p> <p>1.3 Conduct 4 training in 50 formal and informal leaders from 9 local stakeholder groups (5 communities in Manang and 4 in Khumbu, representing +/- 750 Households) in Human Wildlife Conflict mediation &amp; preventative measures; Years 2 &amp; Year 3</p>	<p>Years 1 -3</p> <p>1.2.1 Local Government One Year Plans fund conservation activities; (Year 2= 2 plans, Year 3 = 2 plans; Life of Project: 4 plans)</p> <p>1.2.2 Local Five Year Plans fund conservation activities (Year 3, 2 plans)</p> <p>1.2.3 Amount of Conservation revenues generated from local government sources increased from zero in 2017.</p> <p>1.3 1 Training attendance records</p> <p>1.3.2 # herders and livestock owners implementing and monitoring preventative measures.</p>	<p>Gaun Palika (Rural Municipality) staff will meet with local people / organizations &amp; fairly consider their requests for support;</p>
<p>2. Local Communities (750 households) protect &amp; stabilize or improve snow leopard &amp; prey numbers, habitat conditions in Manang and Khumbu sites</p>	<p>2.1 Annual rate of change assessed for snow leopard abundance in 1 site (Manang), through (a) DNA baseline survey (Year 1) &amp; repeated in Year 3; and (b) annual camera trap surveys (Year 1-3 Manang ,potential expansion to Khumbu Years 2&amp;3)</p> <p>2.2 Stable Prey and Habitat demonstrated by Year 3 in 2 sites</p>	<p>2.1.1 200 Faecal (genetics) samples collected, analysed &amp; entered into central / local database</p> <p>2.1.2 Data base of individual snow leopards verified from photo records entered into database</p> <p>2.2 Baseline wild prey (blue sheep) abundance survey conducted in Manang (Year 1) based on transect counts (including 20 habitat plots)</p> <p>2.2.1 Training Attendance records; Prey numbers recorded from observed at fixed points along transects (including <i>Snow Leopard Trails</i>); monitoring</p>	<p>Permission for biological (scats) sample collection approved by DNPWC; samples not degraded</p>

	<p>2.3 5-15 local Protected Area rangers trained in camera trapping, prey &amp; habitat surveys (Year 1 in Manang; Year 2 in Khumbu)</p> <p>2.4 30-50 herders trained on improved livestock guarding and husbandry techniques, documenting and monitoring annual livestock depredation losses at Manang and Khumbu (Year 1&amp;2)</p> <p>2.5 50-75% of trained herders confirm value of improved livestock practices, including use of cost-effective, deterrents (e.g. Foxlights, guard dogs) and adopt climate-smart practices, including improved pasture management</p> <p>2.6 20 “Citizen Scientists” (Snow Leopard Scouts) trained Manang in wildlife monitoring techniques and linked to development of <i>Snow Leopard Trails</i></p> <p>2.7 People’s attitudes &amp; understanding of clear linkages between increased revenues, climate smart agropastoralism &amp; snow leopard conservation increased by 30% in Manang, Baseline Year 1; Results: Year 3</p>	<p>comparative photographs for change</p> <p>2.3. Training certificates issued after training workshop</p> <p>2.3.2 Survey photographic data collected by rangers</p> <p>2.3.3 Monitoring Manual developed &amp; utilized by other park staff &amp; local stakeholders/herders &amp; Snow Leopard Scouts (Manang)</p> <p>2.4 Training Attendance records; Number of depredation events per year per site/location entered into Protected Areas database</p> <p>2.5 Herder &amp; community perception survey,</p> <p>2.6 Monitoring visit reports &amp; camera-trap photographs; Incentives provided for Citizen Scientists (Snow Leopard Scouts, etc)</p> <p>2.7 Perception and Attitude survey on linkages designed and conducted by partner organizations</p>	<p>Livestock depredation measures will be kept effective &amp; ahead of the ability of predators to learn &amp; thus habituate to such deterrents</p> <p>Snow Leopard Trials generates sufficient sustainable funding from tourism sources beyond life of project</p> <p>Monitoring information will help feed growth in tourism trekking / snow leopard trips</p> <p>Growing, sustainable numbers of visitors (trekkers)</p> <p>No natural calamities or political unrest</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Snow leopard linked enterprise/s identified, piloted and provides conservation incentives</p>	<p>3.1 18 local stakeholder institutions (approximately 50-60 officials) trained in business planning, t2 trainings, (Manang and Khumbu) +/- 750 households, Year</p>	<p>3.1 Criteria developed to assess snow leopard and enterprise linkages, Training Attendance Records</p>	<p>Tourism in Nepal does now experience any natural disasters (earthquakes etc) or external shocks (like kerosene shortages, air plane crashes, lengthy</p>

	<p>1</p> <p>3.2 One product based enterprise identified and feasibility assessed in Manang linking enterprise and snow leopard &amp; biodiversity conservation; Year 2</p> <p>3.3 One service design completed for snow leopard trail at Manang site, with local stakeholders, serving 5-8 communities, +/- 50-80 HHs; Year 1</p> <p>3.4 One implementation strategy developed and verified to pilot snow leopard trail in Manang; Years 2 and 3</p> <p>3.5 30+ Households receive cash incentives from Income generated through snow leopard trail in 4 communities in Manang; Year 3</p> <p>3.6 10+ Pilot snow leopard linked micro-enterprise projects serving 750 households identified and funded through small grants project in Manang and Khumbu, Years 2 &amp; 3. (Done by TMI and MS)</p>	<p>3.2 Market study manual, Project report, Year 1</p> <p>3.3 Service design document including process description for trail development</p> <p>3.4 Implementation Strategy and progress report</p> <p>3.5 Report of income generated and profits shared</p> <p>3.6 Business plan template adapted for snow leopard conservation micro-enterprise, small grants programs initiated, Baseline Year 2, Result: Year 3</p>	<p>border closings that deter international or domestic tourists</p> <p>Institutions &amp; households willing to adopt new, innovative business planning, fiscal management &amp; implementation practices</p> <p>Additional funding for enterprise pilot successfully raised from donors</p> <p>Continued growth of trekking Tourism sector</p> <p>Micro-enterprise activities generate sufficient funds to serve as conservation incentives</p>
<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) <b>Governance</b></p> <p>1.1 Two Training Manuals produced, a) transparent governance, and b) mediation/conflict/resource mobilization</p> <p>1.2 One Trainer of Trainers conducted (for TMI and MS staff)</p> <p>1.3 Eight Governance trainings conducted in 2 sites over 3 years</p> <p>1.4 Before and After Training skill assessments x 8 trainings</p> <p>1.5 Number of conservation activities in One year Rural Municipality Plans</p> <p>1.6 Number of conservation Activities in 5 Year Rural Municipality</p> <p>1.7 Total amount of revenues raised from Gov't of Nepal sources for local conservation recorded</p>			

- 1.8 Four Herder and Human Wildlife Mediation and prevention trainings; 2 trainings x 2 sites; years 2 and 3
- 1.9 Number of Trained Herders practice some form of preventative measures on their lands/herds

**2) Facilitate Biodiversity Stewardship by Local Institutions:**

- 2.11 Establish baseline snow leopard and/or prey/habitat
- 2.12 Conduct non-invasive faecal survey
- 2.13 Develop manual and conduct camera trap survey
- 2.14 Develop manual and Conduct Prey and Habitat surveys
- 2.2 Conduct Herder/Livestock Owner Attitude Surveys
- 2.3 Develop Manual / Implement & Monitor Livestock Protection Measures for Herders
- 2.4 Establish & Monitor *Snow Leopard Trails*
- 2.5 Preliminary Feasibility Assessment of Wildlife Damage Relief Fund

**3 Private Sector Generating Incentives for Snow Leopard Conservation in one or more site**

- 3.1 Complete market study in Manang to identify at least one snow leopard-linked product, Year 1
- 3.2 Complete Service Design for pilot snow leopard trail in Manang, including route, platform, partners, and pricing, Year 1
- 3.3 Train local community members in developing and managing the trail, Year
- 3.4 Develop detailed Implementation Strategy to pilot the trail in Manang, Year 1
- 3.5 Enlist the trained community members as partners in piloting the trail, Year 2
- 3.6 Initiate the pilot of the snow leopard trail along the identified route and villages, in partnership with key local stakeholders, Year 2 and Year 3
- 3.7 Monitor the pilot and incorporate feedback to improve the service, Year 3

**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	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
			Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Local Governance Strengthening</b>												
1.1	Two Training Manuals produced, a) transparent governance, and b) mediation/conflict/resource mobilization			X									
1.2	One Trainer of Trainers conducted (for TMI and MS staff)			X									
1.3	Eight Governance trainings conducted in 2 sites over 3 years				X					X			
1.4	Before and After Training skill assessments x 8 trainings				X					X			
1.5	Number of conservation activities in One year Rural Municipality Plans											X	
1.6	Number of conservation Activities in 5 Year Rural Municipality											X	
1.7	Total amount of revenues raised from Gov't of Nepal sources for local conservation recorded									X		X	
1.8	Four Herder and Human Wildlife Mediation and prevention trainings; 2 trainings x 2 sites; years 2 and 3						X				X		
1.9	Number of Trained Herders practice some form of preventative measures on their lands/herds							X				X	
1.10	In-service Training & Follow-up					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Facilitate Biodiversity Stewardship by Local Institutions</b>												
2.1	Establish Baseline Snow Leopard and/or Prey / Habitat		X	X	X	X							
2.1.1	Conduct Non-invasive Faecal Genetic Survey			X	X	X						X	X
2.1.2	Develop Manual & conduct camera trap surveys				X				X				X
2.1.3	Develop Manual & Conduct Prey & Habitat Surveys			X	X	X						X	X
2.2	Conduct Herder / Livestock Owner Attitude Survey			X									



2.3	Develop Manual / Implement & Monitor Livestock Protection Measures for Herders					X	X				X	X	
2.4	Establish & Monitor Pilot <i>Snow Leopard Trails</i>						X	X			X	X	X
2.5	Pilot Feasibility Study for Wildlife Damage Relief Fund				X			X	X				X
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Private Sector Generating Incentives for Snow Leopard Conservation in one or more sites</b>												
3.1	Complete Market study in Manang to identify at least one snow leopard linked product		X	X	X	X					X		
3.2	Complete Service design for pilot snow leopard trail in Manang including route, platform, partners and pricing		X	X	X								
3.3	Train Local community members in developing and managing the trail		X	X	X								
3.4	Develop Detailed Implementation Strategy to Pilot the trail in Manang			X	X								
3.5	Enlist the trained community members as partners in piloting the trail					X	X	X	X				
3.6	Initiate the pilot of the snow leopard trail along the identified route and villages, in partnership with key local stakeholders					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.7	Monitor the pilot , incorporating feedback to improve services									X	X	X	X
3.8	Develop criteria to assess Snow Leopard linked Micro Enterprise Projects and initiate small grants 10+ projects (done by Mountain Institute and Mountain Spirit) <sup>2/</sup>				X				X			X	X
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Project Management, Evaluation &amp; Reporting</b>												
4.1	Complete Annual Work-Plans		X	X		X				X			
4.2	Monitor Key Indicators			X		X			X		X		X
4.3	Progress / Final Reports & Disseminate Findings & Lessons Learned		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Foot Notes</b>													
<b>1/</b>	Institutions affecting habitat, natural resources & alpine ecosystems (especially over-exploitation), and those involved in livestock husbandry, tourism, etc.												
<b>2/</b>	Using criteria linked with and/or supporting biodiversity conservation objectives (especially conservation of snow leopards, their prey & habitat)												

## 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) (500)

The project team will develop high standard Monitoring and Evaluation protocols, to ensure that data gathered supports Darwin Initiative priorities, remaining compliant with scientific standards and responsive to needs of poorer mountain communities. The project's three major components, a) strengthening local capacities; b) strengthened snow leopard and habitat monitoring capabilities and c) creating pilot snow leopard linked enterprise/s that provide conservation incentives will require different interventions and monitoring different aspects ranging from biological conditions to attitudes and perceptions.

The major project interventions are a) formal training, b) in-service training/mentoring and c) testing pilot activities for effectiveness. All 23 formal trainings will be monitored at the individual training level, assessing pre- and post training skills. Different partners will lead trainings based on expertise and skills, monitor their effectiveness, adapting manuals and materials based on evaluations. This is integrated into training design.

M&E plans will be developed using participatory processes and tools, from developing Annual Work plans to evaluating outputs. Each partner will follow mutually-agreed standardized methods recommended and/or developed by Darwin and others for maximizing participatory learning. The lead partners (Mountain Institute and Mountain Spirit) will have primary M&E responsibility for their project sites, with Global Primate Network conducting all biological or biodiversity M&E. Mountain Institute will lead on household surveys including perception and attitude surveys. Ennovent will lead monitoring the effectiveness of pilot *Snow Leopard Trails* enterprise. The lead partner / leader (Snow Leopard Conservancy) will oversee M&E operations, ensuring these are equitably shared, including ensuring community input and the sharing of traditional knowledge.

Use of a standardized M&E framework and methodology allows team-members, working in different areas, to compare and contrast the underlying drivers of each project-related output. Data will be collected on household income & natural resource use, changes to livestock holdings and grazing patterns, attitudes (perceptions) and local behaviour towards predators, wild ungulates and environmental threats, including climate change and relationships to livelihoods, pasture trends and livestock production livestock abundance indices.

Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) will coordinate and supervise all enterprise and capacity building M&E activities, in close collaboration with the project's Nepal partners and Ennovent, the Austrian partners spearheading the proposed *Snow Leopard Trails* enterprise. *Snow Leopard Trails* and effectiveness of governance training activities will be evaluated based on the revenues generated for conservation and distributed to local people.

Biodiversity monitoring will be conducted by staff of the Global Primate Network (GPN), under the supervising of snow leopard expert, Dr. Rodney Jackson, drawing on his many years of training range-country biologists, park staff and NGOs. State-of-art techniques will supplement more traditional methods like camera trapping for establishing snow leopard numbers and population patterns. Building the capacity for biodiversity monitoring by herders is an important objective for fostering long-term community-based snow leopard and environmental stewardship.

M&E efforts are based on estimates of costs for staff time devoted to implementing the project's

monitoring plan, along with costs related to field equipment purchase or deployment (e.g., camera traps), the requisite portion of field operation, travel, accommodation and food costs.	
Number of days planned for M&E	17.14 months or 374 days from all team members, based on 22 working days per month, & including allied work by GPN team
Total project budget for M&E	Approx £49,800
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	13.0%

## 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) (286)

In preparing this proposal, we have strived for a balance that will produce quality outputs while maximizing project participation, planning and implementation-related activities and inputs, along with ensuring capacity building, at the national level.

We have included co-financing to the extent possible: this includes co-financing of top-level management oversight and technical input by Drs' Jackson (Lead Organization) and Taber (Mountain Institute); in addition, project staff and stakeholders addressing snow leopard related human-wildlife conflicts will benefit from Jackson's considerable experience in this field, along with SLC's ongoing support for biodiversity research in Manang.

We are hoping to bring at least \$20,000 - \$30,000 in leveraged funding from Ennovent (Global and Nepal branch) and their associated partner, Fair Trails / Trail Angels for pilot at least one special *Snow Leopard Trail* and enabling scaling up of the tourist trails currently supported in the Sagarmatha National Park. For details, visit their website <https://www.trail-angels.com/2017/04/19/update-fair-trails-field-trip-fruehjahr-2017-die-trail-angels-sind-wieder-im-himalaya-unterwegs/>. These consulting partners are assuming the lead in assisting Nepali team members identify enterprises, develop business plans and Best Practices. They will train local organizations as well as the two primary local partners, The Mountain Institute and Mountain Spirit in environmentally friendly, socially appropriate and economically productive enterprise development. Each team will take this knowledge and engage additional institutions in biodiversity and climate adapted enterprises, as well as fostering household-level livelihoods that help mitigate underlying threats to snow leopards and their habitat (e.g., livestock depredation reduction and improved grazing practices for those households (or community institutions) involved in yak (both sites), and sheep-goat herding (Manang). We anticipate that Ennovent's involvement, if funded under their ADA grant application, will improve the team's ability to assess income-producing pursuits such as yak cheese production, horse riding for trekkers etc.

### 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) (109)

We will ensure that herders or youths trained as Citizen Scientists are equipped with some camera traps and binoculars to enable them to serve as 'on-site monitors' reporting to Buffer Zone Committee / park authorities or local NGO active in biodiversity protection or monitoring. All other or surplus equipment purchased (e.g., trail cameras, spotting scopes) with Darwin and

others will be donated to the local responsible protected area management agency (Manang - ACAP; Everest - Sagarmatha National Park - Dept of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation). Similarly, Trail Angels will ensure the partners responsible for overseeing or managing designated "Fair Trails" will have access to necessary equipment and supplies.

## 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 to be expended before project start date, but generating outputs underpinning our project approach (The Asia Foundation - Nepal, see Box 8b(1)).

Zoo Victoria, Australia -- biodiversity protection in ACAP and Mt. Everest National Park (\$XX,XXX.XX received December 2017; ending December 2018). Supports snow leopard conflict mitigation and monitoring implemented by Global Primate Network (GPN).

SLC: Complimentary biodiversity monitoring of snow leopards & capacity building for NTNC/ f Annapurna Conservation Area and Dept National Parks & Wildlife Conservation

### 27b) Unsecured TO BE COMPLETED

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
Late 2017	Ennovent - ADA grant	XX,XXX pounds applied from grant of XXX,XXX Euros	Decision expected by mid-March 2018
Ongoing, Year End General Fundraising Campaign	Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC)	TBD	Committed to securing general donor funds for strengthening proposed project & deliverables

### 27c) None

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

(max 100 words)

N/A

**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) (198)

Snow Leopard Conservancy has recruited a highly qualified Project Leader (Mr. Peniston), who will oversee on-the-ground activities undertaken by the two Co-PI's (Ms Pradhan and Dr. Thakali of Mountain Institute and Mountain Spirit respectively). Both Drs Pradhan and Thakali have significant experience managing large, complex projects. As the Director of Himalayan Programs for Mountain Institute (1996-2014), Peniston managed and implemented > 8 projects with annual expenses greater than US\$1,000,000. Give the fiscal obligations of a Darwin Initiative grant, Snow Leopard Conservancy is upgrading its financial management capacity under direction of its Board Treasurer Robert Wilson (who served as San Francisco Regional Counsel of the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

We maintain the highest standards of fiscal integrity. Bribery, fraud or other corruption is not tolerated. Any transgressions will be immediately reported to the Government of Nepal agency monitoring donor agencies and implementing partners and will follow Nepali law. If these involve local organizations, their management will be informed and disciplinary action taken, including excluding them from training opportunities.

All requests for reimbursement must follow General Accounting Practices and be thoroughly documented.

SLC has sufficient funds for addressing potential cash-flow requirements related to the Darwin and project-specified billing schedules

### 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 the trustees (*Board of Directors of the Snow Leopard Conservancy*)

I apply for a grant of **£310,696** 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 *(see note in cover letter)*

<b>Name (block capitals)</b>	Rodney M. Jackson
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy

**Signed\*\***

**Date:**

27 January, 2018

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

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.