

## **DIR27S2\1054**

### **Safeguarding globally important forests by improving livelihoods and strengthening governance**

The second-largest forest block in the county's northern region is home to Vietnam's last population of Critically Endangered western black gibbon, alongside other threatened species. Land conversion, deforestation, hunting and snaring, are driven by inadequate forest governance, ineffective protection and unsustainable livelihood practices of local communities. Improving protected area management, collaboration, equity and grievance redress, whilst supporting diversification of livelihoods and innovative, sustainable protected area financing, will decrease pressures on critical forest habitat and improve community wellbeing.

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Name Josh  
Surname Kempinski  
Organisation Fauna & Flora International  
Tel (Work) + [REDACTED]  
Email (Work) [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Fauna & Flora International
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3. Project title:

Safeguarding globally important forests by improving livelihoods and strengthening governance

### What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR27S1\100123

DIR27S1\1794

### Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host 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	Vietnam	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

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Do you require more fields?

No

## Q5. Project dates

**Start date:**

01 July 2021

**End date:**

30 June 2024

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

3 years

## Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
<b>Amount:</b>	£84,773.00	£106,227.00	£108,681.00	£28,102.00	<b>£</b> 327,783.00

**Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?**

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

Total matched funding confirmed: £ [REDACTED]

Fota Wildlife Park: £ [REDACTED]

Corporate Vietnamese donors: £ [REDACTED]

Additional matched funding is unconfirmed, but considered reasonably likely, for project years 2023-2025. Both Fota Wildlife Park and our in-country corporate / philanthropic donors have made long-term commitments to this gibbon species (and sites), and so additional support is expected.

**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).** [REDACTED]

## 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](https://www.gov.uk).

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The second-largest forest block in the county's northern region is home to Vietnam's last population of Critically Endangered western black gibbon, alongside other threatened species. Land conversion, deforestation, hunting and snaring, are driven by inadequate forest governance, ineffective protection and unsustainable livelihood practices of local communities. Improving protected area management, collaboration, equity and grievance redress, whilst supporting diversification of livelihoods and innovative, sustainable protected area financing, will decrease pressures on critical forest habitat and improve community wellbeing.

## Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

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### Q8. Objectives for the Darwin Initiative

**Please indicate which of the fund objectives (listed on p.8 of the guidance) you will be addressing.**

- To promote the responsible stewardship of natural assets
- Contributing towards reversing the increase in threats of extinction to the world's flora and fauna

### Q9. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

**Q9a. Your project must support the commitments 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.**

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

### Q9b. Biodiversity Conventions

**Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here.**

The project will directly support Vietnam's commitments to the CBD, through the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use within the northern forests. It will support CBD Strategic Goals A, B, C and D by reducing direct pressure on biodiversity caused by hunting, logging and agricultural conversion, improving protected area management, and developing improved, conservation-compatible local livelihoods.

The project will incentivise and support a range of national actors – NGO, community groups and government agencies – to not only design and implement the project, but also to improve their knowledge and perceptions of forests and wildlife. These changes are considered vital if local people and decision makers are to become aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps that will be taken, together, to conserve and use it sustainably (Aichi Target 1).

The project will work to significantly improve the function and performance of two contiguous Protected Areas (PAs), MCCSHCA and MLNR, ensuring equity and effective protection of critical habitat and wildlife therein (Aichi Target 11). Activities will include strengthening the capacity of PA managers, building effective PA monitoring of illegal activity and key species (biomonitoring) – using SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool), smartphone-based data collection, and situational crime prevention interventions – and also working with agencies beyond the boundary of the PAs, and related actions regarding collaborative PA management, community empowerment, improved livelihoods and associated forest restoration and

strengthening forest integrity.

Specifically, these sites will be supported to robustly pursue the conservation and monitoring of the critically endangered and regionally endemic western black crested gibbon (*Nomascus concolor*) (CR), a second endangered primate, the Phayre's langur / Indochinese grey langur (*Trachypithecus crepusculus*) (EN) (3)(4), at least one endemic, highly range-restricted bird, the white-throated wren-babbler (*Rimator pasquieri*) (EN), the rare Rufous-necked Hornbill (*Aceros nipalensis*) (VU), highly threatened trees, including *Fokienia hodginsii* (VU), and numerous other threatened species (Aichi 12). The project will address the fragmentation of a vital forest ecosystem, which provides essential services to wildlife and humans (Aichi 5); at all times the needs of women and vulnerable groups will be guiding principles (Aichi 14).

The project will promote sustainable use of forests and other natural resources outside the PAs, through improved agroforestry/agricultural market access, higher yields and crop diversity (Aichi 7). These interventions will take into account the specific needs of women and other vulnerable groups to ensure all can benefit, equally, from opportunities development, and be safeguarded from any risks that may arise from the participation in, or results of, the project (see also Q12d).

The project will also reduce exploitation pressure on the forest (timber and understory vegetation), by addressing the root causes of illegal logging, cardamom cultivation and over-collection of forest products, significantly reducing degradation, facilitating natural regeneration (along with assisted restoration) (Aichi 5). This will in turn support improved ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation (Aichi 15), and also Vietnam's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **Q9c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / CMS / Ramsar / UNFCCC focal point in the host country?**

No

#### **If no, please explain why.**

In-country focal point relationships are managed from FFI's UK head office. FFI, and the project, are aware of Vietnam's commitments and international targets under these frameworks and uses these to guide project design and implementation. FFI doesn't maintain regular national-level dialogue with in-country focal points, unless there is specific need.

FFI has been directly working with the Vietnam CCC focal point for several years, however this relates to a REDD+ project and isn't relevant here.

There has also been discussion with the Vietnam CITES focal point in recent months, but on general, high-level issues related to combating illegal wildlife trade.

### **Q9d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)**

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

The project will make a significant contribution to Vietnam's efforts towards the SDGs, especially targets under SDG 15, Life on Land. This will be achieved through working to protect and reduce degradation of the forest, and implementing sustainable forest management.

Farmers will be supported to diversify their crops and increase productivity. Livelihood and agriculture experts will work with local farmers to develop appropriate, sustainable strategies, providing families with more diversified, climate-resilient livelihoods and related sources of higher income (SDGs 1-2).

Diversification and strengthening of livelihoods will include facilitation to explore market access and remove 'barriers'; finding new markets and/or higher-value products and buyers, and discovering livelihood options beyond (but compatible with) farming.

Equitable participation at every stage of project delivery will ensure women and vulnerable groups are involved and interventions are in line with their needs (such as location, time for meetings and training) to

ensure all can fully participate and access the knowledge being shared (SDG 5). Improving land use, recognition of customary rights and laws, and maintaining functionality of watershed forests, already designated in the area, will help secure livelihoods and the flow and quality of water (SDGs 5A-6, Aichi Target 14).

The project will also adhere to a strict principle of No Harm, complying with World Bank/IFC standards and UN Declarations on Human Rights and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, through the development of local safeguards, a safeguard monitoring and grievance redress mechanism (GRM), and applications of Social Impact Assessment and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

## Section 5 - Lead Organisation Summary

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### Q10. 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)?**

Yes

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





Reference No	Project Leader	Title
27-010	Angelica Valdivia	Community-led stewardship and conservation of the Ometepe Island Biosphere Reserve
27-017	Kiran Mohanan	Community-led approaches to reforestation benefitting chimpanzees and livelihoods in Uganda
IWT081	Nay Myo Shwe	Enabling and promoting communities to tackle IWT in Southern Myanmar
IWT082	Fleur Scheele	Combating poaching and trafficking of Critically Endangered sturgeon
26-020	Jarkyn Samanchina	Securing wild tulips and pastoral communities in the Kyrgyz mountains
IWT072	Alison Gunn	Reducing demand for marine turtle products in Nicaragua

**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.**

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 [FFI Annual Report and Accounts 2018 compressed](#)  
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 [FFI Annual-Report-and-Accounts 2019 compressed](#)  
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## Section 6 - Project Partners

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### Q11. 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:** Fauna & Flora International

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**Website address:** [www.fauna-flora.org](http://www.fauna-flora.org)

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

FFI is the longest-running international conservation NGO, established in 1903 and operational in 45 countries. FFI has been working in Vietnam on primate conservation, and associated community development, for 22 years.

FFI currently works to conserve eight primate species in Vietnam, focusing on five which are both endemic and critically endangered (CR), including the western black gibbon. FFI-Vietnam has established six PAs, three participatory Advisory Committees for PAs, and seven Community Conservation SMART/Teams (CCTs).

FFI-Vietnam has managed similar large grants (e.g. CEPF and EU) and has operational partnerships with three local NGOs. Beyond these collaborations, FFI has a wealth of experience working with multiple stakeholders at all levels, including government agencies, on similarly complex, landscape-level projects which integrate land use, PAs and poverty reduction.

FFI led the development of this proposal with full participation of The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) and government partners. Within the project, FFI will lead the overall management, quality control and delivery. FFI will also lead on work planning, monitoring and evaluation, technical landscape strategy, and PA planning, management, enforcement and monitoring.

FFI experts, locally and UK-based, will cooperate with SRD on design and implementation of socio-agri-livelihood interventions and ensuring safeguards.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:**

The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)

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**Website address:**

<http://www.srd.org.vn/>

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

SRD, established in 2006, is a Vietnamese NGO aspiring to support sustainable development whilst alleviating inequality and poverty. SRD work with government and partners at all levels to provide for the most vulnerable in Vietnam; the poor, women and ethnic groups. SRD have a wealth of experience in addressing the over-reliance on pesticides, chemical fertilizers, hybrid varieties and GMOs, loss in biodiversity and the significant challenges of the effects of climate change.

SRD will play a significant role in reducing poverty, underpinning biodiversity conservation and addressing climate change issues through improved resilience and ensuring social justice. The project will focus on sustainable agriculture with the aim of supporting poverty alleviation and empowering local communities to sustainably manage their livelihoods and forests for the long term.

Empowering poor, ethnic minorities in forest governance and agro-biodiversity management will improve income and food security in the mountainous areas around Mu Cang Chai-Muong La, and support climate resilience. Some key roles will include: Participatory Market Systems Development; Development of Farmer Field School training activities for farmers to cultivate Climate Smart Rice (CSR) and/or other varieties of higher value and more resilient crops, and explore ecotourism and other enterprise options.

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

Yes

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**2. Partner Name:**

Muong La Nature Reserve and Mu Cang Chai Species and Habitat Conservation Area Management Boards, (who are under their respective Department(s) of Agriculture and Rural Development / Forest Protection Departments, of Son La and Yen Bai Provinces)

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**Website address:**

<http://kiemlamyenbai.gov.vn/> [http://www.kiemlam.org.vn/Desktop.aspx/List/Danh-ba-dien-thoai/Kiem\\_lam\\_Son\\_La/](http://www.kiemlam.org.vn/Desktop.aspx/List/Danh-ba-dien-thoai/Kiem_lam_Son_La/)  
<https://www.facebook.com/sonlafpd>

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

At sub-national level, the primary decision makers are the Provincial People's Committees (PPC) equivalent to a provincial cabinet. The project occurs in two contiguous provinces (Yen Bai & Son La). The respective PPCs are responsible for approving the project and key components/deliverables, e.g. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) agreements, and have direct management over the provincial departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), who oversee forests/PAs. FFI have good working relationships with the PPCs, line ministries and associated departments. Yen Bai & Son La DARDs are responsible for forest protection and forest management at provincial level, including the development of forestry plans, forest allocation and oversight of 'Special Use' forests, i.e. PAs, and PA management boards. Under DARD, the responsibility for law enforcement sits with the Forest Protection Department (FPD), who provide the staff for provincial PAs and their Management Boards, and are responsible for forest rangers. FPD / PA Management Boards will play a central role in the project, as recipients of capacity building, but also as facilitators and decision makers relating to improving PA management and associated competencies, developing co-management approaches, approving land-use plans, allocating PES funds, and community development. They will guide all aspects of the project.

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

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**3. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** *No Response*

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes  No

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**4. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** *No Response*

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes  No

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5. Partner Name: *No Response*

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Website address: *No Response*

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Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

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Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?  Yes  No

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6. Partner Name: *No Response*

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Website address: *No Response*

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Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

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Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?  Yes  No


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


*No Response*

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

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 [Darwin Vietnam 2021 FFI Cover Letter R27 S2 1794](#)


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 [Darwin Vietnam 2021 Letters of Support R27 S2 1794](#)

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## Section 7 - Project Staff

### Q12. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance.

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?
Josh Kempinski	Project Leader	10	Checked
Lam Hoang	Programme Manager	10	Checked
Tran Quang Dieu	Project Manager	100	Checked
Oliver Wearn	Technical Advisor - Biodiversity	10	Checked


Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Duong Van Khai	Community Outreach & Livelihood Advisor	6	Checked
Helen Schneider	FPIC and Gender Expert	2	Checked
Le Thi Yen Anh and Nguyen Kim Ngan	Finance and Admin Managers	28	Checked
Nguyen Ha Anh	M&E Officer	7	Checked
Kiran Mohanan	Supply Chain/Market Systems Expert	2	Checked
Vu Bich Hop	Executive Director / SRD Lead	10	Checked
Hoang Thi Sen	Sustainable Agri Expert / Project Manager	15	Checked
Bui Quoc Quan	Project Officer	20	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.**

 Darwin Vietnam 2021 CVs R27 S2 1794

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**Have you attached all project staff CVs?**

Yes

## Section 8 - Problem statement

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### Q13. 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?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the next page).**

With very high rates of biodiversity and endemism, notably in herpetofauna, avifauna, trees/flora and primates, two contiguous protected areas, Mu Cang Chai Species & Habitat Conservation Area (MCC) and Muong La Nature Reserve (MLNR), are among the most intact in terms of the forest ecosystems and the assemblage of terrestrial wildlife, which elsewhere in Vietnam is being extirpated by hunting and snaring. Local populations primarily consist of poor and marginal ethnic minority (EM) Thai and H'Mong groups. Terraced rice fields, livestock and natural resources are key livelihoods, but also drive threats to biodiversity. Snaring persists in local forests, including these PAs, and there is a growing threat from cardamom cultivation. Grown under canopy in natural forests, cardamom drives the clearing of forest understory (severely impacted upon forest regeneration) and also thinning of the canopy; a form of forest degradation that is a direct threat to primate habitat. Illegal logging includes extraction of valuable *Fokienia hodginsii* (VU) and forest clearance for crops and timber removal.

FFI has direct evidence of these threats from the SMART data / monthly SMART reports generated by community-based forest patrols that FFI currently supports at both sites. The local patrol groups also undertake gibbon monitoring and support the gibbon population census surveys completed every 3-5 years. However, stronger governance from PA managers, better local capacity for enforcement and sustainable sources of patrol and PA operational funding are needed to facilitate the recovery of the gibbon (population) and its habitat. To this end, the project will pay particular attention to securing (diverting) existing and substantial PES funds, generated by local hydropower dams, to co-fund the salary of these community-based patrol teams.

The regionally endemic and once widely-distributed western black crested gibbon (*Nomascus concolor*) is now classed as CR and only extant in discontinuous tracts of forest around the Sino-Vietnam border mountains. The two greatest threats to its survival in Vietnam are aforementioned habitat loss and hunting. In MCC, persistent local hunting pressure is suspected to be the primary threat. In MLNR, gibbon populations experienced a decline between 2007-2010 due to habitat loss (presumably caused by logging, cardamom conversion and dam construction). Primate bones remain in demand in regional markets driving opportunistic hunting of gibbons and langurs.

Inadequate PA governance and insufficient law enforcement means forest crime remains incentivised, leaving all species vulnerable to poaching. The root causes of hunting and other biodiversity threats are both cultural and poverty-related (and facilitated by government inaction). To this end livelihood support

will help to address the issue, coupled with awareness raising and better protection to bring about behaviour change. Where specific individuals in the community are involved in hunting, we will target those community members specifically for livelihood support.

The project will address these root causes of hunting, deforestation and degradation by facilitating local resource and land-use planning around the PAs, supporting minority Thai and H'Mong men and women in developing sustainable livelihoods strategies, clarifying customary rights, and providing livelihoods diversification opportunities through Participatory Market Systems Development (PMSD) approaches.

## **Section 9 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy**

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### **Q14. 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.).

FFI has worked in Vietnam since 1997, and the MCC-MLNR PAs for 20 years. We draw upon this extensive experience in designing this project. Achievements include designation of both PAs, stabilising key wildlife populations and establishing community-based conservation and co-management. The approach will combine incentives and disincentives for local stakeholders while safeguarding human wellbeing and addressing poverty. Community members and PA managers will co-design interventions. Guiding principles are partnership, self-realisation, and net-positive social and biodiversity impact.

The rationale for this approach is recognition of the complex role local people play in conservation as dependents, forest-guardians and threats. Appropriate interventions will encourage sustainable behaviours, whilst safeguarding and improving wellbeing, and ensuring local people retain legal access to the forest resources they need.

The theory of change is that if the two PAs demonstrate improved and sustainable protection of forest habitats and associated species, through enhanced governance, sustainable finance, and improved local wellbeing, then these globally-important forests will flourish under sustainable, collaborative protection and use, supporting thriving populations of gibbons and other threatened and/or endemic species.

Community-based Conservation Teams (CCT): We will scale-up and improve the sustainability and impact of c.25 CCT members, to maintain forest protection and gibbon monitoring, slowly phasing out financial and technical support for full handover towards project end. CCT will be trained to support rangers with SMART patrols, species and threat monitoring, snare removal and awareness raising.

Crime prevention: We will co-develop two PA Situational Crime Prevention strategies and provide training for c.10 rangers in MLNR in patrol planning and techniques (including SMART), forest law and enforcement. SMART will underpin adaptive PA management through identification of crime hotspots and trends.

Research and bio-monitoring: Targeted research into gibbon ecology will drive design of conservation interventions alongside ongoing monitoring and evaluation, coupled with development of an updated Species Action Plan. Rangers and CCT patrollers will collaboratively monitor gibbons and indicator species, to inform conservation strategies, adapt PA interventions, and measure impact.

Effective PA management: We will develop the enabling environment and capacity of PA management boards, based on ARCBC/IUCN competency standards for PAs. Interventions include improved transparency and accountability through implementation of PA M&E and management plans, providing technical advice and awareness raising, operationalising management effectiveness tracking (METT) and SMART, providing training based on training needs assessments, and supporting the government technically, and through

advocacy, with upgrading MCC to a Nature Reserve.

Collaborative Management Advisory Committees: To bolster PA governance and equity we will strengthen and facilitate MACs, with local community members, collaboratively developing shared, inclusive visions, and redefining PA roles, rights and decision making. This will strengthen customary law, its implementation, and further improve participation and justice, ensuring more effective PA management.

Safeguards: PA interventions will be designed in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner, with fully-inclusive consultations and co-creation, following an UNDRIP-FPIC process. Social safeguards and grievance redress will be created and monitored to mitigate harm and measure impact, based on impact assessments and FPIC results, designed around international best practice.

Land-use mapping and planning: We will undertake village-level resource use and asset mapping around the PAs, and support participatory planning, inclusive of traditional knowledge, to better determine the lands and resources legally available to local communities, in order to develop, with local stakeholders, strategies to manage these sustainably whilst maximising wellbeing benefits.

Sustainable livelihoods: Building on twenty years of consultations with ethnic minority men and women, we will identify and remove barriers to sustainable livelihoods by improving supply chains and market access, and selecting interventions for piloting. A PMSD approach will be applied, based on market system-based assessments. Livelihood and agriculture specialists will work with local farmers to develop appropriate, sustainable strategies. Capacity will be built through training and provision of equipment, with technical support to diversify crops and replicate existing sustainable and climate-resilient farming models.

Ecotourism possibilities will be explored and a business plan developed. Subsequent knowledge sharing will support scaling up and replication. This approach will both strengthen communities' resilience and reduce drivers of forest degradation and hunting.

Sustainable financing: We will develop a 'proof of concept' model for villages around the PAs in allocating a percentage of PES for CCT, based on patrol costs. Intensive advocacy will secure formal government approval to legalise the mechanism and enable scaling up.

FFI will have a full-time project manager, plus several cross-cutting staff providing technical leadership, oversight and quality control, with SRD co-leading agri-livelihood implementation. Annual workplans and milestones will be developed each year, including monthly sub-plans and performance indicators for all staff, and monthly progress/activity reports.

## **Q15. 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?**

Local communities are key stakeholders; some exploit and benefit from gibbon habitat, yet their support is pivotal to long-term conservation success. The gibbon is a highly localised, charismatic species and offers the opportunity to build a sense of local ownership and pride that supports conservation. A positive attitude towards gibbons and conservation, supported by sustainable livelihoods, is needed, as the long-term conservation and recovery of wildlife depends upon the engagement and support of local communities to protect the ape and its habitat.

The project intends to measurably improve awareness and support by building understanding of gibbons and their hyper-biodiverse forest home. The objective is to reconnect people with the gibbon as part of their unique culture and identity, and as a means to improve livelihoods through forest protection, product-branding or certification (e.g. 'gibbon rice') and eco-tourism.

While species awareness has improved since the PAs were designated, more work is needed. A majority of local people remain unaware of the extreme rarity and uniqueness of the gibbon they hear in the forest, or

are unaware of its existence. Local people need to see themselves as guardians of something special, which in turn supports them.

The gibbon could become a 'mascot' for the districts and its local, largely ethnic minority populations; a local brand, which could in turn be useful for marketing local produce and tourism. Indeed, this beautiful region is already very, and increasingly, popular with tourists (there is now an eco-lodge in MCC). Tour companies and hotels will be approached.

Awareness raising must also extend beyond communities, to include crucial decision makers. While PA/FPD are knowledgeable counterparts, at high levels, like the People's Committees, understating and support for PA management and gibbon/wildlife conservation is low. Workshops, billboards and other media will be used to improve awareness and political will.

## Q16. 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 provincial government funds PA Management Boards and rangers in MLNR, but depends on FFI to provide Community Conservation Teams (CCT) in MCC SHCA and MLNR, to support the insufficient ranger force with additional patrols. This project will improve CCT, ranger and PA management capacity, alongside diversifying livelihoods.

Two CCTs will be maintained with increased capacity. CCT members will be divided into two specialist teams – one to patrol for illegal activities, including snare removal, and one focused on regular gibbon monitoring. For the gibbon-monitoring CCT, additional training will be provided, including ecology, listening posts and transects.

Monitoring is expected to cover c.15,000-20,000ha of core gibbon habitat. Data on individual gibbon groups, threats and hotspots will be shared with FPD and PA managers, and used (with FFI's support) to implement adaptive PA management. The data will also underpin targeted approaches to the design and implementation of conservation interventions.

SMART will be the basis for all data collection. Both CCTs will be trained to record all observations via SMART using mobile phones running CyberTracker software. CCT will assist enforcement and conservation planning by reporting all records of wildlife, gibbons and illegal activities to managers.

CCT members are from local, ethnic minorities with low rates of literacy; regular refresher training is needed. Training will also benefit all NR rangers and PA technical departments, who are also tasked with SMART data entry and analysis. The government is responsible for data management, however capacity is low, and moreover, SMART software is regularly upgraded. Additional training on broader PA management and skills will also be offered.

Gaps, needs, barriers, and opportunities for livelihoods diversification, including agriculture, will be explored collaboratively, based on local knowledge and customary laws and practices, supported by training on PMSD, crop diversification, yield maximisation, supply chains, marketing and market access.

## Q17. 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.**

FFI recognises that women and men interact with biodiversity and natural resources in different ways and thus have different skills, knowledge and perspectives. These differences influence how they affect – and are affected by – biodiversity loss, natural habitat degradation, and access to natural resources.

FFI believes it is important that women are not further disadvantaged by conservation initiatives, and recognises the growing body of evidence that gender equality leads to more effective and sustainable



conservation. We will therefore endeavour to ensure that women have equal access to project resources and information, equal participation, equal opportunities to benefit from project activities, and that our work supports systems that promote gender equality.

This project considers gender at all stages, including assessment, planning and design, implementation. Context analysis, monitoring and evaluation will include collection of sex-disaggregated data. This will enable us to target interventions such as technical support for land-use planning, agricultural improvement and micro-finance, to the relevant women and men according to their different roles and interest in these activities. Monitoring of gender-differentiated impacts will enable us to make adjustments where necessary to guarantee gender equity and reduce inequality. Interventions will improve female inclusion in decision-making, will be promoted alongside training on their self-identified needs.

We will seek to address the barriers to female participation both in project activities and in decision-making by ensuring the timing, location and format of activities are tailored to their needs. Specifically, we will organise women-only meetings where necessary, with facilitators who speak the relevant local languages. We will build the capacity of female stakeholders to voice their opinions and work with men to enable women's voices to be heard, their concerns addressed, and their skills and knowledge utilised.

The project recognises and endeavours to take into account intersectionality, e.g. the dual-marginalisation of poor, indigenous women.

## Q18. 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.**

To contribute to the long-term impact of High Conservation Value forest and gibbon conservation, and improved human wellbeing, this project will achieve four key changes:

- (1) To expand and improve community-based conservation, crime prevention and PA monitoring frameworks;
- (2) To deliver effective, sustainable and collaborative PA governance through improved capacity, planning and inclusion;
- (3) To increase resilience of, and reduce negative impact from, forest-using communities via sustainable livelihood model(s) for key villages nearest the PAs, creating participation-based incentives for forest protection;
- (4) To secure sustainable finance from PES for CCT and PA operational costs.

These four goals are underpinned by several, essential on-the-ground changes. By project end, approximately 35,830ha of core forest habitat of N. concolor will remain stable and measurably well protected, with MCC SHCA achieving Nature Reserve status. Improved governance and observable increases in PA managers, technical staff and ranger capacity, will ensure more meaningful participation, and effective management of the two PAs. Capacity will have been increased through Training Needs Assessments (TNA) against internationally recognised competencies, ongoing technical advice, the introduction of management effectiveness tracking (METT) and improvements to SMART patrolling. Incidents of gibbon hunting and terrestrial snaring in the PAs will have reduced by 10-15% against baselines.

Two PA Management Plans ("Sustainable Forest Management Plans") and a Species Action Plan for N. cConcolor will be in place, being used by Provincial People's Committees (PPC), ministerial departments and local authorities to support integrated decision making and conservation.

Two CCTs, with a minimum of 20 local patrollers, will be receiving benefits of performance-based salaries, initially from project funds but by project end, by at least 10% funded by PES, (with performance measured via SMART/GPS and primate occupancy data).

Marginalised, ethnic minority communities will have increased capacity, via MAC facilitation and support for customary legal systems, to strengthen natural resource management (NRM) and engagement in PA management. A measurable increase in local engagement and support for conservation of PAs, forests and wildlife, (including endemic species), will be observed, via Knowledge-Attitude-Behaviour (KAB) surveys. A measurable 10% improvement in local wellbeing, of at least 200 local men and 200 women across 50-60 households in 17 village communities, living closest to the PAs, will be achieved through improved tenure, security, evidence of improved market access, and shifts to more diverse, climate-resilient and productive crops, with particular attention paid to safeguards, gender-specific roles, and vulnerable groups, to ensure equitable distributions of the risks, costs and benefits.

These short-term changes will contribute to the following longer term social and biodiversity impacts over the next 10-15 years: An increase in population of the target primate species by at least 10%; a natural increase in the forest cover inside the PAs of at least 5%, with forest connectivity maintained or increased within/between the PAs; a significant contribution from sustainable finance (including PES) for PA and community-based conservation, and mainstreamed into departmental and PA planning; and a reduction in poverty rates, of at least 15%, for ethnic minority women and men living adjacent to the two PAs.

## Q19. 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.**

Two Protected Areas in Vietnam provide vital, safe habitat for the western black gibbon and other threatened or endemic species. Current threats are forest degradation and fragmentation, driven by unsustainable livelihoods activities, practiced by impoverished local communities, and limited PA management capacity that acts to enable these illegal actions (poaching, snaring and logging).

If we invest in the quality and sustainability of community-based patrols and crime prevention (Output 1), through sustainably financed (Output 4), and collaboratively improved PA governance (Output 2), and enable local people to be meaningfully engaged in governance (Output 2), investing in more sustainable and diversified local livelihoods (Output 3), then we will reduce pressures on the forest while increasing local wellbeing rates (Output 3), and deter crime, provide data for improved PA management, and unlock under-utilised knowledge and skills that can improve PA effectiveness.

Together these actions help protect gibbons and their habitat, by reducing threats from illegal activities. This will be achieved through improved PA management and protection, and by reducing local need for natural resources (from the PAs), through diversified, sustainable livelihoods opportunities, leading to the intended long-term impact on these globally important forests in northern Vietnam; flourishing under collaborative protection and sustainable use.

## Q20. Exit Strategy

**State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual".**

**Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?**

By project end, local people living around the PAs will be measurably transitioning to sustainable, resilient land-use practices, with the skills to access wider markets and add value to their products. Together with

more secure land tenure, this will ensure that they continue to secure long-term benefits from this project. Local land-use and livelihood diversification plans will also provide a strong framework for improved governance, along with the MACs, both within and outside the PAs, enabling communities to voice their ideas and needs with decision makers, and providing a platform for stakeholders to take an integrated approach to PA management. The project will deliver the core skills and framework for multiple stakeholders to live and work together in the landscape, such that both local wellbeing and biodiversity conservation targets are realised.

This project will strengthen the conservation impact of the PAs by increasing capacity of the management boards and government rangers, supported by effective CCTs, with accompanying training programmes and established monitoring protocols. Moreover, the project will ensure that CCTs are sustainably funded through PES payments, and that community members have more diverse, sustainable livelihoods, including improved market access, high-yielding and more resilient crops, and the potential for non-agricultural income.

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

*No Response*

## Section 10 - Budget and Funding

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### Q21. 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.**

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 [DIR27S21054 Budget](#)

 09/02/2021

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 xlsx 69.57 KB

### Q22. Funding

**Q22a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?**

Development of existing work

**Please provide details:**

This project is designed to extend, improve and scale up existing work in MCC-MLNR. FFI's long-term engagement in the Hoang Lien, especially these globally important PAs, has resulted in very significant gains, both for local people and wildlife. However, transformative change is needed in terms of local capacities, perceptions and behaviours, and the enabling conditions in which they live and operate.

The project will harmonise with previous, and ongoing, interventions like the CCT SMART patrolling/monitoring, but will greatly improve the effectiveness and value of both. Building on this, FFI will operationalise rigorous, locally-led, gibbon monitoring.

The project will expand existing PES finance for forest protection, currently in place for one CCT sub-group (Che Tao, MCC), securing high-level legal/policy approval, and replicating to all other CCT villages, where PES funding is available.

In terms of PA management and the MACs, the project will develop a programme of targeted capacity building, based on IUCN PA role competencies, and making use of study tours and external training opportunities, whilst maintaining and improving the influence of the MACs on PA governance and decision making.

The project supports upgrading MCCSHCA to a nature reserve, as per the process successfully followed in MLNR (upgraded in 2017).

**Q22b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?**

No

**Q23. Co-financing**

**Are you proposing co-financing?**

Yes

**Q23a. 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
Fota Wildlife Park	██████	GBP	Primarily support to co-fund the Community Conservations Teams (CCT), salary and operating costs
Corporate donors	██████	GBP	Primarily support to co-fund project staff time, plus CCT and some livelihood activities/piloting costs

No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response

### Q23b. Unsecured

**Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing 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
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

**Do you require more fields?**

No

## Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

### Q24. 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.**

Credibility of research and any other findings will be ensured by publication in peer-reviewed, open access scientific journals, such as Oryx.

All project outputs will be produced in both Vietnamese and English, in support of open access and broad dissemination of learning, and made available online (as appropriate). Reports resulting from biomonitoring and SMART/law enforcement patrols, and socio-economic surveys, will be shared with project partners/counterparts. Hard copies of all reports will also be made available to those unable to access information online.

FFI will share raw data collected through biodiversity and social surveys, and project reports, with stakeholders as relevant and appropriate, including DARD/FPD, central government and local community representatives. All data relating to the PA management, upgrading and governance, and also species data and livelihood interventions, will be made available to all technical staff within the province, and the

Vietnamese Primate Working Group, to support and facilitate future research or work beyond the scope of the project.

Outcomes, achievements and lessons learnt from the project will be shared openly throughout the project, via workshops, meetings, memos and briefings, with relevant stakeholders in Vietnam, including Ministries, local and international NGOs, where suitable, to facilitate learning and collaboration.

All media produced as a result of the project, in relation to capacity building and raising awareness, will be made available in relevant and appropriate formats to all stakeholders, and to wider relevant audiences and any interested stakeholders, to facilitate knowledge sharing, via the website(s), social media and press releases.

## Q25. Financial Risk Management

**This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.**

All aspects of this project will be governed by FFI's financial management systems, which assure complete accounting of all financial resources and use of time. Financial reports detailing actual expenditure against budget must be submitted to FFI by project staff and partners on a periodic basis and will be reviewed and signed-off according to FFI's internal financial management processes. This level of oversight will minimise the risk of financial irregularity while maximising the opportunity for irregular practices to be identified and corrected.

FFI has a zero-tolerance approach to bribery. FFI's anti-bribery policy is compliant with the Bribery Act (2010) and applies to all Members of Council, employees, volunteers, contractors, partners, and any other person associated with FFI. FFI has policies and procedures to minimise the risk of fraud and financial crime, and safeguard against currency exchange rate volatility.

At project level, FFI will maintain strict policies and procedures to minimise financial risks. All procurement requires three quotes are collected and selection justification provided. Receipts for all expenses are collected, and randomly cross-checked with vendors and bench marking with other suppliers. All project spending is signed off by at least three people, including Project Manager, Country Director and Regional Finance Manager.

## 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. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.**

Very few capital items will be purchased under this grant. Only a small number of hand and farming tools will be purchased to support the agricultural diversification and piloting of new crop varieties, etc., up to a maximum of £ [REDACTED] GBP. These tools will remain with community members and participants after project end. The project will also purchase some patrol equipment, such as smartphones and GPS units, for CCT and rangers, and also a laptop for SMART data management, all of which will stay with the two PA Management Boards or the CCT members, as appropriate.

## Q27. Value for Money

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

FFI has been developing and implementing projects in Vietnam for two decades, and has worked in the specific project area for twenty years. When developing this project, we referred back to previous projects and budgets, nationally and for these sites, to ensure lessons learned are applied to this project and its budget. The project design and budget was co-created with SRD, and reviewed both in Vietnam by the core technical and financial teams, and also in the UK by Finance, cross-cutting expertise, and Senior Management teams.

All procurement at FFI complies with our procurement policy or the donor regulations, whichever is more stringent. Procurement of any value is required to avoid conflict of interest and ensure value for money. Purchases of £ [REDACTED] upwards require quotations to be documented. All procurement requires three quotes. Decisions may be made according to quality and safety as well as cost.

The close partnership with SRD reduces the need for expensive in-country operations and travel costs, cutting overall overheads, while the use of FFI in-house expertise and existing equipment is cheaper than buying in new consultants or equipment, and ensures continuity of support. This project builds on existing information, experience, relationships and legislative frameworks (such as extensive policy work to enable PES payments to support CCTs, and the existing partnership with DARD/FPD) to enable quick start up.

Collaborative and inclusive consultative processes with key stakeholders will ensure we are utilising resources in the most effective way, and monitoring and evaluation will enable adaptive project management.

## Section 12 - Ethics and Safeguarding

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### Q28. Ethics

**Outline your approach to meeting Darwin's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?**

FFI seeks to ensure our activities do not disadvantage poor, vulnerable or marginalised, natural resource-dependent women and men, and wherever possible to conserve biodiversity in ways that enhance human wellbeing and social equity. FFI has committed to respect human rights, promote their protection and realisation within our conservation programmes, and support the governance systems that can secure those rights.

Our social safeguards system comprises positions (on FPIC/stakeholder engagement, displacement/resource access restrictions, rangers, gender), and associated planning, implementation and compliance mechanisms. We will assess the potential impacts of the project on different local stakeholders and take measures to mitigate negative – and maximise positive – impacts.

Community stakeholder engagement will follow FPIC principles including comprehensive documentation to evidence how the concerns, knowledge, rights and needs, particularly of vulnerable people, are addressed. We will support appropriate law enforcement agencies to manage conflict and apply legitimate regulations fairly, whilst ensuring that human rights are safeguarded and upheld. We will develop and provide training on rights-compliant codes of conduct/standard operating procedures for community and state rangers. We will implement a locally appropriate, accessible and transparent Grievance Mechanism.

All project staff will follow Vietnamese laws and FFI's detailed Health & Safety Policy, which details risk assessment/management and emergency procedures. Regarding governance, FFI adheres to the UK's anti-bribery legislation which covers its global operations.

FFI has global policies to which all staff and offices must adhere, including anti-bribery, finance, data protection, health and safety, and travel, which we would be pleased to share on request.

## Q29. Corruption

**This question specifically considers 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. This may include financial corruption, but may also deal with gifts or inducements, or other types of dishonesty or deceit.**

Failure to address corruption would undermine the project and its aims. Central to the project's theory of change, and assumptions, are that incentives/disincentives can be applied to key stakeholders within, and surrounding, the PAs, to bring about meaningful change in attitudes and behaviour. However, should community benefits be misdirected or misused, or bribes be paid to PA or enforcement officials to overlook criminality, the logic of providing these incentives/disincentives fails. Low transparency serves to facilitate corruption, and would be disabling.

To mitigate these risks, FFI has in place anti-bribery and anti-corruption policies that comply with the UK Bribery Act (2010) and extend to all partners with which FFI works. A separate whistleblowing policy covers procedures for reporting suspected corruption, assuring confidentiality. FFI is also stringently audited every year.

FFI's governance and financial control systems are robust and transparent, to minimise the risk of corruption. For this project, FFI has budgeted regular compliance checks, in addition to audits, to minimise the risk of financial irregularity and facilitate corrections as appropriate. The project will also ensure wildlife and anti-corruption laws are clear and disseminated broadly raise the status and capacity of wildlife protection and enforcement personnel, and improve PA accountability and transparency.

## Q30. 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:**

<b>We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload below)</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked
<b>We have a Code of Conduct 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</b>	Checked



**Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.**


FFI has a suite of policies and procedures concerning core values and ethical behaviour, including safeguarding, anti-harassment and whistle blowing, and an employee handbook.


The responsibility to abide by safeguarding, anti-harassment and equal opportunities policies and procedures, is shared downstream to consultants and partners as contractual obligations in sub-grant and consultancy contracts.


The project will conduct a thorough Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process to design activities and ensure conservation and livelihood interventions balance the needs of people and wildlife. FPIC will be conducted in key villages, working at individual-household level, ensuring a broad a range of local stakeholder involvement. To ensure equitable representation in consultation and co-design processes, women-only consultations will be held, and all meetings will be facilitated in relevant ethnic minority languages.

FPIC and socio-economic data on livelihoods, resource use and wellbeing, will be collected to explore local needs, inform project design and measure impact. This is not only vital for ensuring the equity, but also for ensuring 'No Harm' and net-positive impacts. The data will be used to design an effective and meaningful safeguard system and grievance-redress mechanism (related to restricted forest access resulting from PA strengthening), and the associated monitoring system(s) for both.

**Please upload the lead organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF**

 [Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy + Procedure](#)

 04/02/2021

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 pdf 120.06 KB

## Section 13 - Logical Framework

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### Q31. Logical Framework

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. 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.


- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

**Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.**

 [Darwin Vietnam 2021 Logframe R27 S2 1794](#)

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 pdf 770.48 KB

**Impact:**

Globally important forests in northern Vietnam are flourishing under sustainable, collaborative protection and use, supporting thriving populations of gibbons, langurs, and other threatened and endemic species.

**Outcome:**

Two priority PAs in Northern Vietnam demonstrate improved and sustainable protection of forest habitats and associated species through enhanced governance, sustainable finance and improved local wellbeing

**Project Outputs**

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**Output 1:**

Quality and sustainability of community-based patrolling, crime prevention and PA monitoring is improved.

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**Output 2:**

PA governance is effective, sustainable and collaborative.

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**Output 3:**

Resilience of forest-using communities is increased by land-use planning and sustainable livelihoods, including results-based incentives for forest protection, leading to a reduction in negative impacts on forests and wildlife.

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**Output 4:**

Novel and sustainable finance approaches for enforcement and PA management are piloted for both PAs.

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**Output 5:**

*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.**

No

**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.**

- 1.1 Implement SMART patrols by rangers and CCTs (20 members across both sites), providing support and training on snare removal, awareness raising, and SMART (including using SMART reports to inform adaptive PA management).
- 1.2 Conduct forest cover, quality and connectedness surveys at project start and end.
- 1.3 Develop a sustainable incentive programme for CCT and PA rangers to motivate them beyond salary and SMART-based performance monitoring (annual payments).
- 1.4 Conduct intensive annual snare removal surveys by CCT and PA rangers, supported by Youth Union and volunteers.
- 1.5 Sign conservation agreements with community leaders and specific households (of known hunters), specifying project benefits and conditionality of benefits.

- 1.6 Conduct annual METT assessments at project start (to establish baseline), mid-project and project end.
- 1.7 Develop and implement a bio-monitoring protocol, for black gibbons and key indicators species, in addition to SMART monitoring.
- 1.8 Conduct annual market/wildlife trade surveys in surrounding districts and urban centres in Son La and Yen Bai (overt, not covert, data collection, including risk assessments).
- 2.1 Develop collaborative PA management plans, including discussion facilitation and technical input, maintaining and supporting SMART ranger and CCT patrols.
- 2.2 Develop and deliver training courses for PA staff, based on training needs assessments using the ARCBC/IUCN Competency Standards for Protected Areas.
- 2.3 Maintain and strengthen Collaborative Management Advisory Committees (MAC), including regulations, scope and memberships, and inclusive of MAC facilitation and technical advice.
- 2.4 Develop site-specific/PA social safeguards, monitoring plan and grievance redress mechanism (GRM), through village-level, household and focus group discussions, ensuring participation of women and vulnerable groups.
- 2.5 Conduct Knowledge-Attitude-Behaviour (KAB) surveys at project start (baseline), mid-project and project end.
- 2.6 Develop awareness-raising and communications strategies about the project at local (trainings, events, printed literature, schools curricular), sub-national (workshops, study tours), and national (fora) levels.
- 2.7 Undertake IUCN Green List assessments for both PAs.
- 2.8 Develop a feasibility study for upgrading MCC HSCA to full Nature Reserve status and actively support the upgrade through consultation and data sharing.
- 2.9 Develop and implement a Situational Crime Prevention Strategy for each PA, working in close cooperation with commune authorities and police departments.
- 3.1 Facilitate and produce Participatory Resource/Land-Use Maps and Plans (PRUM/PLUPs) in 17 villages in the buffer zones surrounding the two PAs, following an FPIC process.
- 3.2 Support a consultative process of the review and strengthening of land tenure, in partnership with a local lawyer, following an FPIC process.
- 3.3 Collect socio-economic and social impact assessment data bi-annually, including a participatory identification of associated indicators of change that can be used for monitoring.
- 3.4 Conduct a review of existing farming systems, participatory SWOT and gap analyses, and farmer surveys, to inform and monitor agri-livelihoods interventions.
- 3.5 Implement PMSD process in 17 villages to select products for market analysis and development, evaluating products under social and biodiversity criteria.
- 3.6 Develop and implement an action plan based on multi-stakeholder workshop(s) with market actors and communities, ensuring participation of women and vulnerable groups.
- 3.7 Pilot five livelihoods models, including agriculture and ecotourism interventions, developed and co-implemented with SRD, including business planning and training for communities on: crop diversification, yield maximisation, supply chains and market access.
- 3.8 Implement an eco-stove design and procurement work-stream to reduce local fuel wood requirements for households and for cardamom drying.
- 4.1 Explore innovative sustainable financing options for enforcement and PA management, developing a business plan to secure PES (and other) funding for these, including at least one additional CCT group.
- 4.2 Obtain legally binding government approval of all PES agreements, for community-based forest protection, through a process of collaborative policy development and advocacy.

## **Section 14 - Implementation Timetable**





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### **Q32. 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 Vietnam 2021 Implementation Plan](#)
  - [R27 S2 1794](#)
  -  04/02/2021
  -  17:58:09
  -  xlsx 22.03 KB

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## Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

### Q33. 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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).**

FFI has an established system for monitoring and evaluating project progress. The design and review of indicators and monitoring systems is an integral part of our project cycle management. At project level, all project activities are monitored on an ongoing basis by project staff, and internal reports are made to line management through activity, quarterly and annual reporting processes. The quarterly reports are complemented by quarterly financial meetings to assess budgets versus actual expenditure, monthly thematic and regional team management meetings to review programme developments, and formal project reviews completed by team leaders with their team.

Progress and impact will be assessed through ongoing monitoring against indicators and milestones, and regular project evaluation. FFI has responsibility for overall project M&E which will be conducted in a participatory fashion, involving project partners, direct beneficiary farmers and community members from 17 beneficiary villages containing 50-60 households.

The project team will hold biannual meetings to review progress against the workplan and output indicators, with partners, plus biannual on-line review meetings with UK managers. Activities will be reviewed and monitored during monthly workplan meetings between the FFI Project Manager and SRD Project Coordinator. This regular analysis and dissemination of M&E information will inform adaptive management of the project to identify challenges, issues and successes early and enable the project team

to adapt approaches and management to ensure the project achieves intended outcomes. Each partner organisation will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining records of activity outputs, including numbers of direct beneficiary farmer participants, disaggregated by gender. The project manager will be responsible for collating this data. The project team will capture success and failure, and share these with peers and stakeholders, throughout project implementation.

A gender specialist will be involved at the beginning and throughout the project to ensure gender considerations are incorporated throughout the M&E and will conduct a gender evaluation at project end.

Key project indicators related to conservation and biodiversity protection targets, are:

Output 1: A reduction in incidents of illegal hunting, maintaining forest area and connectivity, increase in rangers' capacity, crime prevention interventions and improved PA monitoring. These will be measured using data from ongoing SMART implementation, annual METT and KAB surveys, remote sensing data and household survey data.

Output 2: PA management capacity and governance improvements measured via METT and SMART data, (plus key species and threat data), and more equitable and collaborative PA management evaluated via MAC meeting minutes, KAB surveys and GRM reports.

Output 3: Wellbeing will be monitored through annual agriculture production surveys, including yields, crops prices and amounts sold, together with data from household surveys, and subsequent safeguards information system and GRM. These will be cross-referenced with Impact Assessments completed in years 1 and 3. Socio-economic surveys will be conducted annually.

Output 4: The amount and use of PES funding secured will be monitored using FFI's accounting systems, SMART, KAB and MAC reports.

Financial information and key project data will be logged in FFI's central database, FocalPoint, to monitor financial spend in line with budgets.

<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	£ [REDACTED]
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	142
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	[REDACTED]

## Section 16 - FCDO Notifications

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### Q34. FCDO Notifications

**Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development 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 (no written advice)

**Please attach details of any advice you have received.**

*No Response*

## Section 17 - Certification

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### Q35. Certification

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

Fauna & Flora International

**I apply for a grant of**

£327,783.00

**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

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**Name** Matt Walpole

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**Position in the organisation** Senior Conservation Director, Regional Programmes

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  [MW signature black](#)  
 05/02/2021  
 09:36:52  
 jpg 20.39 KB

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**Date** 05 February 2021

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## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

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### 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 12, 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 11, 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 included a copy of the lead organisation's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO 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.**

Unchecked

**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).