

Applicant: **Piman, Thanapon**
Organisation: **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)**
Funding Sought: **£369,912.00**
Funding Awarded: **£369,912.00**

DIR26S2\1017

27-009 Community-based integrated catchment management to conserve the Upper Chindwin River

This project will implement a set of tailored land and water management practices in Upper Chindwin River, Myanmar, to protect and restore the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and secure sustainable livelihoods for 11,827 people in nine villages.

Biodiversity and ecosystem service assessments will feed into Community Action Plans (CAP), developed alongside local stakeholders to establish sustainable agricultural, mining and water management practices. These includes conservation and restoration zones, enhance community-based natural resource management, and support just transitions.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Karthikeyan
Surname Matheswaran
Organisation Stockholm Environment Institute
(SEI)
Tel (Mobile) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Thanapon
Surname Piman
Organisation Stockholm Environment Institute
(SEI)
Website (Work) www.sei.org
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Karthikeyan
Surname Matheswaran
Organisation Stockholm Environment Institute
(SEI)
Tel (Mobile) + [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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(SEI)
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Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Other
Name	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

27-009 Community-based integrated catchment management to conserve the Upper Chindwin River

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR26S1\100123

DIR26S1\1631

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Myanmar (Burma)	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2020

End date:

31 March 2023

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
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Amount:	£130,386.00	£126,830.00	£112,696.00	£
				369,912.00

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

SEI and the consortium partners confirm [REDACTED] % of DWI matching funds in addition to the above requested budget. Different sources of matching funds are proposed to support this project

i) SEI commits core match funding of [REDACTED] in cash, but is seeking to use funding from existing and future external grants (e.g. CEPF, Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia and the Nagao Wetland Fund) to cover some of these costs where possible.

ii) the remaining [REDACTED] % is supported by WWT from core funds, small grants in the project area allied with Darwin Initiative activities, and in-kind contribution from the project partners ([REDACTED])

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project). 40 %

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. 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 write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This project will implement a set of tailored land and water management practices in Upper Chindwin River, Myanmar, to protect and restore the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and secure sustainable livelihoods for 11,827 people in nine villages.

Biodiversity and ecosystem service assessments will feed into Community Action Plans (CAP), developed alongside local stakeholders to establish sustainable agricultural, mining and water management practices. These includes conservation and restoration zones, enhance community-based natural resource management, and support just transitions.

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q8. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative or IWT Challenge Fund award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 1989
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	The majority of SEI's funding comes from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Ministry for the Environment and Energy, Sweden, in the form of core support. A large part of this budget is allocated to various projects according to internal application and approval procedures. In addition, SEI attracts project-based funding from various bi-lateral/multi-lateral sources. SEI-Asia office, which will lead this project, has received funding from organisations including USAID, FAO, UNESCAP and CEPF.

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

Aims	The SEI-Asia Water Cluster aims to secure water for all through innovative technical, institutional and policy solutions at scale. Our research contributes directly to UN SDGs 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17 to support the sustainable and equitable use of water and land resources that lead to thriving socio-ecological systems.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Developing innovative approaches and techniques to improve water security for sustainable and equitable natural resource use.- Reducing risks from extreme events through nature-based solutions.- Quantifying the state, value and linkages among water, land and ecosystem services.- Using participatory frameworks to improve the river basin organisations management.

Achievements

- Played pivotal role in establishing Chindwin River Basin Organisation (RBO).
 - Developed quantitative framework to assess development and climate change impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods.
 - Mainstreamed basin ecosystem services into RBO plans, built capacity of local people and CSOs on biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem use.
-

Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead 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.

Contract/Project 1 Title	Chindwin Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (CBES)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	USD [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	2 years 3 months (01 Apr 2017 to 30 Jun 2019)
Role of organisation in project	SEI led the overall project design, implementation and management. SEI led the baseline basin wide assessment of forest and aquatic biodiversity. Undertook capacity building programs to CSOs and local people on ecosystem use. Engaged multi-stakeholder networks especially the government agencies to integrate ecosystem services into policy formulations at regional level

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project

Aim: Integrate biodiversity and ecosystem service values into Chindwin/Ayeyawady River Basin development policies and plans.

Objectives: i) Building capacity of civil society and government agencies in assessing potential impacts of development and climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services and livelihoods; ii) Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services values into policies and plans; iii) Raising public awareness on biodiversity conservation.

Outcomes:
Potential impacts of selected development plans including mining, logging, hydropower, agriculture, navigation and climate change on socio-ecological systems in Chindwin Basin are quantified and demonstrated. 2) Civil society groups and government capacity built in valuating of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)

Mr. Jack Tordoff, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Contract/Project 2 Title

Chindwin Futures

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)

USD [REDACTED]

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)

3 years (01 Jan 2015 to 31 Dec 2017)

Role of organisation in project

SEI led the overall project design, implementation and management. SEI conducted stakeholder consultations, focus group discussions, scenario building exercise, in Chindwin River Basin for integrated assessment and Chindwin RBO. Supported the exploration of options and design of Chindwin RBO until it was approved by Sagaing regional government.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project

This project aims for continued support to Myanmar to move towards sustainable development through evidence-based and inclusive multi-stakeholder participatory planning processes in the water sector by utilizing an inclusive stakeholder process in the establishment of the Chindwin River Basin Organization (RBO).

SEI led the design of emerging institutional frameworks for water governance, Deliberating around alternative water resources development strategies, for example, through socially- and gender- inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue process and Conducting an integrated assessment in Chindwin to help improve the understanding of the state of the basin.

Key outcomes : Establishment of Myanmar's first River Basin Organization for Chindwin River.

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)

The Blue Moon fund ceased last year. No organizational apparatus is currently in place.

Contract/Project 3 Title

RECONNECT- Regenerating ECOsystems with Nature-based solutions for hydro-meteorological risk rEduCTion

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)

Euro [REDACTED]

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)

5 years (01 Sep 2018 to 31 Aug 2022)

Role of organisation in project

SEI co-leads designing RECONNECT's co-creation approach and stakeholder identification method developed, carry out capacity-building on co-creation methodologies that will be used throughout the project, support implementation of Co-Creation Workshops in other work packages with particular emphasis on the collaborating sites across the world.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project

Develop a holistic ecosystem-based framework which enables cross-sectoral/transdisciplinary analyses and evaluation to advance the knowledge of NBS in the context of hydro-meteorological risk reduction. Form the basis for the proof-of-concept regarding large scale NBS demonstrations by co-creating new cases. Identify and assess barriers related to social and cultural acceptance of NBS and policy regulatory frameworks and propose ways to overcome them. Identify and assess barriers related to social and cultural acceptance of NBS and policy regulatory frameworks and propose ways to overcome them. Enable replication and up-scaling of NBS in different contexts within the RECONNECT network of cases.





Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)





Dr. Zoran vojnovic, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [j5928-sei-annual-report-180424-web-2-smallest_1](#)
 05/12/2019
 17:26:47
 pdf 4.71 MB

 [seij6874-annual-report-2018-web-190403](#)
 26/11/2019
 01:57:35
 pdf 4.64 MB

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q9. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) 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 Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B: There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name: Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Website address: <https://www.sei.org>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

SEI has a long track record of engagement with multiple stakeholders in Chindwin River Basin. We led the development of the RBO and basin wide biodiversity assessment, and organised policy dialogues for improved sustainable natural resources management. This proposal is built on our strong experience from this region. As Project Lead, SEI will be responsible for project co-ordination, liaison with national and international partners, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and the delivery of all project outputs.

SEI will coordinate the ecosystem services baseline inventory, designing and managing the survey activities, conducting community consultations, identifying land and water management measures, feasibility and implementation of the rice-fish system, leading the CAP development in nine village and subsequently implementing in three villages, and organising policy dialogues. SEI has previous experience in large scale biodiversity, ecosystem services and socioeconomic surveys, multi-stakeholder consultations and policy engagement in this area.

SEI will also develop communication and outreach materials for promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

SEI will disseminate project findings, results and success stories through national and regional platforms including the annual Water Land Ecosystem forum in Yangon, and other biodiversity events in Southeast Asia.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)

Website address: <https://www.wwt.org.uk/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is one of the world's leading wetland conservation organisations with 70 years' experience around the world. WWT's mission is to conserve, restore and create wetlands for the wildlife and people that rely on them through combining policy, practice and scientific research.

WWT has been endorsed as one of only six International Organization Partners by the 170 countries that are signatories to the Ramsar Convention, demonstrating the expertise needed for integrated wetland conservation and development projects.

WWT has led integrated community-based conservation projects in Southeast Asia since 2010, in partnership with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

WWT will lead components to restore wetland habitat, establish wetland conservation zones and support ecosystem services baseline survey design with SEI. WWT will draw upon its extensive experience conserving wetlands in Cambodia, and wider work of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI) technical advisory group to support the research, habitat restoration and policy dialogues to be undertaken by the consortium.

WWT will also support the and consortium partners for consultation workshops, focus group discussions, and other co-development mechanisms proposed in the project. It will present the lessons learned and success stories in the UK forums, Myanmar and wider Indo-Burma.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name:

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH)

Website address:

<https://www.ceh.ac.uk/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) is a leading international research organization focusing on land and freshwater ecosystems and their interaction with the atmosphere. UKCEH work across disciplines and facilitate academic, public, private and voluntary sector partnerships.

UKCEH's extensive, long-term monitoring, analysis and modelling deliver UK and global environmental data, providing early warnings of change and management solutions for our land and freshwaters. In this project, UKCEH will advise, monitor and evaluate mechanisms for improving water quality and ecological condition of the study area. This will include the provision of technical inputs for land and water conservation measures to be integrated into CAPs alongside local stakeholders. UKCEH will work with WWT to develop restoration plans for targeted conservation zones and assess habitat recovery to advise an adaptive management approach. UKCEH will also present the research and conservation activities in national and international forums.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI)

Website address:

<http://enviromyanmar.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

MEI is a leading environmental NGO based in Myanmar, working to understand the inter-relationships of the physical and biological components of nature, to identify and analyse environmental problems both human-made and natural, and to evaluate the risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving them.

MEI has been working in close collaboration with SEI in Myanmar to promote sustainable development through an evidence based participatory planning process under various projects.

MEI's specific roles in this project are to:

- Provide local knowledge in the design and undertaking inventory of biodiversity and livelihood surveys; organization of knowledge sharing, trainings and stakeholder consultation.
- Support SEI team to collect relevant study reports and secondary data related to biodiversity inventory in the Chindwin Basin and analyse information gaps.
- Develop a workplan and conduct field and livelihood surveys in the selected nine villages areas for taking stock of the biodiversity, ecological, culture, social and livelihood assets.
- Analyse field data and secondary data to assess status of biodiversity, ecosystem services, communities and livelihood in the selected three priority areas (baseline condition).
- Support CAP development and implementation process.
- Support organizing subsequent survey and policy engagement with government stakeholders.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

Monywa University

Website address:

monywauniversity.moe.edu.mm

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Monywa University is a higher education institution located within the same Sagaing region as the Chindwin River Basin. It conducts bachelors and graduate courses along with research activities in Sagaying Region. Department of Zoology, in Monywa University will be the partner engaging with SEI and other partners for this project in Upper Chindwin River. Monywa University signed an MoU with institutions of regional and international importance to expose students to new technologies and research activities.

Monywa University has worked with SEI in the Conserving Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services project since 2016, which led to the involvement of graduate students at various stages of projects for household and biodiversity surveys, support community consultations and participate in environmental awareness campaigns. This provided vital opportunities for the students to interact with multi-disciplinary international experts enriching their knowledge in key aspects of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and understanding socio-economic conditions of the regions.

In this project, Monywa University will particularly contribute to sustainable fisheries management owing to the department's long experience in Chindwin River, support ecosystem services survey, awareness creation and to build local capacity in the region. Graduate students will be provided opportunities to undertake thesis research in the relevant topics.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

Environmental Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI), Myanmar

Website address:

www.eccdi.org.mm

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

ECCDI is an NGO with a long track record and experience in wide thematic areas of natural resources conservation and community development. A member of the Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN), ECCDI has been working actively with the network's other 20 members to environmental restoration activities. ECCDI's expertise and project lies in forest and environmental restoration, water resource development, food security and livelihood enhancement, and poverty alleviation, awareness raising and capacity building. Examples of ECCDI portfolio of projects includes community-based management of the mangrove forest ecosystem in Rakhine, Inle lake conservation and rehabilitation, rehabilitation of degraded natural forests in Ayeyarwady, community-based wildlife conservation in Natmataung National Park and ecological studies in Upper Thanlwin. ECCDI has contributed to this project design and will provide further contribution to the component on integrated water and land management practices. ECCDI will support the establishment of community groups to co-develop and implement CAP in selected villages, promoting environmentally friendly alternatives like fish-rice system and building local capacity in the agriculture extension. ECCDI will also lead on identifying market access options and value-added products for the community groups.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

6. Partner Name:

Myanmar Forest Association (MFA)

Website address:

<https://myanmarforestassociation.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

MFA is an NGO organization in Myanmar with keen interests to support the management of forests sustainably while supporting the needs of dependent population. MFA was formed with the expertise, strong support and collaboration from Forest department. We have expertise in supporting developmental projects on forest management, agroforestry, biodiversity assessment and co-management of forest systems.

MFA will play a key a key role in this project on





- Identifying and document existing forest management structures in Upper Chindwin River.
- Support the baseline survey to identify ecosystem services derived from forest products.
- assess agro-forestry potential to supplement livelihood strategies.
- organize group village focused consultations on promoting non-timber forest products.
- Identify opportunities to promote agro-forestry products in the target village and business model for non-timber products.





Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

In addition to the above project partners, we have solicited support letter from Agriculture Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to ensure buy-in for the proposed interventions. The department is not a financial beneficiaries. SEI and the consortium will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of the relevant officials participating in field visits, focused group discussions and policy engagement forum. SEI has been engaging with these departments for the past four years to incorporate ecosystem benefits and biodiversity conservation into development plans.

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [Letters of Support](#)
 05/12/2019
 15:23:08
 pdf 3.5 MB

 [Response to the comments Final](#)
 05/12/2019
 15:07:04
 pdf 89.05 KB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q10. Key project staff

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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr. Thanapon Piman	Project Leader	29	Checked
Dr. Karthikeyan Matheswaran	Water Management expert	32	Checked
Ms. May Thazin Aung	Socio-economic and livelihood expert	17	Checked
Ms. Htway Than	Myanmar Coordinator and agriculture expert	100	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
New recruit	Technical Officer (1 from SEI and 1 from WWT)	100	Checked
Dr.Tomos Avent	Project Lead (WWT)	5	Checked
Mr.Bena Smith	Wetland Management Advisor	33	Checked
Dr. Cedric Laize	Ecohydrology specialist	10	Checked
Dr. Wim maung	Biodiversity and ecosystem expert	54	Checked
Mr. Mehm Ko Ko Gyi	Forestry Specialist	49	Checked
Mr. Htun Paw Oo	Socio-economic expert	24	Checked
Dr. Win Win Mar	Fisheries specialist	24	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 CV final
 05/12/2019
 15:34:10
 pdf 1.4 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 7 - Problem Statement & Conventions

Q11. 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?

Myanmar's Upper Chindwin River contains the most critical unprotected Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in the Indo-Burma region. Hkamti Township, located within the KBA, is home to 38 threatened freshwater species including the Critically Endangered *Batagur trivittata* (Burmese Roofed Turtle) and the Endangered *Puntius manipurensis*, *Schistura kangjupkhulensis* and *Schistura reticulata*. (IUCN, 2017). Subsistence rice farming and fishing remain the livelihood mainstays supporting 36,819 people (18,201 women) in the township. Fish provides 60% of protein intake for the local population. 80% of main household incomes are from natural-based activities.

SEI policy briefs on Chindwin Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (CBES) in 2018 identified unsustainable farming, overfishing, local mining and intensified logging as the main threats to wetland habitats and ecosystem services. Driven by a high demand for land, the lack of alternative livelihood pathways and the insecurity of depleting resources, the CBES report shows consequential rapid declines in fish catch and decreasing populations of endangered aquatic species. The KBA in Upper Chindwin Basin currently has no formal protection.

Generating secure natural resource access and resilient environmentally sensitive livelihoods for people in the region is imperative to protect the KBA, conserving local biodiversity and ecosystem services. The current improper land and water management practices must be addressed, and awareness must be built around the importance of healthy functioning wetland systems.

Since 2013, SEI has been working in close collaboration with Myanmar stakeholders under the Ayeyarwady Futures and Chindwin Future Programs. SEI was instrumental in identifying the needs and challenges of stakeholders within the river basin, leading to the establishment of the Chindwin River Basin Organisation in 2016. Through this long association, SEI and its partners have identified the key aquatic biodiversity challenges faced in the Chindwin Basin and incorporated these into the project design.

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. 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.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. 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.

The project will support the implementation of Myanmar's 2015-2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan through community led integrated water and land management plans, sustainable resources use, improving awareness of biodiversity benefits and reducing the impact of human activities on natural resources.

The project will support Myanmar's obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The CAP will enable sustainable ecosystem use and biodiversity conservation while feeding into government plans for sustainable production and consumption (Goal-A Aichi Target 1 and 4). Agricultural resources will be managed properly while conserving natural habitats in land and water (Goal-B, Target 5, 6, 7 and 8). The project will ensure that the implementation of CAP has direct impact on the conservation of endangered species and protection of KBA (Goal-C, Targets 11 and 12). The project will ensure ecosystem services are safeguarded with adequate representation of vulnerable groups and women (Goal-D, Targets 14). It will incorporate traditional knowledge and new technologies for biodiversity conservation and awareness raising (Goal-E, Target 18 and 19).

The project also contributes to Strategic Goal 1 of the Ramsar Convention, addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.

Q12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / CMS / Ramsar / CCC focal point in the host country?

Yes

If yes, please give details.

Mr. Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General and Mr. Win Naing Thaw, Director, Forest Department are the key Ramsar focal points in Myanmar. SEI will closely work with the Forest Department to ensure that the project activities directly support the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

The project supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs 1, 5, 6, 10, 12, and 15). The proposed integrated water and land management-based CAP and its focus on biodiversity conservation contributes directly to SDGs 6 and 15. The proposed practices will improve water use efficiency in different sectors (SDG 6.4), enable integrated management (SDG 6.6) and protect water related ecosystems (SDG 6.7).

KBA in and around Hkamti township will see implementation of conservation and restoration plans (SDG 15.1), the encompassing mountain ecosystem and forest sustainably managed (SDG 15.2, 15.4) and existing pathways oriented towards protection of biodiversity and endangered species (SDG 15.5).

Section 8 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

1: Develop an ecosystem benefits baseline knowledge system

Task: The Ramsar Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services (RAWES) will be used in nine representative villages within Hkamti township for biodiversity and livelihood assessment. Key fish habitats, priority conservation areas, wetland resource use, polluted reaches, agricultural and livelihood practices will be identified.

Output: Inventory on ecosystem benefits/services.

Responsibilities: WWT and SEI will lead the overall survey design. SEI and WWT will support MEI, MFA and Monywa University to undertake this task.

2: Co-develop and implement Community Action Plans (CAP)

Tasks: The CAP development and implementation will follow the Sustainable Livelihood Approach to Poverty Reduction. Stakeholder consultations and issue-based selection will be used to identify three priority villages (400-500 people), to implement CAP. CAP will integrate establishment of proven agroforestry, rice-fish systems, integrated soil fertility management and community-based forest management strategies to supplement livelihood pathways. Locally proven rice-fish systems will be adopted by 200 local people. Specific focus in the CAP will be given to identifying potential business models for value-added agricultural and non-timber forest products to augment income generation and explore alternate livelihood strategies.

Output: Community integrated water-land-ecosystem management schemes implemented in three villages.

Outreach activities documenting benefits to local communities of engagement in CAP.

Responsibilities: SEI, MEI and ECCDI will facilitate the CAP implementation with advice from WWT and CEH.

The consortium partners will leverage existing networks in Sagaing regional government to identify ongoing or potential government and civil society development projects to supplement the CAP implementation in the priority villages.

3: Establish wetland conservation zones

Traditional knowledge will complement biodiversity and ecosystem service data to inform an agreed habitat restoration and conservation zoning plan for the site. Public campaigns will increase awareness on endangered species in the riverine communities. Community fishery groups will be trained to monitor habitat quality and key species, document fish catch, and demarcate/monitor the conservation zones. Restoration activities are likely to include the creation of in-channel features such as fry bays or natural flow controls (e.g. woody debris) to reduce erosion risk for existing sandbanks (breeding habitat of Batagur trivittata), and the strategic placement of nature-based wetland treatment systems to capture and clean agricultural runoff.

Outputs:

(1) Three wetland conservation zones established with government consent, and effectively operated with community assistance.

(2) A minimum of three high priority restoration tasks implemented inside the project area with community

assistance.

Responsibilities: SEI and WWT will lead the consultation design, facilitated by WWT, MEI, MFA and Monywa University. M&E will be led by CEH.

4. Policy and recommendations for scaling up CAP across biodiversity hotspots.

Tasks: High-level multi-stakeholder workshop to present results and propose key policy recommendations for community-led conservation. Linking to the Norway Bilateral Environmental Programme's Wetland Management project, a series of public awareness/outreach activities will be organised to influence Myanmar's new National Wetland Policy and scaling up potential.

Output: Policy recommendations for CAP process and implementation cascaded to national level.

Responsibilities: Led by SEI and MEI and supported by partners to achieve derive recommendations with stakeholders.

Q14. 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?

The project will produce a range of communications/knowledge sharing materials targeting two key audience groups: 1) local communities in the Upper Chindwin River; and 2) government agencies. By demonstrating the value of an integrated approach to better manage the land-water systems for biodiversity conservation in the project area, we ultimately aim to influence the policy process in the development arena. The outputs for communications will be in bilingual format (Myanmar and English).

Communities: We will produce customized information products to highlight local biodiversity, livelihood challenges and their linkages. Targeted awareness raising activities on endangered species, water quality, mining impacts, importance of conservation and alternate livelihood opportunities will be carried out. These will be conducted through multiple channels, including pamphlets, community information points, news stories in newspapers and digital media, booths at key local events and involving school/university students in awareness campaigns. We will support co-production of communication products by organising activities like design competitions in schools and colleges to incorporate local perspectives and reflect relations of students with the wider ecosystem. Specific focus will be placed on including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Government: Individual departments within governments (national and regional)will be continuously engaged through workshops, focus group discussions, trainings and one-to-one meetings to emphasize the utility of integrated socio-ecological management systems. Through embedded co-development mechanisms, this project will raise the awareness of government staff for successful collaborative exchanges for biodiversity conservation interventions.

In addition, key outputs, guidelines and policy recommendations will be presented in national and international forums in Myanmar and the ASEAN region (IBRRI and Norway Bilateral Environmental Programme for wetlands) to reach wider conservation agencies and bi-lateral/multi-lateral organisations. WWT and CEH will also disseminate the project outputs to a wider audience in the UK.

Q15. 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.

The project will train farmers in three villages as community groups to adopt the rice-fish system in feasible locations, along with improved land and water management measures. Exchange visits will be organised to similar farms to enable peer-to-peer learning. Smallholder farmers will be trained to explore potential markets for their produce, economic viability and logistics.

At the township level, village/household heads will be trained to monitor and document key biophysical variables like water level, fish catch, species type, location and season to ensure their stake in co-management of KBA and strengthen their commitments to sustainable fisheries management. A field-based training will be conducted for village heads and key government staff to establish and maintain the wetland conservation zones. This will cover demarcation exercises, installation of signage and developing consensus-based rules for co-management. Government staff will be trained to explore expansion of mining areas and deforestation using satellite information

At the institutional level, all the project activities related to CAP development, certificated training and implementation will actively involve Forest and Fisheries Departments. This will strengthen local capacity and ensure sustainable support for the program in the future. Government staff will also strengthen their capacity to assess ecosystem services from aquatic and forest ecosystems. The need of the certified training and development opportunities will be identified and developed a training programme to fit with the purpose.

We plan to involve graduate students from Monywa University at various project stages, from the ecosystem services survey to CAP implementation. Opportunities to undertake graduate research projects on biodiversity conservation and fisheries management aligned with the project objectives will be offered, alongside guidance from international experts.

A field guide on best practices for integrated land and water management will be developed in the local language to ensure knowledge is documented and readily available.

Q16. Gender equality

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 sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

As in other Southeast Asian countries, women in Myanmar are under-represented in decision-making roles, possess limited control over and access to natural resources, and have fewer financial pathways. The project will ensure parity at all stages to ensure women's meaningful participation in consideration with cultural sensitivities.

The ecosystem benefits baseline assessment and follow-up survey will be designed to capture gender differences in access to land rights, ownership, management and decision-making roles, access to resources, labour, time-use (water collection and firewood), income, expenditure and varied ecosystem benefits to better understand how those differences translate to productivity differences. Emphasis will also be given to cultural constraints faced by women in domestic, agriculture and biodiversity conservation activities.

The survey will collect gender disaggregated data within the KBA to identify women and men's different functions, responsibilities and requirements. We will ensure equal opportunity for women (30-40 % women) to participate in workshops, community focus groups and the CAP development process. All these activities will be designed in terms of location, date and timeframe to assist meaningful participation of women. In the case of clear barriers to the meaningful participation of women in any activity, women-only meetings/focus groups will be organised.

Women will form a key part of community groups to demarcate and monitor wetland conservation zones.

Emphasis will be given to how ecosystem degradation (land, fisheries, mining etc) and future climate induced changes will affect different aspects of womens' day-to-day life and health. Equal numbers of female graduate students will be involved in the different surveys, trainings, research opportunities and events organised through the project.

The project will connect with key women decision makers for policy engagement. At the consortium level, SEI and project partners will adhere to equal opportunities best practice when recruiting for any positions in the project.

Q17. 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.

1. Community:

Short term: At least 200 local people will increase their income by at least 30 % by adopting the rice-fish system of low fertilizer inputs and improved soil fertility management and about 3,000 people will improve sustainable livelihoods through direct benefits from improved ecosystem services and about 7,000 people through indirect benefits. Pilot and commercial rice-fish systems in Myanmar have reported doubling of farmers' income (World Fish, 2018). We also expect household expenses will be reduced through implementation of Community Action Plans. Increased knowledge will influence behaviour change towards more sustainable practices. In addition, at least 5 students of the Department of Zoology, Monywa University, and 5 young professional staff of the local partners in Myanmar will build their capacity through on-job trainings and internships.

Long term: Community associations' capacity will be increased to manage CAPs in the future. Practice change to deliver iterative land and water management that benefits community and ecosystem. Improved economic benefits for communities and more effective uses of ecosystem services. Empowered to raise ecosystem-livelihoods threat with governments.

2. Ecosystem:

Short term: 500 hectares of optimal habitat restored for key endangered and livelihood indicator species. The level of agricultural pollutants and overfishing will reduce, restoring habitat quality for endangered species. Endangered species populations are expected to recover through established wetland conservation zones and restoration measures.

Long term: Consistent decrease in negative impacts and pressure caused by unsustainable livelihoods and development will increase in native species richness in the area.

3. Government departments:

Short term: A knowledge database on ecosystem services will benefit General Administration Department (GAD), Fisheries and Forest departments on documenting the state of the ecosystem and its threats. Co-development mechanism employed to create CAP and CAG will increase awareness of integrated water and land management, its linkages with overall ecosystem and biodiversity conservation among the key stakeholders (numbers to be determined at a later stage).

Long term: Increased acceptance and acknowledgement of government stakeholders to favorably view

community-based integrated resources management as key to biodiversity conservation based on the success from CAP implementations. Increased knowledge base to apply the lessons learnt from this model elsewhere.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

This project demonstrate the effectiveness of replicable local action to restore healthy wetland habitats and tackle direct and indirect local threats through supporting transitions to more profitable sustainable livelihoods.

Rice-fish systems will decrease harmful chemical pesticides entering the wetland habitat through the integrated model of pest control. The system is expected to increase incomes of the selected three villages. Similar systems have proved profitable for local communities in Ayeyarwady delta. Community-approved conservation zones, identified through expert workshops and local consultations, will create a government-endorsed framework for areas to be restored for fisheries and biodiversity, and for improved natural resource management through initiatives like no-take zones.

The CAP implementation in three priority villages will be targeted to address the threats presented by dangerous and unregulated mining, creating clear incentives for local people to make decisions that provide direct economic and long-term environmental benefits. Successful CAP schemes will serve as a demonstration of integrated community-based conservation schemes in the region, influencing policy and regional decision-making. The groups created for CAP implementation will act as ambassadors for the scheme, promoting community interests to the governments and the RBO.

Baseline inventories and community monitoring activities will enable new knowledge generation and increased understanding.

Q19. 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?

SEI has been actively involved with governments and civil society in Myanmar as a key long-term knowledge partner and to promote an integrated approach for improved management of Chindwin River Basin's socioecological systems.

Most of the proposed activities will attain a sustainable end point, laying strong underpinnings for better management of Upper Chindwin River. The partners are committed for long-term conservation support beyond the project timeline, but we have in-built mechanisms for future resilience and impact expansion if we were to have to leave the site for any reason. Our contingency exit strategy relies on strengthening community groups and national partners' capacity to continue CAP implementation. We will increase community associations' capacity to operate independently. Improved livelihood benefits realised by the community will enhance local support for the CAP. Our implementation will embed government departments and institutions into the project lifecycle to guarantee a localized knowledge.

The ecosystem benefits baseline knowledge system, development and implementation of CAP activities and demarcation of conservation zones will be completed within the project timeframe. SEI will pursue integration of project outputs into local development plans and upscaling as part of our long-term commitment to the region by leveraging projects through internal and external funds.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

No Response

Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q20a. Harmonisation

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

Please give details.

This project will be a part of SEI's long term engagement in Chindwin River, covering broad areas of natural resource management extending our work over past 10 years in the region. Our previous projects in this basin have focused on generating quantitative evidence on multi-scale water resource management, climate change impacts and adaptation, RBO, mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services, satellite-based monitoring system and policy engagement.

Building on our solid knowledge base in Chindwin River Basin, this project will focus in to generate fine-scale data and deliver replicable environmentally sustainable development interventions/technologies at a local scale, showcasing better management of land, water and ecosystems based on our decade-long engagement in this region. SEI will build on our past work by establishing community groups trained on rice-fish farming, integrated water-land interventions, and establishing habitat conservation zones in the unprotected KBA, converting knowledge into development impacts.

SEI has created significant policy impact on basin scale water management through instituting an RBO and has developed stronger networks within regional government, different agencies and civil society. The project policy engagement activities will leverage our existing relationship with government agencies to incorporate ecosystem benefits and bio-diversity conservation into district and regional plans, and influence upscaling potential.

Q20b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

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.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is working on protecting the Burmese roofed turtle from rice farming initiatives in Upper Chindwin Basin. SEI has engaged with WCS in our previous projects on conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services in Chindwin River Basin.

SEI will continue to work with them at the institutional and field level so that project activities and outputs are mutually beneficial. SEI will involve WCS, who were informed of this proposal, to learn from their turtle conservation activities to develop and implement wetland conservation zones.

Q21. Ethics

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

SEI has been working in Southeast Asian countries since 2004, providing evidence-based research to influence environmental policy changes. SEI has well established policies including an Ethics Guidance Note, Code of Conduct, Equity, Gender and Diversity Policy, People Agenda, and Leadership Policy. SEI is familiar with various stakeholders including local communities and civil society groups in Upper Chindwin where we have established strong relationships through our long association. Our network of strong local partners and SEI staff have in-country expertise and a sound cultural understanding of the region. Co-development mechanisms and integrating local indigenous knowledge into the project lifecycle is the fulcrum of our engagement mechanism with local people, as evidenced from this project description and other previous projects in Myanmar.

Communities to be involved in the project will be briefed on the project's goals and privacy rights, adhering to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) principles. Survey participants will have the choice to decide on their participation. People from target villages will be engaged in consensus-based decision-making from the project's initial stages through community groups to co-develop and implement CAP, and to establish wetland conservation zones.

SEI and its partners will work diligently with the national partners in Myanmar to make sure all activities in this project comply with local and donor legal regulations. SEI will draw upon in-house and project partners' expertise on human rights, gender considerations and traditional knowledge.

The project staff involved in data collection, analysis and addressing research questions will follow the research integrity guidelines and ensure unbiased observations.

The consortium will establish an Expert Committee from project partners, which will meet quarterly to review project methodologies, plan forthcoming activities and provide feedback to ensure ethical standards are met.

Q22. Corruption

Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this.

As in many developing countries, in Myanmar there is a risk of corruption and bribery among public officials in the form of gifts or facilitation payments. SEI adheres to a strict Anti-Corruption Policy, which mandates a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of bribery and corruption. All sub-contracts and consultancy agreements issued to the partners will also clearly specify a zero tolerance policy.

SEI has well established project and financial management systems that follow best practices in project management to ensure the integrity of donor and partner organisations. SEI will avoid direct payments unless deemed absolutely necessary and will undertake direct bank transfers commensurate with the valid services to ensure transparency. SEI regularly monitoring the progress every quarter during project implementation including discussion on potential corruption risks, solutions and actions according to donor and our policy.

Q23. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time,

wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of your commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We have shared our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Section 10 - Funding and Budget

Q24. Funding and budget


Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget.


- [Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)


-
Please refer to the [Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance](#) for more information.

N.B: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 [R26 Darwin Budget over 100K FINAL V3](#)

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 xlsx 53.47 KB

Q25. 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.

SEI has developed the budget in close consultation with the consortium partners based on previous experience in implementing similar activities in Myanmar and wider Southeast Asia. The staff cost, overhead costs, travel, subsistence and workshops estimates are all based on current rates. SEI Staff costs for year 2 and year 3 include cost of living adjustments based on its current HR policies and Thailand labour regulations.

The project is designed to focus on scalable interventions to prevent ecosystem degradation and biodiversity issues which were identified by SEI and its partners in their previous projects. This ensures that the project targets an existing interconnected biodiversity-livelihood problem in one of the unprotected KBA's in Indo-Burma corridor providing maximum value for the invested money. SEI has invest significant in-kind funding in the form of staff time and direct cost to support the project realising its potential to conserve biodiversity and improve livelihoods in the Upper Chindwin River.

SEI and its partners will use Myanmar staff wherever possible, and local students from Monywa University will support the data collection, helping to minimise costs and build their capacity in household and biodiversity surveys. SEI and WWT is proposing to house two full time staff in the project area/region to ensure achieving desirable outcomes. SEI being the lead partner commits atleast 45% of its staff costs to the project personnel based in Myanmar.

Well-developed SEI's financial system guarantee effective use of funds for the intended purposes. The project team will follow stringent procurement process to make sure quality goods and services purchased are competitively priced.

Strong community centric focus, capacity building activities and support from government agencies (attached Letter of Support) will ensure buy-in and sustainability of the activities beyond the project timeline eventually benefiting wider ecosystem.

Q26. 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.

Purchase of IT and farm equipment are included in the budget expenditure. The IT equipment has a limited resale value beyond the project life. We envisage continuation of activities beyond the project timeline during which we will arrange the transfer to either community groups or government agencies.

Farm and other field equipment budgeted in the proposal will be transferred to the community groups with an explicit understanding of equitable use among the farmers in the community groups.

Given the remoteness of the area, where possible we will leverage our relationship with government departments to utilize their equipment for project activities

Since boat is the main mode of travel between the villages in the project area, we didn't include any budget

for motorcycles.

Q27. Match funding (co-financing)

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q27a. 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, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
SEI core funding	██████	GBP	SEI will invest its core fund to continue supporting stakeholders in Chindwin.
WWT core fund	██████	GBP	WWT will contribute matching funds from its core budget
Blue moon fund	██████	GBP	SEI will leverage our existing project in Chindwin to support its RBO to organize workshop, policy dialogues and expert consultations.
RBO (project office in Monywa)	██████	GBP	RBO has provided an office space in kind to be used as a base in Monywa to organize meetings, consult government stakeholder and

Q27b. 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. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 December 2020	Critical Ecosystem partnership Fund	██████	GBP	CEPF call for Indo-Burma corridor will be potentially issued next year.
01 December 2020	Ramsar South East Asia wetland fund	██████	GBP	SEI and WWT will tap into cyclic Ramsar South East Asia wetland fund
09 October 2019	Food and Agriculture Organisation	██████	GBP	Ongoing discussions with FAO. Favorable result expected in April/May
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

Q28. Outputs of the project and Open Access

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

The outputs generated in this project will be made freely accessible through different platforms. The detailed survey questionnaire for Ecosystem benefits baseline knowledge system will be made available online through SEI website.

- Survey data on ecosystem benefits, agriculture practices, water management practices, socio-economic data (anonymized) will be made available on request.
- The analysis and subsequent results from the baseline survey combined with quantitative data will be published as a state of ecosystem report and an open-access journal and shared with the various regional/international portals for wider distribution (£1000 requested for open-access publication).
- Best practices on land, water and ecosystem management-guidance document, Community Action Plans (CAP) for nine villages and policy recommendations will be developed in Myanmar and English and accessible as hard copies and through the SEI website.
- SEI will work with Open Development Myanmar to host spatial data generated in this project (maps of KBAs, wetlands conservation zones and other spatial data).
- Communication outreach materials like pamphlets and posters in Myanmar and English to support the awareness raising activities will be shared as printed copies and through the SEI website (<https://www.sei.org>) to reach wider audience.
- SEI will present the progress regularly to community groups, project partners, government and civil

society stakeholders. Monitoring and Evaluation data will be freely available upon request.

• Lessons learnt from CAP implementation (rice-fish system and integrated measures) will be disseminated through consortium partners' participation in international forums. All research outputs will be submitted to the R4D DfID repository.

Q29. Financial Risk Management

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.

SEI has developed strong finance management policies documented in its Code of Conduct, SEI Anti-Corruption Policy, Procurement policy and, Payment and reimbursement policy which governs all the staff and contracted third parties. SEI has created realistic estimate of daily subsistence allowance (DSA) and accommodation costs based on the cost of living in different countries and has an Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) system where all cost and time spend can be tracked down by project. SEI closely monitors the progress of the project deliverables ensures relevant costs are claimed by sub-contracted parties. Budget provision for internal audit is included as described in the proposal guidelines.

Our proposed budget assumes that fluctuations in foreign currency exchange can be managed during the project timeline since the project costs are pegged in US dollars. Therefore, SEI will follow formal policies established in our Asia office to manage foreign currency risks based on the working experience in Southeast Asian countries with different currencies.

The administration and finance team in SEI will closely monitor any potential financial risk arising in the region and take remedial measure.

Section 12 - Logical Framework

Q30. 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.

Impact:

KBAs in the Upper Chindwin Basin have enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem service value as a result of community-based integrated water-land ecosystem management and enhanced sustainable livelihood pathways for local people.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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Outcome:

The KBA in Upper Chindwin basin is providing improved and more secure habitats for endangered species and better livelihood pathways through enhanced ecosystem services for the local people

0.1 Conservation zone area increase by 20% from the baseline assessment for habitat suitable to endangered and key livelihood species.
0.2 Levels of fertiliser-related determinants (e.g. Rapid Dissolved Oxygen, Total Nitrogen, Ammonium Nitrite, and Total Phosphorus) reduced by 15-20 % from the baseline assessment as a result of fish-rice system adoption by 2023.
0.3 200 local people adopting rice-fish system and 800 local people adopting other conservation practices, with proportional representation from women, record at least 20% increase in income by 2023.
0.4 Mean catch per unit effort increases by 20 % by 2023 from a representative sample of 100 local fisherman.

0.1 Baseline assessment and progress reports from start, mid-project and end of project. Expert working group to define suitable habitat for selected key livelihood and endangered species.
0.2 Water quality assessments conducted at start, mid-project and end of project.
0.3 Attendance register to get actual number of people trained and responses from social surveys at start, mid-project and end of project. Livelihood diaries to get farmer-recorded actual income figures
0.4 Direct assessments of catch by project staff throughout the project.

The political situation within Myanmar remains stable and no restrictions are imposed by government on INGOs.

SEI and consortium partner relationship with Sagging regional government remains strong for buy in for the project.

Local people interest remains strong during the course of the project.

Output 1:

Baseline assessment of physical conditions, ecosystem services, key biodiversity hotspots and habitats, and existing practices of livelihood on water and land management, informing an endorsed habitat restoration plan and CAPs development.

1.1. Scalable local ecosystem services assessment framework developed using principles from the RAWES Toolkit and delivered at nine villages within Hkamti township by end of Y1,

1.2 Local assessment of key endangered and livelihood species completed and optimal ecological habitat requirements agreed by expert working group by end of Y1.

1.3 Detailed ecosystem services, land use, and habitat maps of nine villages within Hkamti township by end of Year 1.

1.4 Optimal habitat restoration plan, including strategic placement of natural treatment wetlands to filter agricultural and mining effluent, completed by the end of Y1.

1.1 Survey questionnaire, methodological framework and ecosystem service report (with raw anonymised data, disaggregated by gender, recorded on project database)

1.2 Species assessment report and write-up report from expert working group.

1.3 Baseline assessment report and GIS maps

1.4 Published plan developed by project partners and agreed by expert working group.

Local community members actively respond to the project survey and support assessments.

The survey villages selected in consultation with the stakeholders are representative of the wider sample.

The selected villages are easily accessible without any restrictions from the government

Output 2:

Community Action Plans (CAP) focusing on integrated waterland-ecosystem measures developed for nine villages, implemented in three priority villages.

2.1 Nine village groups for developing CAP are formed, including village and household heads, elders who have local wisdom, women and youth groups. Three pilot villages to implement CAP are selected by Q4 of Year 1.

2.2 Three annual multi-stakeholder consultation workshops are organised to develop, implement and monitor CAP. Multi-stakeholder groups will comprise community groups, technical agencies, NGOs, local and provincial administrations.

2.3 CAP are developed in early Year 2 comprising a series of village specific measures, enhanced livelihood options, linkages with biodiversity conservation measures.

2.4 By the middle of Year 2, 30 to 40% of activities in the CAP are being implemented.

2.5 By the middle of Year 3, 80 to 90% of activities in the CAP are being implemented.

2.6 Training workshop with at least 40 participants to build community associations' capacity to manage CAP in future by the end of Year 3.

2.7 At least 30% of women and youth participated in stakeholder consultation

2.1 Meeting and field visit reports

2.2 Multi-stakeholder consultation workshop reports, including lists of participants disaggregated by gender

2.3 CAP prepared and agreed in the stakeholder consultation workshop

2.4 & 2.5 6-months progress reports on CAP implementation, including field photographs and disaggregated data on community participants (by gender and other factors)

2.6 Training materials and report, capacity assessment report and list of participants disaggregated by gender/age

2.7 Consultation, training and progress reports, including data on participation disaggregated by gender and age.

Adequate representation of technical experts from different agencies in the CAP development process.

Community actors continue to be supportive of the CAP process.

Township and regional government stakeholders continue to have strong buy-in for the CAP implementation process.

and training workshops as well as implementing CAP.

<p>Output 3: Optimal ecological conditions agreed for endangered and key livelihood species and habitat restoration plan completed and shared</p>	<p>3.1 Building upon information from Output 1, the location, management regimes and workplans for Conservation Zones are agreed through multi-stakeholder consultations and final workshop by middle of Y2.</p> <p>3.2 Demarcated conservation zones are included in regional land-use plans and officially endorsed by the community groups and regional government by end of Year 2.</p> <p>3.3. Community-based habitat restoration (supported by WWT) completed over 500 hectares by Y3, with community monitoring programme in place in conservation zones by middle of Y2</p> <p>3.4 At least 75% of local community are aware of the rules and regulations of the conservation zones by end of Year 3.</p>	<p>3.1 Workshop reports and signed agreements with the community groups.</p> <p>3.2 Signed maps and associated paperwork.</p> <p>3.3 Photos and maps of restored areas featuring in project reports. Species specific catch data documented during the monitoring.</p> <p>3.4 Attitudes and awareness survey at end of Year 3.</p>	<p>Impacts from upstream can be adequately addressed at a local scale.</p> <p>The communities remain motivated to monitor the wetlands.</p> <p>Extreme climatic events impacts on wetlands can be adequately quantified.</p>
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Output 4: Policy and recommendations published for upscaling CAP and conservation measures to other villages with Upper Chindwin Basin KBAs	4.1 At least 20 policy makers considering gender equity have completed a project training course to mainstream CAP and biodiversity conservation into development plans by Year 2.	4.1 Training materials, capacity assessment report and list of participants disaggregated by gender.	Regional and national government representatives, and various government agencies continue to be supportive and are receptive to policy recommendations.
	4.2 Report published on recommendations from policy makers to incorporate CAP and wetland conservation zones into township, district and provincial levels by the end of Year 2.	4.2 Report on policy recommendations from the relevant agencies and copies of Township/District Plans	Policy makers and practitioners are sufficiently interested and engaged to take part in the planned training course.
	4.3 At least two policy briefs prepared to consult with Chindwin River Basin Organization at regional level for upscaling by the end of Year 3.	4.3 Policy briefs developed and shared with RBO and wider stakeholders.	
	4.4 Impact story of the implemented CAP land and water conservation measures on policy by the end of Year 3.	4.4 Impact story published on SEI website and local media.	
	4.5 A series of communication and outreach materials created to increase public awareness on biodiversity conservation in Years 1-3.	4.5 Project factsheets, photo stories and blogs in Myanmar and English.	

Output 5: No Response	No Response	No Response
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Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1

- 1.1 Desk study to collect relevant information in the project area from previous and existing works
- 1.2 Conduct GIS mapping to identify habitats, wetlands and potential nine target villages and key threats
- 1.3 Organize implementation meeting to introduce the project, conduct stakeholder mapping including women and youth groups and pre-survey
- 1.4 Develop assessment and monitoring framework and survey questionnaire for the baseline survey based on RAWES Toolkit
- 1.5 Agree ToR for Biodiversity Assessment
- 1.6 Conduct baseline survey at selected nine villages and monitoring programme at start and end of the project
- 1.7 Conduct Biodiversity Assessment
- 1.8 Analyze survey data and prepare the baseline report including detailed GIS maps
- 1.9 Expert working group workshop to agree optimal ecological habitat requirements and strategies and ideal locations of habitat restoration

Output 2

- 2.1 Formulate village groups from selected nine villages for developing CAP based on stakeholder mapping (Act.1.3)
- 2.2 Co-develop CAP with the village groups based on baseline assessment (Act.1.6) through focus group consultations
- 2.3 Prepare draft CAP and discuss in the multi-stakeholder consultation in Year 1 to receive recommendations and select three pilot villages for implementation
- 2.4 Finalize CAP and get agreement with relevant implementors
- 2.5 Conduct training for the farmers in the selected three pilot villages on integrated land-water management practices.
- 2.6 Implement CAP of the three pilot villages and monitor the implementation progress
- 2.7 Present the implementation progress in the multi-stakeholder consultations in Years 2 and 3 to share the lessons and receive feedback
- 2.8 Evaluate the performance of the CAP implementation
- 2.9 Conduct training for community associations to manage CAP

Output 3

- 3.1 Multi-stakeholder workshop reviews expert working group recommendations and provides feedback
- 3.2 Co-development of habitat restoration strategies/plan and wetland protection zones with expert group, village groups and local government
- 3.3 Prepare draft habitat restoration strategies/plan and wetland protection zones and seek approval from all relevant stakeholders
- 3.4 Finalize habitat restoration strategies/plan and wetland protection zones and demarcate zones
- 3.5 Implement prioritized habitat restoration in the selected areas and monitor the implementation progress
- 3.6 Community engagement strategy developed and implemented
- 3.7 Present the implementation progress in the multi-stakeholder consultations in Years 2 and 3 to share the lessons and receive feedback
- 3.8 Evaluate the performance of the habitat restoration implementation

Output 4

- 4.1 Conduct policy/plans review on environment conservation and livelihood development at township and district levels to identify plans to be influenced by this project
- 4.2 Conduct a certificated training course for makers to mainstream CAP and biodiversity conservation into development plans
- 4.3 Organize policy dialogues to identify ways to integrate CAP and identified biodiversity conservation measures into township, district and provincial levels
- 4.4 Prepare policy briefs and impact story at the end of the project
- 4.5 Present policy briefs and impact story in the multi-stakeholder consultation workshops in Years 2 and 3
- 4.5 Prepare factsheet, photo story, shot film or blogs for publishing in local and international media for public awareness.





Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

Q31. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

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 fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

 [Darwin R26 - Stage 2 - Implementation Time table Final](#)
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Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q32. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).

M&E is integrated into the project components to ensure reliability in our approach and sustainability of intended outputs. Monthly fiscal reports will become an integral part of monitoring overseen by SEI Asia finance manager. SEI will develop bi-annual and annual reports to assess project performance with the partners in addition to convening quarterly project meetings. This will enable us to identify any potential challenges and map any anticipated impacts to plan for contingency measures to ensure smooth project progress.

Our office has a dedicated M&E node to ensure proper monitoring tools are used to capture appropriate information in a format suitable for analysis and reporting. Our M&E plan for this project includes:
Livelihood and socio-economic surveys: We will adopt repeated stratified multistage cluster sampling of villages and population to gather data on livelihood and socio-economic conditions of the farmers before and after the project targeted interventions (indicator – rice fish system). This will capture sharp differences in characteristics among the sub-populations and special groups. The survey will be conducted in mutually similar paired villages with and without interventions selected based on the baseline assessment to measure the project impacts on livelihood improvements among the communities. Key datasets on yields, farm input cost, time investment, weather and market risks will be a part of this survey. Bi-annual community forums will be organized to receive feedback and provide an opportunity to voice their opinions on the project activities.

Biodiversity and habitat assessments – Repeated sampling of endangered species and fish varieties will be monitored at specific locations selected based on the community and multi-stakeholder consultations. A streamlined monitoring mechanism will be established to record the observations which will be disaggregated across multiple-time scales to understand the diversity dynamics within the KBA and impacts of implemented conservation measures on the targeted species. Land and water indicators representing its characteristics (quality and quantity) will be monitored at fixed time intervals to capture improvements in ecosystem health from reduced fertilizer and pesticide inputs. Farm-specific data on fertilizer and pesticide will be collected as a part of socio-economic surveys.

GIS and remote sensing assessment – value added GIS and remote sensing datasets from secondary sources as well as raw satellite images from Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 will be used to map yearly land use as well as encroachment of forest areas adjacent to the project pilot villages. Further, this will be used to identify ideal locations for piloting the rice-fish system. These datasets combined with high-resolution Google Earth images will be further used for demarcation of wetland conservation zones.

Reports targeted to assess the capacity building activities, community action group discussions, and workshop/meetings will include sex-disaggregated attendee lists, photographs or agreed minutes of meetings.

The M&E tools will be designed by the SEI senior staff in consultation with project partners. SEI field co-ordinator and WWT Research officer, both based in the project site will undertake regular biodiversity and habitat assessments for M&E reporting.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	210
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	7

Section 15 - FCO Notifications

Q33. FCO Notifications


Please state whether 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.


No


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

Yes, written advice

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

 [Embassy support](#)

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Section 16 - Certification

Q34. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

I apply for a grant of

£369,912.00

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 have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Mr. Niall O' Connor
Position in the organisation	Centre Director, SEI Asia
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 NOC sign  05/12/2019  04:08:47  png 30.29 KB
Date	05 December 2019

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the key project personnel identified at Question 10, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 9, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked

I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates. Checked

I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK. Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and 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 General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).