

Applicant: **Havery, Sarah**
Organisation: **RSPB**
Funding Sought: **£442,127.00**

DIR27S2\1009

Restoring the 'water tower' cloud forests of Kenya's Taita Hills

The aim of the project is to protect and expand the surviving fragments of forest in the Taita Hills in southern Kenya, safeguarding the unique biodiversity of these hills and improving local water security. Activities will include forest conservation and restoration, provision of water harvesting and storage infrastructure, and introduction of agro-forestry and other livelihood initiatives. Taita is formally gazetted as a 'water tower' hill range, and the project will provide a valuable model for other such ranges throughout Kenya.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Sarah
Surname Havery
Organisation RSPB
Tel [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	RSPB
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Restoring the 'water tower' cloud forests of Kenya's Taita Hills

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

DIR27S1\1730

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

Kenya

Country 2

No Response

Country 3

No Response

Country 4

No Response

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
Amount:	£135,817.00	£147,795.00	£139,855.00	£18,660.00	£ 442,127.00

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Match funding will be provided by Nature Kenya through two existing projects, (1) the People Partnership with Nature, Funded by DANIDA-CISU through Dansk Ornitologisk Forening (DOF) a Danish non-governmental non-profit organisation; and (2) Funding through the Rainforest Trust for land purchase.

RSPB will provide staff time, travel and subsistence costs as match funding and will provide co-funding in the form of a small grant to Nature Kenya to cover some Nature Kenya staff costs, the consultancy costs of Plants for Life International as a project partner and the consultancy costs for the water monitoring activities.

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).



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 aim of the project is to protect and expand the surviving fragments of forest in the Taita Hills in southern Kenya, safeguarding the unique biodiversity of these hills and improving local water security. Activities will include forest conservation and restoration, provision of water harvesting and storage infrastructure, and introduction of agro-forestry and other livelihood initiatives. Taita is formally gazetted as a 'water tower' hill range, and the project will provide a valuable model for other such ranges throughout Kenya.

Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

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 understand and tackle impacts of agriculture practices on biodiversity, livelihoods and climate
- To promote the responsible stewardship of natural assets
- To promote the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity
- 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)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- 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.

CBD

The project will help Kenya to meet its obligations under the following CBD articles in particular:

- Article 6b (integrate conservation and sustainable use into plans, programmes and policies) – because it will show how conservation can be combined with key development needs such as enhancement of water security and diversification of livelihoods, and act as a model for 'water tower' hill ranges throughout Kenya
- Articles 8d (promote the protection of ecosystems) and 8f (restore degraded ecosystems) – because the primary aim of the project is to protect surviving cloud forest in Taita and restore degraded forest
- Article 10a (integrate conservation and sustainable use into national decision-making) – for the reasons summarised above for Article 6b
- Article 10d (support local populations to implement remedial actions) – because we will take a strongly

community-based approach and involve local people closely in project delivery.

It will also contribute towards several Aichi targets, namely:

- 1 (make people aware of the values of biodiversity and how they can conserve it)
- 2 (integrate biodiversity values into development and poverty reduction strategies)
- 4 (achieve sustainable production and consumption)
- 5 (reduce habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation)
- 12 (prevent the extinction of threatened species)
- 14 (restore and safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water).

UNFCCC

The project will have both mitigation and adaptation benefits. It will help to mitigate climate change by preventing the destruction of the forest fragments that survive in Taita and initiating the restoration of additional forest; and it will help local people adapt to climate change by improving their access to water in the short term and water security in the longer term, and by introducing new, climate-resilient livelihood activities.

Other

The project will support Kenya's contribution to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) through:

- reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded natural forests
- development of agroforestry on cropland.

In addition, it will contribute to the realisation of the Africa Water Vision for 2025 prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union and the African Development Bank (<https://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/5488>). This vision is summarised as "an Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment".

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

Yes

If yes, please give details.

Nature Kenya is recognized as a significant contributor to the implementation of the CBD in Kenya and is included in Government Delegations during COP conferences. Nature Kenya is also included in the CBD national reporting committee and NBSAP for Kenya. Annually, Nature Kenya supports the production of the Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas Status and Trends report which contributes to the national CBD program.

Q9d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

SDGs

The project will support the achievement of four main SDGs, as follows.

- SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere: We will introduce agro-forestry and at least two other

new livelihood activities to local communities, enhancing their well-being and improving their resilience to climate change and other pressures.

- SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all: We will improve water availability in the short term, by providing harvesting and storage infrastructure; and we will improve water security in the longer term, by arresting and reversing the destruction of the cloud forests that give the Taita Hills their ‘water tower’ status.

- SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts: We will help to mitigate climate change – albeit in a small way – by protecting and restoring carbon-sequestering forest habitat and introducing agro-forestry. In addition, we will enable local communities to adapt to climate change by helping them to diversify their livelihood activities and through the water-related actions summarised above.

- SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems: We will protect and restore the threatened cloud forest habitat of the Taita Hills and thus conserve the many endemic and other species that depend on this habitat.

Section 5 - Lead Organisation Summary

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
DPLUS121	Sarah Havery	Strengthening biosecurity to protect Turks & Caicos' Iguana Islands
DPLUS102	Andy Schofield	Saving Tristan's only native tree and its associated unique buntings
27-011	Michael Garbo	Building an investment model enabling citizens to protect Liberia's forests
26-004	Richard Dixon	Linking food security and forest conservation under REDD+
26-003	Paul Matiku	Securing the long-term future of Kenya's largest freshwater wetland


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.

 [annual-review-2018-2019](#)

 04/02/2021


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 [rspb-annual-report-2020-interactive-pdf](#)

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Section 6 - Project Partners

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: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Website address: www.rspb.org.uk

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

The RSPB is the largest wildlife conservation NGO in Europe and one of the top five Darwin recipients in terms of the number of grants received. It therefore has ample capacity to engage with this project. As lead partner, the RSPB will take overall responsibility for project implementation and for liaison with Darwin. It will play a limited role in day-to-day delivery, as that will be driven by the Kenyan partners working in concert with the Taita communities. However, it will lead on project management, administration and reporting, thus allowing the in-country team to focus on achieving its conservation and development goals. In addition, it will provide advice and support based on its very extensive experience of Darwin projects, and will contribute co-funding.

We believe that this approach to project governance and delivery will be highly beneficial, as it will create in-country ownership and thus help to secure the project's legacy while also ensuring that UK-based expertise is available as needed.

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: Nature Kenya

Website address: www.naturekenya.org

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

Nature Kenya one of Kenya's leading environmental CSO with extensive experience in implementing large externally funded projects. It has been a project lead on 3 Darwin funded projects (Ref 21-015; Ref: 25-031 & Ref 26-003). Nature Kenya has led multi-year initiatives funding by GEF, USAID, DANIDA, CEPF and DFID. Since 2004 Nature Kenya has carried out on-ground conservation activities in the Taita Hills Forest. This was informed by many years of biodiversity data collection published in a Special Issue of the Journal of Eastern Africa Natural History on the Eastern Arc Mountains. Nature Kenya has 43 employees, comprised of 22 full-time and 21 project contract employees. The mission of Nature Kenya is to connect nature and people for a sustainable future. The organization is actively supporting and encouraging community participation in conservation through promotion of sustainable benefits, building a strong constituency for conservation across the country, enhancing knowledge of Kenya's biodiversity sites, advocating policies favourable to biodiversity conservation, and promoting conservation of key species, sites, and habitats.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name:

Kenya Forest Service

Website address:

www.kenyaforestservice.org

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

Kenya Forest Service is the lead government agency responsible for maintaining Kenya forest resource base. KFS manages national forest reserves and oversees the management of forest reserves under the county governments. KFS works with registered Community Forest Associations and mobilizes actions necessary for forest conservation. The National Forest Program, is coordinated by KFS has an aim of achieving national tree cover targets. KFS role in this project is in line with their national mandate to promote the conservation, sustainable development, management of forests. This will include building capacity of CFAs, guiding in propagating tree seedling for restoration and support in forest restoration activities in targeted forest block in Taita Hills.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

Dawida Biodiversity Conservation Group (DABICO)

Website address:

N/A

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

Dawida Biodiversity Conservation Group (DABICO) is a community-based organisation established in 2011. DABICO is a Site Support Group working with Nature Kenya. The objectives of the group is to promote community participation in Taita Hills forest conservation through education, lobby and advocacy, IBA monitoring and livelihood improvement. DABICO is a coalition of eight subgroups based adjacent to different forest fragment of the Taita hills. For this project the group, will be involved in mobilizing local communities to participate actively in forest restoration, biodiversity monitoring and livelihoods initiatives. They will have their members capacity expanded

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

Plants for Life International (PLI)

Website address:

<https://www.plantsforlifekenya.org/about>

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

PLI is a Kenya registered NGO established in 2000. It was registered as a Botanic garden in 2006 with BGCI, and as a level 3 Arboretum with ArbNet (through Morton Arboretum) in 2012. Brackenhurst forest is a model of what 20 years of reforestation can look like. Our goal has been threefold:

- to create a model 'natural' forest of African flora
- to conserve plant and other biodiversity and
- to promote ecosystem restoration.

We hold annual training courses in conjunction with BGCI on restoration techniques, plant propagation and taxonomic identification. We have collected in numerous forests and woodlands of upland Kenya (>1500m) including the Taita Hills. We have started, assisted or promoted restoration in areas including Nairobi (City Park Forest and Karura Forest), Kakamega, Mt. Kenya, Burguret and Nanyuki, on both Government and private land. We have a team of 12 people conversant in all stages of plant identification and plant propagation and capable of training local communities.

PLI brings to the partnership a strong background in botany and landscape restoration in East Africa. PLI can train communities in plant identification, plant nursery establishment and management, and forest restoration to support the project delivery.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name: BirdLife International

Website address: www.birdlife.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): BirdLife International (Africa Secretariat) will support some components of the proposed project, including project governance, linking to regional and international initiatives for legacy and sustainability, technical support and drawing in lessons from other parts of the world. A technical staff member who has been actively involved in previous work in the Taita Hills and who is also leading BirdLife's Preventing Extinctions Programme in Africa will dedicate 5% of his time to the project, and also draw relevant expertise from colleagues.

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*


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


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

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.


 [Taita Hills Darwin Support Letters all compressed](#)

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 [RSPB cover-letter+Taita FINAL-signed](#)

 08/02/2021

 16:23:07

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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?
Sarah Havery	Project Leader	15	Checked
Paul Gacheru	Project management, oversight of all project activities	20	Checked
Lawrence Wagura	Delivery lead on biodiversity surveys, restoration and support role for implementation of livelihood initiatives	50	Checked
Mwangi Githiru	Oversight and direction of biodiversity surveys, restoration and implementation of livelihood initiatives	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr Paul Matiku	Director	10	Checked
Gibson Kitsao (15%); Charles Kiama (25%); James Mutunga (9%)	Community group and monitoring support	49	Checked
Carole Kabilu (8%); Colin Kipkemboi (5%); Celline Achieng (10%)	Programme oversight, policy and advocacy and administrative support	33	Checked
New position - Nature Kenya	Land Purchase Officer	100	Checked
New position- Nature Kenya	Project Officer	100	Checked
James Mwang'ombe Mwamodenyi	KFS Technical Advisor	5	Checked

Dr Mark Nicholson	PLI Botanical expert	9	Checked
Paul Kariuki Nding'ang'a	BirdLife: Coordination support with national and international initiatives	5	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.

 [Taita Hills Darwin CVs and Job Specs](#)

 08/02/2021

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 pdf 1.2 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 8 - Problem statement

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).

The Taita Hills cover an area of 35,000ha in southern Kenya, 50km south-east of the world-famous Tsavo West National Park. They form an important part of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot and are recognised as a Key Biodiversity Area and an Endemic Bird Area. They also serve as a vital water catchment for the expansive Tsavo ecosystem and are consequently gazetted at the national level as a natural 'water tower'.

The Taita Hills form an isolated island of moist, forested habitat in a region that is otherwise much dryer and more open – and have done so for millennia. As a result, they have some of the highest levels of endemism in the world. At least 28 species are unique to this area, and a further 22 are endemic to the wider region. Taita endemics include the birds Taita apalis *Apalis fuscularis*, Taita thrush *Turdus helleri* and Taita white-eye *Zosterops silvanus*; the snake *Amblyodipsas teitana*; the caecilian *Boulengerula taitana* the Taita warty frog *Callulina dawida*; the toad *Bufo teitensis*; the butterflies *Cymothoe teita*, *Charaxes xiphares desmondi* and *Papilio desmondi teita*; and at least nine plants, including the trees *Coffea fadenii*, *Psychotria crassipetala*, *Memecylon teitense* and *Zimmermania ovata*. Of the local endemics, 13 are globally threatened and three are Critically Endangered – namely the apalis, thrush and warty frog.

The Taita Hills' biodiversity and water catchment values vary heavily on the montane cloud forest habitat with which their upper slopes were once almost entirely covered. However, this habitat is now severely fragmented, with some 98% of it having been destroyed or degraded over the last 200 years. The

remaining forest comprises 12 fragments that range in size from 1 ha to 220 ha and are restricted to the highest peaks and steepest slopes.

Protection of remaining fragments is weak because implementation of forest policy and law is hampered by limited capacity of Community Forest Associations. A recent study (Teucher et al, 2020) has shown that the natural forest cover has continued to decrease between 2003–2018.

The devastating loss of cloud forest habitat is inextricably linked to high levels of poverty. Data summarised at <https://devinit.org/data/spotlight-kenya> show that, in 2016, 32.3% of people in Taita Taveta County – the county in which the Taita Hills lie – were living below the Kenyan poverty line, and that 38.9% were in food poverty (meaning that they were unable to consume the minimum daily caloric requirement).

More specifically, the three key drivers of forest and biodiversity loss in Taita have been:

- a lack of income-generating opportunities, leading to a direct and heavy reliance on forests and forest products;
- poor farming techniques leading to low productivity – which in turn has led to encroachment into forested areas, as bringing additional land into cultivation has been the only way for farmers to increase overall yields; and
- the replacement of native forest with exotic plantations of faster growing species (cypress, eucalyptus, pine, Chinese camphor, *Acacia mearnsii*) for timber and wood production.

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

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.).

Over the last 8 years, Nature Kenya (NK), RSPB and Birdlife International have targeted efforts to protect the Taita apalis and Taita thrush, two of the most endangered birds in the world. This project will build on this previous work, key aspects of which include the following:

- NK has leased a 6-ha forest fragment and purchased 4.1 ha of land in a corridor between two other fragments that are key strongholds for Taita apalis.
- Restoration has been initiated in two trial plots through the removal of exotic plants followed by ‘mopping up’ of seedlings. This method has proved successful in allowing native vegetation to regenerate and will be scaled up.

NK will utilise the expertise of key collaborators from Natural African Concern and Wildlife Works, who have >20 years of experience of working in Taita. These collaborators will support NK with biodiversity monitoring and restoration activities. Plants for Life International (PLI) will provide technical expertise and advice on plant nursery establishment and management, plant identification and forest restoration.

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) will support capacity building of Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and forest restoration efforts. DABICO (Taita’s Site Support Group) will mobilise local communities to participate in forest restoration, biodiversity monitoring and livelihoods initiatives.

The proposed work will also build on Darwin project 21-014, Reconnecting poverty alleviation to biodiversity conservation in Kenya's Eastern Arc Mountains, through continuation of NK leadership in Taita and delivery of plans developed during this project:

- CFA forest management plans
- An Action plan for the conservation of Critically Endangered birds in Taita (2015-2020)
- Taita Taveta County's draft forest policy
- A joint NK/KFS Forest Restoration Strategy.

The project will be delivered through five Outputs:

1. Protect all surviving cloud forest fragments: We will review the Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMP) that guide work in and around these fragments, in consultation with all relevant community and government stakeholders, and update them as necessary. In addition, we will build the forest protection capacity of the key community groups (i.e. four CFAs and DABICO) by providing training, advice and practical support. We will develop Standard Operating Procedures for the CFAs and Terms of Reference for Community Scouts to underpin PFMP implementation.
2. Initiate restoration of cloud forest habitat: Restoration plans will be developed for the areas surrounding two of the largest and most important fragments (Iyale and Vuria/Msidunyi), in consultation with all key stakeholders. High priority habitats for Critically Endangered species will be mapped and targeted for further land purchase beyond the project. Two native tree nurseries (supporting c.70 native and endemic tree and shrub species including *Afrocarpus usambarensis*, *Chassalia discolor*, *Coffea fadenii*, *Dicranolepis usambarica*, *Memecylon teitense*, *Psychotria alsophila*, *Syzygium sclerophyllum*) will be established to support implementation of these plans, and restoration work (involving clearance of exotic vegetation and planting of native trees) will take place over an area of 20ha per year. A longer-term plan will be developed to guide restoration work post-project and will be integrated into government work programmes.
3. Enhance livelihoods through climate resilience initiatives: A livelihood enhancement plan will be developed, informed by a needs assessment and linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for forest protection and restoration. 9,000 crop trees (e.g. macadamia nut *Macadamia tetraphylla*, avocado *Persea americana*, tamarillo *Solanum betaceum* and passion fruit *Passiflora* spp) will be provided to 600 households (c.3,600 people) for use in agro-forestry, and two 50,000-litre water tanks will be installed to improve community water access for c.1,200 people. In addition, at least two further livelihood initiatives will be implemented benefitting c.600 people, based on the enhancement plan.
4. Monitor and evaluate project impacts: Biodiversity surveys will be completed twice-yearly of key endemics (i.e. Taita apalis and Taita thrush) and other species selected for their indicator value. Landscape tree cover (both native and crop) will be assessed at the start and end of the project. A long-term water balance study will be set up to monitor the impacts of forest restoration and agro-forestry on Taita's 'water tower' function. Livelihood needs and water security will be assessed at project start and end. Impacts will be evaluated, and findings reported.
5. Manage project effectively: A start-up meeting will be held, followed by quarterly meetings of the core project team and annual meetings of the wider team and relevant managers. An internal review will be carried out mid-term, and an external evaluation will be commissioned at project end. A sustainability plan will be developed to underpin the post-project restoration plan including identifying additional financing mechanisms.

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 community: the first recipients of the knowledge and findings from this study are the local communities. Besides learning new skills on nursery development and nurturing for a wide range of agro-forestry trees for the area, they will see the direct (e.g., fruit and fodder) and indirect (e.g., ecosystem services like soil stabilisation and improved pollination) usefulness of biodiversity, including trees and other vegetation, plus associated fauna on their farms. On a higher level, the very fact that this project will happen in their communities shall demonstrate the potential for positive developments associated with having and living with unique biodiversity in their landscapes, which will hopefully have positive ramifications for other biodiversity within this ecosystem. This will mostly be disseminated through brochures and simple-to-follow instruction manuals.

Policy: policy-related communication and findings shall mostly target the CFAs, not only in terms of the development and/or revision of their management plans, but also towards their implementation in collaboration with KFS. Brief how-to guidance will be provided for CFAs to quickly understand their key roles and responsibilities, and what they require to be able to effectively engage KFS in managing their forests and implementing their management plans.

Scientific community: this will include knowledge on distribution and trends of endemic and endangered species of the Taita Hills, as well as the lessons learned from forest restoration actions in this area (both socio-cultural and silvicultural), and any early impacts of restoration on biodiversity. Apart from the project's technical reports, this will also be disseminated through popular and peer-reviewed publications.

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 project has been co-created using a partnership approach between Nature Kenya, RSPB, Birdlife International and key collaborators from Natural Africa Concern and Wildlife Works. Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum, Plants for Life International, four CFAs and DABICO have all been consulted during the project development; reflecting the collaborative nature of the project. Utilising skills within Kenya across the partnership, the project will build the capacity of the institutions, individuals and community groups involved through skill development and experience sharing to deliver forest protection and restoration in Taita beyond the project.

Through specific training seminars and workshops for CFAs and DABICO, we will aim to catalyse grassroots support of forest adjacent communities to be co-managers of forest resources as envisioned in Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016 under the Participatory Forest Management. Training events, informed by Organisational Capacity Assessment will include; capacity building on income generation, tree nursery husbandry and propagation of indigenous tree species, leadership and governance. At least 40 people (at least 35% women) will be trained to manage the nurseries and >40 people will be trained to carry out restoration activities.

We will enhance the capacity of KFS and the CFAs to protect the remaining forest fragments through developing and implementing forest conservation action plans, such as developing Standard Operating

Procedures for the CFAs and Terms of Reference for Community Scouts; as well as practical support such as techniques of tree propagation, direct tree planting, monitoring and reporting.

Finally, we will also build the capacity of several thousand community members to carry out additional livelihood activities. 600 households (3,600 people) will receive seedlings, equipment and training for agro-forestry, and 100 households (600 people) will receive similar support for other activities to increase food security and/or income.

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.

Kenya has a progressive constitution that provides a strong legal framework for women to claim their rights. We will ensure that our work is aligned with this constitution, which requires for example that all forms of representation must involve at least one-third of each gender. The CFAs and DABICO that the project will be supporting are comprised of approximately 35% women, therefore the indicators of our logframe reflect this.

More specifically, we will ensure that men and women are fully involved in all aspects of the project (e.g. by requiring at least 35% of the people who receive training to be women through the CFAs and DABICO); that restoration and livelihood activities reflect the priorities and interests of both women and men; and that benefits arising from these activities are equitably shared.

The project will integrate key gender principles i) men and women have equal representation and say; ii) restoration benefits will be equitably shared; iii) restoration efforts will be equitably compensate men and women.

We recognise that the 35% targets mentioned above may seem rather modest. However, there are two key points we should make about this. The first is that these targets are minima, and we will seek whenever possible to increase the proportion of women in the community groups and receiving training above this level. The second is that, in setting these targets, we have had to account of the current 'reality' in the project area and the social and cultural setting in which we will be working. For example, the gender ratio in the CFAs and DABICO is currently about 2:1 (men:women) – and while we will strive to reduce this imbalance throughout the project period it would be naïve (and arguably inappropriate) for us to suggest that we will drive it to equality within three years.

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.

The expected Outcome of the project – i.e. the change that we aim to bring about by the end of the project period – is that the cloud forest fragments that currently survive in Taita will be protected and expanded through a combination of conservation and livelihood interventions, safeguarding their unique biodiversity

and enhancing local water security.

The longer-term, larger-scale Impact towards which the project will contribute is that cloud forest habitat will be restored at a landscape scale throughout Taita, bringing major benefits to both wildlife and people and providing a model for 'water tower' hill ranges throughout Kenya.

The key Indicators at the Outcome level, providing additional detail about the beneficial effects we expect to have during the life of the project, are as follows.

- The area of mature cloud forest surviving in Taita will not fall below the current level of 500 ha over the project period – showing that the destruction of this vital habitat has been halted.
- Cloud forest habitat will be regenerating over an area of at least 60 ha by the end of the project, due to clearance of exotic vegetation and planting of native trees.
- Biodiversity surveys over the course of the project will show that populations of key species at least remain stable in existing forest fragments and increase measurably in restoration areas
- The livelihoods of c.1,500 people in c.250 households – of whom c.750 will be women and girls – will be measurably enhanced during the project through improvements in access to water and rises in household income from at least two other low-cost, high-impact interventions (We cannot provide complete detail on this benefit at this stage, as its exact nature will depend on the additional livelihood interventions that are selected, in consultation with communities, alongside crop tree provision and water tank installation.)
- The livelihoods of c.3,600 people in 600 households – including c.1,800 women and girls – will be enhanced (through own consumption, products to sell, and reduced soil erosion) in the longer term through the provision of crop trees for agroforestry.
- Initial findings obtained during the set-up of a water balance study will confirm that forest restoration and crop tree planting will ultimately lead to improvements in Taita's 'water tower' function – and thus to rises in water security both locally and more widely – and will inform future management of this key catchment beyond the project.

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.

The three root drivers of forest and biodiversity loss in Taita are a lack of income-generating options leading to reliance on forests and forest products; poor farming techniques leading to low productivity and encroachment on forest land; and invasive exotic plant species.

To address these drivers, we propose a package of livelihood and conservation activities including provision of crop trees for agro-forestry, installation of water tanks, at least two additional diversification interventions (to be defined with communities), enhancement of forest protection, and clearance and re-planting of areas that are currently dominated by exotics.

The expected immediate results of these activities are improved use of farmland through agroforestry and potentially other techniques, additional diversification of income-generating activities, cessation of encroachment, and regeneration of indigenous forest patches.

From these immediate results, longer-term benefits will include expanded indigenous forest cover, increased biodiversity, improved and more resilient livelihoods due to greater farm productivity and diversified income sources, and enhanced 'water tower' function.

In summary, therefore, our Theory of Change statement is: IF income-generating activities are diversified, IF

farming techniques and water access are improved, and IF indigenous forests are expanded through restoration and protection, THEN there will be improvements in livelihoods and forest biodiversity.

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?

We will ensure that the project yield impacts beyond the project implementation phase by;

1. Ensuring the community forest associations have implementable participatory forest management plans with clear achievable action plans.
2. Work will build on existing partnerships between CFAs, KFS and County government of Taita Taveta county. This structure will remain in place post project with strengthened capacity.
3. Strengthened community structures of DABICO and CFAs will ensure continuous mobilisation towards the support of Taita Hills forest conservation is achieved.
4. Through identifying additional financing mechanisms to underpin delivery of the post-project restoration plan (e.g. agro-forest models).

The project will contribute to county level policies, plans, strategies and budgeting that incorporate Taita Hills Forest conservation and restoration.

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

-
-  [Taita map](#)
 -  08/02/2021
 -  16:34:46
 -  pdf 849.34 KB

Section 10 - Budget and Funding

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.

 Taita Budget over 100K May 2020 rev Feb21 FI

NAL

 09/02/2021

 11:03:37

 xlsx 69.81 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:

Conservation efforts to protect the Critically Endangered endemic birds of the Taita Hills (Taita apalis and Taita thrush) is a priority work area for Nature Kenya (NK), RSPB and BirdLife International. Over the past eight years small scale funding has been provided by RSPB and a small grant had been secured from Mohamed bin Zayed towards the trial restoration plots and bi-annual bird monitoring efforts. Further previous funding has been provided by World Land Trust and African Bird Club for NK to secure the 25-year land lease of the Msidunyi forest fragment. Funding for land purchase was secured from the Rainforest Trust in 2016 for land purchase in the habitat corridor between two priority forest fragments. Building on the previous experience of the project team, this project will enable the team to scale-up efforts using the skills and techniques developed over the last eight years. This project will complement DANIDA-DOF PPN program that aims at progressing community participatory forest management in Kenya with lessons learned from Taita hills forest among other program sites.

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
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RSPB	██████████	GBP	Salaries, overheads, international travel, small grant towards NK salaries and consultancy costs for PLI and water monitoring activities
NK Rainforest Trust grant	██████████	GBP	For land purchase of parcels in the habitat corridor between the Msidunyi and Vuria forest fragments.
NK the People Partnership with Nature, Funded by DANIDA-CISU through DOF.	██████████	GBP	People Partnership with Nature program focused on promoting collaborative forest management
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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.

Open access to data and the products of research is a general policy of RSPB. All data, reports, leaflets, training materials, photographs, films and other outputs from the project will be free access, and available in digital form where possible and appropriate on the Darwin, RSPB, and Nature Kenya and partners websites. All data gathered and analysed during the project will be made available in digitised format.

All project reports will be made available on the Darwin website along with data collected during this project.

All data collected during the project will be stored in line with Nature Kenya data management protocols. These have developed over many years with the support from RSPB and other international partners.

Bird biodiversity data will be stored in the World Bird Database hosted by Bird Life International with national database at the National Museums of Kenya. This data is largely open access.

Key findings from the project will be written up and placed in public domain, in the form of reports to Darwin Initiative, lesson sharing materials and policy documents. Scientific data will be disseminated through published papers- livelihood surveys, biodiversity assessments and Kenya Key Biodiversity Areas Status and Trend report.

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.

Both the RSPB (the lead organisation) and Nature Kenya (the main partner in-country) have many years' experience of running large, externally funded projects; and both have highly robust financial management systems that have been designed to accommodate such projects and are well able to do so. This is consistent with their standings as, respectively, the largest wildlife conservation NGO in Europe and one of the leading such NGOs in the whole of Africa.

Similarly, both organisations have comprehensive, up-to-date policies and processes in place to prevent fraud, bribery and other forms of financial misconduct. In support of the management systems mentioned above, these policies encourage 'whistle-blowing' if malpractice is detected and specify severe penalties if allegations are proven.

Foreign exchange fluctuations are not expected to be a major issue for the project. This is because the GBP:KSH exchange rate has been remarkably stable over the last five years, despite the political, economic and social challenges that both the UK and Kenya have faced over that period. This rate was 145 in early 2016, has fallen to a low of 123 on two occasions since, and is now 150.

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.

The field motorbike will be used by the Site Officer in Taita and will remain property of Nature Kenya for use beyond the project.

The water tanks purchased will be installed and used by local communities and will be managed by CFAs beyond the project. The water monitoring equipment will be managed by Nature Kenya to be used by CFAs and DABICO beyond the project.

The camera traps purchased by the collaborators Wildlife Works and Natural Africa Concern will remain their property for continued biodiversity surveys in Taita beyond the project.

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.

This project provides excellent value for money for four main reasons:

1) Almost 100% of the Darwin grant will be spent in Kenya - e.g. Kenyan staff, fees for Kenyan consultants, and in-country travel and purchases. In almost all cases, these budget items will be significantly less costly than in the UK.

2) We have sought throughout the budgeting process to keep costs as low as possible without jeopardising our ability to deliver the project. In addition, RSPB is contributing significant co-funding of 19.5% of the overall project costs, to maximise impact in Kenya. Additional co-funding from Rainforest Trust and DANIDA-CISU through Dansk Ornitologisk Forening (DOF) contribute a further 18.5% of overall project costs.

3) In species conservation terms there are few places in the world that offer as much 'bang for buck' as Taita. As explained under Q13, the few hundred hectares of forest that survive here support at least 28 local endemics – of which 13 are globally threatened and three are Critically Endangered – plus at least 22 regional endemics. Our project will help to secure the future of all these species, while also providing a valuable model for other hill ranges throughout Kenya.

4) The project will bring significant development benefits in a region of Kenya where one-third of the population lives below the national poverty line. Some 3,600 people will benefit from the introduction of agro-forestry and c.1,500 will benefit from additional livelihood interventions.

Section 12 - Ethics and Safeguarding

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?

Two key factors will help to ensure that the project meets Darwin's ethical principles. First, delivery will be led by Kenyan nationals with good knowledge of the project site and its people—especially Paul Gacheru,

Lawrence Wagura and Mwangi Githiru, all of whom have worked in Taita for several years and have strong relationships with the local communities. Second, these communities will be consulted about and directly involved in all key aspects of the project – e.g. forest protection, forest restoration and livelihood diversification. The inclusion of DABICO as a project partner will greatly facilitate this collaboration.

As well as taking this community-based approach, we will ensure that we meet all relevant legal requirements. Access and benefit-sharing (highlighted in the guidelines) are not major issues for this project. However, it will still be essential for us to ensure that we observe both national and local laws throughout, and the involvement of KFS will be very helpful in this regard.

Our community focus will enable us to take full advantage of traditional knowledge in project delivery. Moreover, the strong relationship that already exists between the communities and key project team members means that respect for local people’s rights and privacy will be essentially ‘automatic’.

We will protect the health and safety of all individuals involved in the project, adhering to RSPB and Nature Kenya policies in this area and utilising the core team’s in-depth knowledge of Taita’s geography.

There are no human rights or humanitarian law risks associated with the project.

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.

The RSPB has robust policies on bribery and all other aspects of corruption, designed to ensure that any such activity is detected early and dealt with effectively. Having worked in Taita (and many other parts of Kenya) for many years, we do not expect corruption to be an issue in this project. If it does arise, however, we are confident that we will be able to identify, investigate and eliminate it very rapidly.

Similarly, Nature Kenya has zero tolerance to corruption and money laundering. Routine operations are cognizant of any possibilities with early detection and timely corrective measures. This applies to all funds released to partners and consultants. Internally we routinely monitor cost effectiveness, verification of expenditure including field inspection missions. Internal procurement procedures and financial management systems with controls and balances ensures all financial handling is above board.

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:

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

Checked





We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload below)	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 share 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 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

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

The RSPB have clear safeguarding policies and procedures which apply to our international work and includes appropriate training for all our staff members working internationally. We have recently established an internal Global Safeguarding Subgroup to oversee and advise on our international safeguarding work. This group includes staff with extensive safeguarding experience as well as representation from staff posted overseas working with partners and local communities.

We have a strong commitment to work closely with all our partners to ensure they adhere to good safeguarding practices and any sub-grant will include our standard Annex outlining the obligations of partner to safeguarding and how they report, record and mitigate any incidents. We will work closely with partners on safeguarding issues and can provide safeguarding advice for partners and are currently in the process of developing a Safeguarding Good Practice Guide for our key international partners which will assist them in strengthening their current policies and procedures.

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

-  [RSPB Safeguarding Policy - December 2019](#)
-  04/02/2021
-  11:31:21
-  pdf 959.46 KB

Section 13 - Logical Framework





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.

-  [Taita Darwin Log frame only St2 V3.0 FINAL](#)
-  09/02/2021
-  09:45:52
-  pdf 118.23 KB

Impact:

Cloud forest habitat is restored at a landscape scale throughout Taita, bringing major benefits to both wildlife and people and providing a model for 'water tower' hill ranges throughout Kenya.

Outcome:

The cloud forest fragments that currently survive in Taita are protected and expanded through a combination of conservation and livelihood interventions, safeguarding their unique biodiversity and enhancing local water security

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Protection of all surviving fragments of cloud forest and edge habitat in Taita is strengthened

Output 2:

Restoration of cloud forest habitat is initiated around key existing fragments

Output 3:

Livelihoods of local communities are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives including agro-forestry, improvement of water storage infrastructure and diversification of income sources

Output 4:

The conservation and livelihood impacts of the project are monitored and evaluated

Output 5:

The project is managed effectively and efficiently

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 Facilitate meetings with four CFAs to review and evaluate their PFMPs in Year 1. (PFMPs currently in

draft and needing sign-off for forest fragments Vuria/Msidunyi and Chawia; and complete but needing updating for forest fragments Iyale-Wesu-Mbili and Susi-Ndiwenyi-Fururu).

1.2 Complete organisational capacity assessments of four CFAs in Year 1.

1.3 Produce capacity enhancement plans for four CFAs in Year 1.

1.4 Update the PFMPs for the Iyale-Wesu-Mbil and Susu-Ndiwenyi-Fururu fragments following consultation with community groups and other stakeholders in Year 2.

1.5 Develop Terms of Reference for Community Scouts in Year 1 (i.e. community members who will act as 'rangers' to help protect the forest).

1.6 Develop and provide training materials and equipment for Community Scouts through the community groups (four CFAs and DABICO) in Year 1.

1.7 Develop Standard Operating Procedures to facilitate cooperation between community groups and KFS, including a joint patrol plan, to enable more monitoring support of protected forest fragments by end Year 2.

1.8 Run at least 10 training sessions (e.g. on Participatory Forest Management, institutional governance, financial book-keeping, etc) and other meetings with community groups (CFAs & DABICO) over Years 1 and 2.

1.9 Repeat organisational capacity assessment for four CFAs at the end of the project.

2.1 Develop detailed forest restoration plans for Iyale-Wesu-Mbili and Vuria/Msidunyi, in consultation with communities, landowners and local government by end Year 1.

2.2 Advance progress towards purchase of already identified priority land parcels from existing baseline (10 ha owned/leased by Nature Kenya at Msidunyi) throughout the project [RT co-funding].

2.3 Identify and map further priority land parcels for future land purchase in Year 1.

2.4 Develop a site management plan for the 10 ha already owned/leased by Nature Kenya in Year 1 and implement management activities in Year 2.

2.5 Build two native tree nurseries to provide seedlings for forest restoration work in Year 1, and purchase seeds for these nurseries.

2.6 Create a database of species and number of seedlings in Year 1 to monitor nursery outputs over the course of the project.

2.7 Provide 8 training events for members of local community groups to manage these nurseries and carry out restoration activities.

2.8 Carry out clearance of invasive non-native vegetation and/or planting of native trees as required in sites identified in the restoration plan.

2.9 Develop a broader, longer-term restoration plan to guide post-project activities in Year 3.

2.10 Convene a county-level meeting to share forest restoration lessons from the project and to promote the forest policy in Year 2.

2.11 Complete feedback surveys linked to training events throughout the project to record number of people engaged, disaggregated by gender.

3.1 Complete a targeted baseline assessment of the livelihoods situation in the project area, taking account of previous initiatives and using existing socio-economic data and community input, to link provision of additional livelihood benefits under the project to support for forest protection and restoration efforts by end Year 1

3.2 Develop a detailed livelihood enhancement plan in consultation with communities and landowners in Year 1, informed by 3.1.

3.3 Build two crop tree nurseries to provide seedlings (fruit, nuts, etc) for agro-forestry in Year 1, and purchase seeds for these nurseries.

3.4 Create a database of species and number of seedlings in Year 1 to monitor nursery outputs over the course of the project.

3.5 Establish two agro-forestry demonstration plots in Year 2.

3.6 Facilitate meetings with Chief and CFAs in Year 1 to determine beneficiaries of agro-forestry initiative and plan a phased implementation for this initiative.

- 3.7 Provide agro-forestry training and seedlings to CFAs in Years 2 and 3, using existing 'field schools' and the demonstration plots for the training.
- 3.8 Construct or purchase and install two community water tanks in easily accessible locations determined by community groups by the end of the project.
- 3.9 Implement two additional livelihood initiatives in line with the enhancement plan developed under Action 3.2 by the end of the project.
- 3.10 Establish mechanisms for generating income from the agro-forestry and other livelihood enhancement schemes through CFAs in Year 3, to sustain these schemes beyond the end of the project.
- 3.11 Complete evaluation assessment of implementation of the livelihood enhancement plan at the end of the project.

- 4.1 Carry out biannual (twice/year) surveys of key endemics (e.g. Taita apalis and thrush) and other species selected for their indicator value in surviving forest fragments and restoration sites.
- 4.2 Complete assessment of tree cover (both native and crop) across the project landscape at the start and end of the project
- 4.3 Lay foundations for long-term programme to monitor impacts of forest restoration and agro-forestry on Taita's 'water tower' function:
 - (a) Complete a desk assessment of water resources in the project area in Year 1, including a ground water assessment and measurement of surface levels and flows, and analyse existing climate modelling data in Year 3.
 - (b) Determine what basic climate data exists for the Taita Hills and establish basic rainfall data collection by CFAs and local schools in Year 1
 - (c) Carry out community engagement activities to map community water resource knowledge within the restoration area catchments in Year1. Outputs will support (e).
 - (d) Collect monthly data on the amount of water harvested from the water tanks installed in Action 3.8.
 - (e) Set up a baseline water balance for future monitoring of impact of forest restoration by end of Year 3 to continue beyond the project – employing easy-to-use equipment such as rain gauges, stream gauge boards and stream flow gauges.
- 4.4 Complete a detailed livelihoods assessment of the communities in the project area at the start and end of the project.
- 4.5 Complete evaluation of project's impact revealed by repeated monitoring work and report findings to Darwin in final project report.

- 5.1 Hold a project start-up meeting and agree a plan for monitoring project progress in Q1 of Year 1
- 5.2 Hold quarterly meetings of the core project team to discuss progress made and plan forthcoming work
- 5.3 Hold annual meetings of the wider project team and managers to share findings among all partners and discuss plans for the following year
- 5.4 Undertake an internal mid-term evaluation in Year 2
- 5.5 Undertake a final evaluation using an external consultant in Q4 of Year 3
- 5.6 Submit technical and financial reports to Darwin as required
- 5.7 Develop a 'sustainability plan' to underpin delivery of the post-project restoration plan created under Action 2.9, for example by identifying additional financing mechanisms, in Year 3

Section 14 - Implementation Timetable





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.

 [R27 Darwin St2 Taita Implementation-Timetable FINAL](#)
 08/02/2021
 17:02:01
 xlsx 21.2 KB

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](#)).

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be an essential element of this project – so much so that we have included a separate Output for it in the log frame rather than scattering M&E activities across several other Outputs.

As shown under that Output, we intend to monitor and evaluate our impacts not only on biodiversity but also on livelihoods and Taita's catchment function. We will do this by:

- carrying out surveys of Critically Endangered endemic birds and other species selected for their indicator value twice per year both in the surviving forest fragments that we aim to protect through the project and in the degraded sites where we will be restoring or re-creating forest
- measuring the proportion of the landscape covered by native and crop trees at the start and end of the project (in the expectation that native tree cover will increase as a result of our forest restoration work, and crop tree cover will increase due to the introduction of agro-forestry)
- assessing livelihood needs in the communities living in the project area at the start and end of the project (in the expectation that certain key needs will be more fully met by the end, due to the diversification work we plan to undertake)
- setting up a long-term water balance study, employing easy-to-use equipment such as rain gauges and stream flow gauges, to monitor the impacts of forest restoration and agro-forestry on the Taita Hills' water tower function.

As well as monitoring the impacts of our work, we will also (of course) keep track of our progress in

delivering project actions. This progress-tracking will be a key part of the UK and Kenyan project leaders' roles, and will permit 'adaptive management' as mentioned in the question. For example, if we discover that forest restoration is going more slowly than planned, we will be able to investigate why and take appropriate remedial action.

Costs of Monitoring and evaluation:

40 days of project leader and project manager time = £ [REDACTED]

100% of RSPB travel and subsistence: £ [REDACTED]

Core project team: 20% of overall time per year = £ [REDACTED]

Meeting costs: £8,767

Number of days for M&E:

Quarterly project team meetings: 12 days

Annual in-country meetings: 4 days

Annual reporting: 24 days

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	40
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Section 16 - FCDO Notifications

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.

No

If no, why not?

The project is being implemented by partners based in Kenya. The partners are well placed to advise on security concerns given their existing work programmes in the project area. RSPB has a code of practice for international travel which ensures that FCDO travel advice is followed for international travel authorisation.

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

No Response

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of





£442,127.00

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	Andy Evans
Position in the organisation	Head of Global Species Recovery
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Andy Evans signature  04/02/2021  11:32:57  jpg 6.13 KB
Date	09 February 2021

Section 18 - 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 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.

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).