

Applicant: **Bowles-Newark, Nadine**  
Organisation: **WCMC**  
Funding Sought: **£199,933.00**

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# **DIR28CC\1116**

## **Capacity for Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Development in Ghana**

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) helps to present information on the world's stocks of biodiversity and ecosystems in a way that can be clearly understood and used to make more informed decisions about development as well as investment in conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of nature. Working with key Ghanaian government partners, this project aims to build capacity for producing, championing and using natural capital accounts to better integrate biodiversity into Ghana's sectoral policy-making and development planning.

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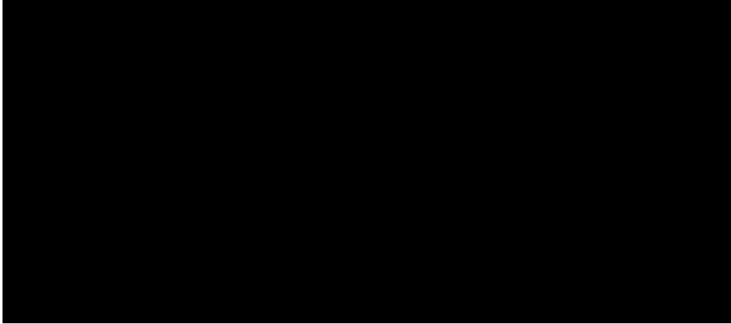
## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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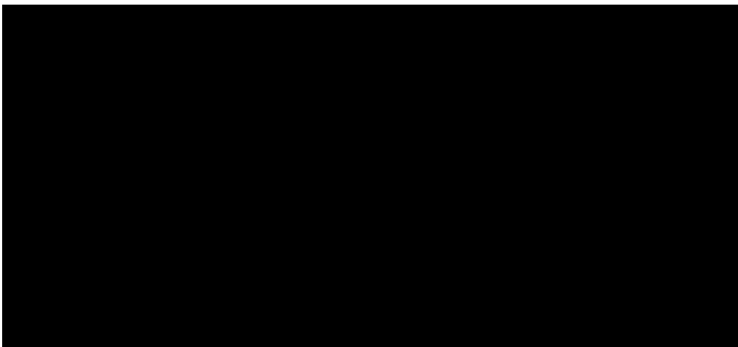
Title	Mrs
Name	Nadine
Surname	Bowles-Newark



### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	WCMC



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## Section 2 - Title & Summary

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### Q3. Title:

Capacity for Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Development in Ghana

### Q4. Summary

**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 the website.**

**Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) helps to present information on the world's stocks of biodiversity and ecosystems in a way that can be clearly understood and used to make more informed decisions about development as well as investment in conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of nature. Working with key Ghanaian government partners, this project aims to build capacity for producing, championing and using natural capital accounts to better integrate biodiversity into Ghana's sectoral policy-making and development planning.

## Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q5. Project 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	Ghana	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

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Do you require more fields?

No

### Q6. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2022	31 March 2024	2 years

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### Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	Total request
Amount:	£89,363.00	£110,570.00	£ 199,933.00

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Q8. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %

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Q9a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

A primary source of matched funding is proposed through a GEF-funded project on Integrated Land Use Management Plans, which supports the sub-national application of NCA in the Congo Basin. This project will help organise global data that can be used for local application, as well as providing guidance and case studies that are relevant to the work in Ghana. In addition, GSS will provide in kind support for staff time of the three GSS staff members on the project. These matched funding sources are all secured.

Q9b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)

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Q9c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A all matched funding is confirmed

## Section 4 - Project need

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### Q10. The need that the project is trying to address

**Please describe evidence of the capability and capacity need your project is trying to address with reference to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. For example, how have you identified the need? Why should the need be addressed or what will be the value to the country?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the need (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).**

Decisions that are principally driven for, and by, economic development can have negative impacts on biodiversity and the livelihoods and wellbeing of those dependent upon it (Dasgupta, 2021). Collating and integrating information and data on biodiversity and societal wellbeing into economic planning is therefore essential to minimising negative impacts. This information, however, is notoriously difficult to collect and communicate to those working outside of the environmental field. NCA is a framework increasingly being used to organise and standardise different biodiversity and environmental information in a clear, coherent and structured way.

The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) provides the formal statistical framework of NCA and is consistent with the concepts and classifications of the System of National Accounts. By using concepts familiar to most sectors and aligned to economic indicators such as GDP, the SEEA informs integrated analyses, where information on biodiversity and the benefits it provides can be mainstreamed into economic decision making. This can direct resources towards interventions that deliver socio-economic and biodiversity benefits (World Bank, 2021).

In 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency published a feasibility study – “Building NCAs for Ghana”, which highlighted the lack of established NCA within the country and identified the need for capacity development and increased political will. Since this, Ghana has compiled NCA accounts for mineral assets and use tables on energy. However, biodiversity-related NCA are still lacking, limiting the ability of decision-makers to mainstream biodiversity into economic and wider national development planning. This project will build upon and address the findings of the Ghana Feasibility Study, capitalising on new developments (scientific and political) and reinvigorate the process of establishing NCA in Ghana.

The Ministry of the Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Ghana Statistical Service have directly requested UNEP-WCMC to help produce and use biodiversity NCA to help meet national and international targets and policies. This need is articulated in the Ghana’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the CBD, noting that the lack of NCA limits budget allocation to the environmental sector.

Using NCA for mainstreaming biodiversity into national planning is not widely understood in Ghana. As such, building in-country capacity to both produce and use NCA is a key step in building understanding and securing high-level support for institutionalising NCA across government planning. Once NCA is better understood, a coherent national plan for advancing NCA is needed. This provides an important mechanism to engage government and wider stakeholders to focus efforts towards compiling the most relevant accounts for economic, poverty alleviation and biodiversity development goals. Such a plan would also inform on necessary institutional collaborations and establish an action pathway for the Government. Given the lack of biodiversity-related NCA in Ghana, a demonstration set of accounts and national plan would allow stakeholders to understand how they can be used in decision-making and the benefits they offer, whilst practicing using them. This will build the investment case for NCA and ‘Ground Truth’ an implementation strategy for the national plan.

## Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

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### Q11. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

**Q11a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.**

**Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.**

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

## Q11b. National and International Policy Alignment

**Please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.**

NCA will contribute to the overall goal of Ghana's NBSAP's and support the implementation of several of its national action plans, including Action Plan 2 on mainstreaming biodiversity, and Action Plan 7 on sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry (see MESTI (2016), pages 48 and 53).

In its 2019 Voluntary National Review of the SDGs, under Goal 15 Ghana reported only on Indicator 15.1.1. By developing capacity for NCA, Ghana could also report on Target 15.9, and other relevant targets for which NCA could provide the information needed. This depends on the subject identified for the 'demonstration accounts', and other priority accounts identified for which resources can be secured.

Ghana's Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework 2018-2021 recognises the dependency of economic development upon biodiversity and natural resources, yet a natural capital approach is largely absent; this presents a great opportunity to inform future Development Policy Frameworks. NCA could provide a clear, consistent and comprehensive way of presenting data and monitoring progress towards the plan's relevant focus areas. MESTI's Medium Term Development Plan contains a goal "Safeguard the natural Environment and ensure a resilient, built environment", under which is a specific activity to build capacity in NCA, which this project would support.

At the international scale, the project will principally support the CBD (proposed Target 14 of the draft post-2020 framework) and the SDGs (SDG Target 15.9). Furthermore, following CBD COP15, countries will likely update NBSAPs to align them with the new framework. NCA provides robust scientific evidence to support the establishment of priorities, targets and strategies, and a foundation for a robust monitoring framework. This opportunity to build NCA capacity is therefore perfectly timed to inform forthcoming policies and plans, whilst facilitating biodiversity mainstreaming.

## Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

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### Q12. Methodology

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

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project?
- Justification of your proposed approach, and how you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- What will be the main activities and where will these take place?
- How you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).
- What practical elements will be included to embed new capabilities?

The project builds upon a Darwin Initiative-funded project in Uganda (25-008), a country considered a leader in NCA in Africa. Several factors have contributed to Uganda's success in this area, including the publication of a 'National Plan for Advancing Environmental Economic Accounting'. Accounting for Ghana's NCA infancy, this project will first build the capacity necessary to understand NCA and produce an analogous plan. Subsequently, the team will produce "demonstration" accounts, and strategize implementation of the plan.

This project will benefit from capacity building materials and e-learning modules, as well as lessons-learned around establishing NCA, from the Ugandan project. This project will build on previous projects by UNEP-WCMC in Ghana, which developed strong relationships with the key institutions, an understanding of NCA needs and capacity gaps, a detailed political economy analysis and a spatial biodiversity assessment. All of these provide a strong foundation for the proposed

project.

Activity 1: build capacity and awareness for producing, using and interpreting NCA. Stakeholders will be mapped, and user needs defined, to understand who could benefit from or be affected by NCA. Stakeholder mapping will focus on economic development issues linked to poverty alleviation and biodiversity. Representatives of each stakeholder agency will be invited to a capacity building workshop on producing and using NCA via the SEEA framework. This wide engagement will build capacity to produce, use and champion NCA. Outputs: a report on stakeholder mapping and user needs, and a stakeholder engagement workshop.

Activity 2: produce of a 'national plan for advancing NCA' through a multi-stakeholder process led by GSS, to help mainstream ecosystems and biodiversity into national accounting and inclusive economic development planning, supporting livelihoods and poverty alleviation interventions. The production of this publication will also re-engage stakeholders to review the previously assessed priorities from the 2017 Feasibility Study and reinvigorate the process of establishing NCA in Ghana. The production of a national plan, co-developing priority themes for accounts and stakeholder engagement, will build support for NCA and the agreed upon roadmap. Outputs: stakeholder engagement workshop and publication of a National Plan for Advancing NCA.

Activity 3: generate a set of 'demonstration accounts'. The accounts' focus will be defined through the production of the National Plan (activity 2). Examples include supporting the compilation of soils accounts, defined as top priority in the 2017 Feasibility Study, and natural ecosystem extent accounts, drawing on the Spatial Biodiversity Assessment from the Connect Project. UNEP-WCMC will support technical staff members within GSS and MESTI to produce a set of accounts. During stakeholder mapping (Activity 1), organisations with relevant technical expertise operating within the country and wider region will be identified. Depending on the theme selected for the demonstration accounts, if possible, an organisation will be engaged as a consultant to support the in-country delivery of the demonstration accounts. If this happens, a change request will be submitted to Darwin for a no-cost budget line adjustment.

This activity will involve drafting methodological notes, identifying, collating and cataloguing data and metadata, and producing the accounts. This will build technical capacity within the national team to produce NCA. A workshop will reengage stakeholders to discuss the accounts that have been produced, and to understand their relevance for policymaking across different sectors, how they can be used, and how they can be developed. This will build capacity among participants to interpret and use NCA and create the foundations for further development. Output: a series of demonstration accounts, and a stakeholder workshop to discuss their results, implications and use for development planning with better outcome for people and biodiversity.

Activity 4: develop an implementation strategy for advancing NCA. To secure sustainability and legacy of the project, a strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA will be developed. Focus will be on defining the resources required (financial, human, technical), and how these may be secured. Output: a strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA.

Project management will include a tailored communications element, to ensure the project's outputs are as widely disseminated as possible.

The project will be jointly led by UNEP-WCMC and GSS. Project management would be the responsibility of UNEP-WCMC, with requirements reflected in the collaboration agreement between WCMC and GSS. GSS would be responsible for identifying and engaging the necessary institutions in-country, including utilising the existing technical expert group as a steering committee for this project. Project management will use existing systems in UNEP-WCMC and GSS. Regular team meetings of UNEP-WCMC and GSS project managers will review progress, discuss activities, and identify issues, risks and mitigating actions.

### **Q13. How will you identify participants?**

**How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and organisations) to benefit from the capability and capacity building activities? What makes these the most suitable participants? How will you ensure that the selection process is fair and transparent?**

Each activity requires a stakeholder workshop (expected for Activity 3&4 to be combined). The participating agencies and organisations in the stakeholder workshops will be identified by Ghana Statistical Service, based on the results of the stakeholder mapping conducted early in the project. This mapping will draw on the stakeholder mapping and networks created through the Global Environment Facility-funded 'Connect' project, among others. Each agency and organisation

will be invited to nominate a defined number of individuals (the exact number and type of individuals will be determined in consultation with Ghana Statistical Service, based on the number of organisations identified, but will aim for 3-5 per organisation to ensure some level of institutional legacy). Balanced gender representation will be encouraged.

All workshop participants will be invited to become part of a natural capital accounting community of practice within Ghana, to receive project updates and to be invited to review outputs and contribute to discussions. This will retain the involvement even of those who are unable to attend all workshops.

All materials from the project will be made freely available, using the most appropriate means for the project participants (e.g. UNEP-WCMC's website, Ghana Statistical Service website, shared folder system). These will allow even those who are unable to join workshops to build capacity and capability for NCA and will further ensure the project's legacy and sustainability.

Through the stakeholder mapping exercise, organisations with relevant technical expertise operating within the country and wider region will be identified. Depending on the subject selected for the demonstration accounts, the relevant organisation(s) will be engaged as a consultant to support the in-country delivery of the demonstration accounts.

## Q14. Gender equality

**All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain your understanding of gender equality within the context of your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.**

This project will support the implementation of Policy Commitment 1 of Ghana's National Gender Policy "Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods", and, notably, measure 5, "Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Women's Access to Productive Resources".

Wherever possible, the project will ensure participants in project workshops are gender balanced, and stakeholder organisations will be invited to nominate participants of both genders.

Through the initial stakeholder engagement, a gender expert, women's associations/networks and women leaders in Ghana will be identified (where possible), to ensure gender perspectives can be heard throughout the project. This will also help identify more specific individuals or groups relevant to the themes being discussed during the project.

During the development of the National Plan, gender considerations will be discussed for each priority theme identified, and further consultations may be held on potential gender considerations for each.

For the selected NCA theme for the demonstration accounts, it will be ensured that the benefits of that particular subject area for different genders are considered in depth, and that any integrated analyses with socio-economic data can be disaggregated by gender if possible. This will be a material consideration in selecting the accounting themes to be pursued, for instance targeting sectors which create decent employment opportunities for women based on sustainable use of biodiversity

At the final workshop, a specific session will consider any implications of the results from the demonstration accounts for different genders, and how the accounts could be improved to better reflect and account for different genders. It will also highlight how results from Uganda helped understand the implications of investment in natural capital for different genders.

## Q15. Change expected

**Detail the expected changes to in-country capability and capacity will deliver for both biodiversity and poverty reduction. You should identify what will change (the Outcome) 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).**

**When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail - number of households should be the largest unit used.**

Short term: Stakeholders within a range of governmental ministries and agencies within Ghana have increased capacity to produce, interpret and use NCA to mainstream biodiversity into decision-making. This will also lead to greater support for its production and momentum for continued development of NCAs that integrate the value of biodiversity.

At least 30 stakeholders will benefit from in-person capacity building activities. These stakeholders will be from a range of governmental agencies and ministries and will be identified during the stakeholder mapping in the first activity of the project. At least 8 ministries and agencies will be represented at the workshops.

Where possible, the same individuals will attend each of the workshops, to ensure better continuity and that the skills gained will be maximised and consolidated throughout the series of workshops. Where this is not possible, individuals will be encouraged to access online training materials (e.g. e-learning modules) prior to attending their first workshop, and personalised support will be provided to ensure they are able to benefit as much as possible from the subsequent workshops.

Following the project, Ghana will have an established set of 'demonstration' accounts and a clear strategy for taking NCA forward. A national NCA community of practice will have been 'seeded'. This creates a solid environment for NCA to grow in a way that supports mainstreaming biodiversity into planning processes for economic development and poverty alleviation.

Long-term: Capacity to produce and use NCA to deliver green growth and sustainable development is institutionalised in government ministries, departments and agencies, allowing Ghana to better account for biodiversity in its policies and plans and identify opportunities to invest in natural capital that delivers improved outcomes for biodiversity and supports poverty alleviation.

Due to the nature of policymaking, the ultimate impact will not necessarily be within the timeframe of this project, and there may be many conflating factors. However, given the current baseline of no existing NCA, the lack of current work to produce NCA and the few references to NCA beyond the NBSAP, any future iterations of national sectoral or cross-sectoral policies and plans which are based upon the evidence provided by NCA, or commit to further NCA to provide an evidence base, could be considered attributable to the project.

By establishing an open 'community of practice', to which all workshop participants will be invited to join, the continual advancement and development of NCA in Uganda will be championed; such a broad, multi-agency community of practice will provide motivation and support for resource mobilisation and NCA establishment, and will also provide a channel for disseminating outputs and the results of accounts, helping to ensure their uptake and integration in planning and policymaking for all sectors, agencies, ministries and organisations for which they are relevant.

## Q16. Exit Strategy

**How will the built capability and capacity be maintained in-country? How will the new capability and capacity be replicated to strengthen additional future environmental leaders beyond the project? How will be the benefits be scaled? Are there any barriers to scaling and if so, how will these be addressed? How will the materials developed during the project be made more widely accessible during and after the project?**

The exit strategy is an integral part of this approach. Through activities 2 and 4; developing a plan for advancing NCA and a strategy to implement it. Producing a national plan for advancing NCA will be an outcome of a social process, bringing institutions together to agree on a coherent set of NCA outputs, designed with clear policy entry points in mind. The focus on the SEEA, the international standard for accounting, means that there is an international community of practice in which Ghana can participate and continue to build their capacity and contribute to the advancement of NCA via international events. It also indicates Ghana is integrating the value of biodiversity into their national accounts (SDG Target Indicator 15.9.1 b). The demonstration accounts will show foundational work has been completed. This provides a solid basis to strategize implementing the National Plan. This strategy will set objectives for NCA development over the following 5 years, specify milestones, clear actions and entry points, and identify the resources required, as well as potential sources for these resources, to achieve these.

To ensure that the support and momentum built for NCA does not wane, a series of multi-stakeholder workshops will each train multiple representatives of identified stakeholder organisations. The exact number will be determined by the number of agencies that are identified during the stakeholder mapping process, but ideally will be 3-5 individuals, to ensure institutional memory and to mitigate turnover.



All training materials (including those developed under the related project in Uganda) will be made widely and freely available within Ghana, and hosted/distributed in the most appropriate way for staff from the different stakeholder agencies to access, which may include websites, hard-copies, file transfer systems, USB sticks etc.

In terms of the retention of capacity, training multiple individuals from each agency will ensure institutional memory in case of staff turnover – enough individuals will remain in ministries to continue to champion NCA, and direct others to available resources and materials. The establishment of a ‘community of practice’, to which all workshop participants will be invited to join, will also help ensure sustainability of the project by maintaining open channels of communication between those with an interest in NCA across the country. The best means of establishing and maintaining such a community of practice will be ensured at the initial stakeholder workshop, but it is envisaged that those who participate will receive updates on the project (and, subsequently, on NCA in the country), and will be invited to review and contribute to outputs and future proposals for NCA development. In cases where continuity of participants is not possible from one workshop to the next, this will also help keep everyone up to date with developments, share training materials and disseminate information.

The project will also link up with existing and established NCA initiatives in Africa and worldwide. These include the African Forum on Green Economy, the Green Growth Knowledge Network, World Bank’s WAVES initiative and its Africa Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice.

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



## Section 7 - Risk Management

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### Q17. Risk Management

**Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.**

**Projects should also draft their initial [risk register](#), using the template provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.**

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
<b>Fiduciary</b> Funds disbursed to project partners may not be used on appropriate expenditure in support of the project.	Major	Rare	Moderate	The budget was reviewed by WCMC and GSS’s Finance teams to: assess sufficiency of budgeted resources; agree allocated amounts; and scrutinise risks. Contractual arrangements give WCMC the authority to withhold funds and reporting by partners will require robust evidence of expenditure to justify release of funds.	Moderate

<b>Safeguarding</b> Staff safety is put at risk by being required to travel to unfamiliar, unsafe or remote locations as part of the project, in order to meet with stakeholders or collate data.	Major	Rare	Moderate	WCMC has a clear risk assessment procedure, which is completed by every staff member before every trip. There are also several other procedures, e.g. agreeing with manager and other colleagues on how often a staff member will make contact during their trip, and the procedure in case of missed contact.	Moderate
<b>Delivery Chain</b> The COVID-19 pandemic continues to restrict travel and in-person visits by UNEP-WCMC staff to Ghana to carry out capacity building workshops.	Minor	Possible	Moderate	Experience in Uganda during the pandemic has demonstrated the feasibility of running successful workshops remotely or by in-country experts; for this reason, the project will require a dedicated project manager within Ghana, who will be able to coordinate the workshop and take responsibility in the case of COVID-19 limitations.	Moderate
<b>Risk 4</b> Poor relations and poor communications with the project delivery partner in Ghana, and resulting difficulties in completing project activities and outputs on time	Major	Rare	Moderate	WCMC has robust due diligence procedures in place before contracting a partner. In addition, existing good relations with the project delivery partner, and experience working closely with them on long term projects, mean this is unlikely to occur.	Moderate
<b>Risk 5</b> Project outputs are not considered relevant or important, and therefore are not endorsed by necessary government agencies.	Major	Insignificant	Moderate	WCMC worked closely with the key government agencies to prepare this proposal, based on the most up to date relevant policies and plans. There is great demand for the outputs and activities under this project and therefore the risk that they will not be endorsed and supported is negligible.	Minor
<b>Risk 6</b> Price fluctuations in-country mean the work cannot be delivered within budget, and costs exceed available resources meaning work must be replanned to fit budget.	Major	Rare	Moderate	The budget was reviewed by WCMC staff: project management team, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Manager and Fundraising Officer. This will ensure confidence that the planned activities can be delivered within budget. A contingency is built into the project budget to allow for this.	Minor

## Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

**Q18. 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, linking them to your Outputs. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project ready for upload on Flexi-Grant.

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.



## Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q19. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe 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 [Financial Guidance](#)).

Monitoring and evaluation are a continual part of project management. It will be the responsibility of the project manager, in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC's Impact Officer, and others deemed to have the necessary skills and experience to provide advice.

In the first instance, weekly team meetings (internal/with partners in Ghana) will ensure continual review of project progress, allowing for informal opportunities to discuss achievements, review project plans, and raise potential issues or risks.

Less frequent (quarterly) meetings of internal UNEP-WCMC colleagues, with the Head of Nature Economy and Impact Officer will allow for more formal review of project progress, budget expenditure, and projections, as well as review of the impact, outcomes, outputs and activities on the log frame, using defined indicators to ensure these are still relevant and that the project is on track.

Any changes to the project's planned activities or outputs will be discussed and agreed within the project team at UNEP-WCMC and GSS, consulting others involved in the project, as well as senior staff within UNEP-WCMC and GSS as relevant. Partners will also be expected to provide annual/ quarterly/biannual reports to UNEP-WCMC, focusing on delivery of planned activities, expenditure reporting and evidence that contributes to indicators and milestones. This will ensure all project information feeds into half yearly and annual project reporting to Darwin. Risks and opportunities of any changes (or inaction instead of proposed change) will be evaluated by the project team, with a view to ensuring that the project achieves its intended impact.

**Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)**



**Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)**

**Number of days planned for M&E**

60

## Section 10 - Indicators of Success

### Q20. Indicators of success

Please outline the Outcome and Outputs of the project and how will you show that they have been achieved by using SMART indicators and milestones.

See the [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#), and internet resources, for advice on SMART indicators and milestones.

Please note that the number of participants in training is not an output, please consider how to measure the success of the training rather than participation in training.

In the table below please outline your Outcome and between 1-4 Outputs. Each statement should have between 2-3 SMART indicators and end target (figure/state/quality) including how you would evidence achievement – i.e. “Means of Verification”.

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Stakeholders across government have increased capacity to produce, interpret and use NCA to mainstream biodiversity into decision-making, increasing support and momentum for continued production and further development of NCAs.</p>	<p>Number of sectoral, cross-sectoral policies and plans which contain references to NCA (baseline: 1; Target 3)</p> <p>Budget allocation within GSS for producing NCA (baseline £0; Target ████████)</p>	<p>Policies and plans (e.g., mid-term development plans) published on Government ministry websites</p>
<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>Capacity to understand, support and use NCA in the context of biodiversity mainstreaming and poverty alleviation is increased within identified stakeholder agencies</p>	<p>Number of individuals who have participated in stakeholder engagement workshop and seen an increase in their understanding of and support for NCA (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>Number of individuals who have accessed available training materials (baseline: 0; Target 50)</p>	<p>Workshop evaluation forms</p> <p>Download/user statistics for the e-learning modules and training materials published online.</p>
<p><b>Output 2</b></p> <p>A multi-stakeholder National Plan for Advancing NCA that better integrates the value of biodiversity is produced, endorsed by GSS and published</p>	<p>National plan published with endorsement from GSS (baseline: 0; Target 1)</p> <p>Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in the capacity building workshop for elaborating the plan (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p> <p>Number of stakeholder agencies actively participating in its elaboration outside of the workshop (baseline: 0; Target 10)</p>	<p>Plan available on GSS website</p> <p>Workshop participant list</p> <p>Responses to emails requesting input</p>

<p><b>Output 3</b> Production of a set of demonstration accounts on a priority theme for biodiversity and poverty alleviation identified under Output 2.</p>	<p>Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies providing review and input to a) methodological notes, b) metadata report, and c) accounts (baseline: 0; Target 15)</p>	<p>Email responses to requests for input. Participants list and evaluation forms from workshop.</p>
	<p>Number of stakeholders participating in the capacity building workshop and with improved ability to use and communicate accounts. (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p>	
<p><b>Output 4</b> Development of a strategy for implementing the National Plan for Advancing NCA</p>	<p>Number of stakeholders and stakeholder agencies participating in this session of the workshop (baseline: 0; Target 30)</p>	<p>Workshop participant list Strategy for implanting the National Plan for Advancing NCA</p>
	<p>Total value of potential resources identified for NCA (baseline: 0; Target: <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">██████████</span>)</p>	

**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 Stakeholder mapping is conducted
- 1.2 User needs analysis drafted
- 1.3 Stakeholder workshop held with representation from identified stakeholders to build capacity for producing and using NCA, and complete user needs analysis
- 1.4 User needs report published.
- 2.1 National Plan for Advancing NCA outlined
- 2.2 Stakeholder workshop held to agree on outline and elaborate national plan
- 2.3 National Plan finalised
- 2.4 National Plan published on GSS website
- 3.1 Priority theme for demonstration accounts agreed
- 3.2 Methodological note drafted
- 3.3 Methodological note reviewed by relevant agencies
- 3.4 Metadata report produced
- 3.5 Accounts produced
- 3.6 Stakeholder workshop to build capacity for producing and using the demonstration accounts, and build support for advancing NCA within Ghana
- 4.1 Strategy for implementing national plan outlined

4.2 Session held at Stakeholder workshop (Activity 3.6) to agree on outline and elaborate strategy

4.3 First draft strategy produced

4.4 Strategy reviewed by stakeholders

4.5 Strategy finalised

#### **Important Assumptions:**

#### **Please describe up to 6 key assumptions that, if held true, will enable you to deliver your Outputs and Outcome.**

Stakeholders (including environment, finance and planning and other key ministries, private sector, civil society) are fully engaged and involved in dialogue around natural capital data and are receptive to integration of natural capital evidence in policymaking and planning, recognising the benefits.

Common understanding of priority areas for NCA can be agreed by stakeholders.

Capacity needs can be addressed and imbedded through workshops, methodological guidance and online materials.

The project team (within Ghana and international) can identify opportunities to secure technical, technological, financial and human resources required for implementation of the National Plan for Advancing NCA.

## **Section 11 - Budget and Funding**

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### **Q21. Budget**

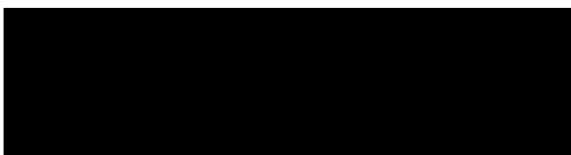
**Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget. Please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

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

**Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.**

**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.**



### **Q22. Funding**

**Q22a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?**

- Development of existing work

**Please provide details:**

This work builds on prior projects led by UNEP-WCMC. 'Integrating Natural Capital Accounting into Sustainable Development Decision-Making in Uganda', Darwin Initiative-funded project (25-008), which developed three priority thematic sets of accounts and closely supported their integration and embedding into policies and plans. The experience from this project, lessons learned, technical expertise and materials developed have all been incorporated into this proposal.

The GEF-funded 'Connect' Project, a four-year project working to mainstream biodiversity information into the heart of government decision making. Ghana was one of three countries with which this project worked, and the current proposal builds on the strong relationships between UNEP-WCMC and a wide range of ministries and agencies in Ghana, as well as an understanding of political-economic context, and the needs of ministries and agencies in order to better integrate biodiversity into development and other decision-making and planning. The Connect Project also resulted in the publication of a Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, which could be used as the basis of a number of different accounts.

The 'Cocoa Soils' project has mapped biodiversity and ecosystem services in Ghana and developed a range of spatially-explicit climate scenarios; these may be drawn on during the production and interpretation of the demonstration accounts.

**Q22b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?**

Yes

**Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.**

The World Bank are developing a proposal for a three-year engagement in Ghana to support the development of a full set of EEA. If successful, this would provide an excellent opportunity to coordinate activities for maximum effectiveness and impact. Building on the good relationships with the team involved, careful planning and coordination would avoid duplication and maximise effectiveness of both projects. Such a collaboration could help extend and develop communications activities and a community of practice around NCA.

**Q23. 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.**

LCD Projectors will continue to be used for training and capacity building, both internal to GSS and wider external training, to maintain capacity for producing and using NCA (among other areas).

A laptop with sufficient processing power is essential for the analysis required to produce the accounts; again, after the end of the project this will continue to be used for the production of accounts by GSS.

**Q24. 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.**

UNEP-WCMC has worked extensively with GSS, and many other ministries and agencies in Ghana who are likely to be involved in this project. This reduces the inception costs attributed to building partner relations, and establishing roles, responsibilities and methods of communication. GSS and UNEP-WCMC produced the final budget together, giving high confidence that it is realistic for achieving the outputs and outcomes.

This project builds on similar work conducted in Uganda (e.g., under Darwin Initiative-funded project 25-008), the Connect project, and the 'Cocoa Soils' project. In particular, the Spatial Biodiversity Assessment produced under the Connect project will be used, if possible, for the demonstration accounts, reducing the costs of compiling and processing spatial data. Again, depending on the chosen subject for the demonstration accounts, data may be available via the Cocoa Soils project to reduce these costs, as this project has mapped biodiversity and ecosystem services across the country. Equally, climate

scenarios produced under the Cocoa Soils project will be used to interpret the accounts, if deemed relevant to stakeholders.

The project is aligned with international NCA initiatives. This substantially increases the potential to scale-up the project activities and learn from wider experiences without additional costs.

Overheads have been applied to this project at 20% rate according to the Darwin guidance. Overheads will cover indirect costs such as building, office supplies, IT infrastructure. This approach leaves a residual shortfall of ██████████ which WCMC will absorb as an in-kind contribution to deliver a strategically important project.

## Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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### Q25. 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:**

**Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.**

<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 on certification page)</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 safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.**

The Head of Operations is the focal point for issues relating to our Safeguarding Policy, supported by the People Team and our Safeguarding Trustee. Where necessary, issues are investigated following our Disciplinary Procedure. Furthermore, we have a Research Ethics review process to ensure that projects are designed and delivered appropriately and sensitively where safeguarding issues are a risk.

## Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

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### Q26. 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 Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

## Section 14 - Project Staff

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### Q27. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sarah Ivory	Project Leader	9	Checked
Katherine Moul	Project Manager	16	Checked
Steven King	Principal Technical Specialist in NCA	19	Checked
Hashim Zaman	Technical Specialist in NCA	12	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Hannah Nicholas	Project support	5	Checked
James Vause	Lead Economist	1	Checked
Elena Trust	Project Administration	3	Checked
Russell Gardiner	Design and communications	5	Checked
Arnout van Soesbergen	Senior ecosystem services and modelling scientist	16	Checked
Bernice Ofosu-Baadu	Head, Agriculture and Environment Statistics, GSS; GSS project manager	30	Checked

Elliot Ansah	Senior Statistician	30	Checked
Mabel Appiah-Danso	Principal Statistician	30	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.**



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

Yes

## **Section 15 - Project Partners**

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### **Q28. Project partners**

**Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.**

**This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.**

**The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.**

**Lead partner name:** WCMC

**Website address:** [www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)

**Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a specialist Centre on biodiversity, operating as a collaboration between UNEP and WCMC, a UK-registered charity. Any contractual relationship resulting from this proposal would be with WCMC, and jointly delivered under the collaboration arrangement with UNEP, as UNEP-WCMC.

UNEP-WCMC is a leading authority on biodiversity assessment, accounting and mainstreaming. It has a long track record of providing technical support and capacity development services to the CBD Secretariat and Parties, UN Environment, UNDP and UN Statistics Division. UNEP-WCMC has worked extensively with IIED, IDEEA Group and Uganda national partners, through multiple projects, and coordinated these partners input throughout the proposal development process.

UNEP-WCMC will coordinate and provide oversight for the project, including partner management, project reporting, and monitoring and evaluation. UNEP-WCMC will work with the national team on User Needs Assessment and provide technical input and support on the development of methodologies for NCA. UNEP-WCMC will oversee the production of training materials and delivery of workshops. UNEP-WCMC will support the institutionalisation of natural capital information in evidence based economic planning with the National Team via a specific economic or environmental sector-based application.

---

**International/In-country Partner**

International

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):**



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**Represented on the Project Board**

Yes

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

Yes

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**Have you provided a cover letter?**

Yes

---

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

Yes

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**1. Partner Name:**

Ghana Statistical Service

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**Website address:**

<https://statsghana.gov.gh/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

In 2017, Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in collaboration with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other stakeholders conducted a feasibility study on the compilation of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Ghana. The report established a number of strategies to the development of natural capital accounts in the country. More so, there has been a strong push globally to develop and value ecosystem accounts and integrate them into national accounting to enhance their importance and contributions to national development.

Although GSS is mandated to provide quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information for the purpose of national development including the compilation and dissemination of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), natural resources are not considered in the estimation which, focuses only on flows of income and output, not stocks of capital of natural resources.

To be at par with other countries in integrating NCA in GDP, GSS will cooperate to ensure that all statistical activities or products that will be produced are in line with international standards, classifications, and recommendations. We will adhere to the core-values and guiding principles of GSS to achieve the desired output and also, to ensure that the statistics produced will meet the needs of users.

---

**International/In-country Partner**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** ██████████

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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---

**2. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?** *No Response*

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

---

**International/In-country Partner**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** £0.00

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

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

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

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?** *No Response*

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

---

**International/In-country Partner**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** £0.00

---

**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

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

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

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?** *No Response*

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

---

**International/In-country Partner**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** £0.00

---

**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

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

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**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

---

**What value does this Partner bring to the project?** *No Response*

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

---

**International/In-country Partner**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** £0.00

---

**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

---

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

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?** *No Response*

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

---

**International/In-country Partner**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** £0.00

---

**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

---

**Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?**  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 and a combined PDF of all letters of support.**

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## Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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### Q29. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

**Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative funding 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
25-008	Nadine Bowles-Newark	Integrating Natural Capital Accounting into Sustainable Development Decision-Making in Uganda
EIDCF020	Dr Damon Stanwell-Smith	Biodiversity and ecosystems service assessment of South Georgia
11020	Philip Bubb	Building capacity for biodiversity monitoring and assessment in Nepal
8048	Ms Harriet Gillett	Conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants in Ghana
4146	Ms Harriet Gillett	Crop Genetic Resources of Central America
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

**Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts (or other financial evidence - see Financial Guidance)?**

**If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.**

Yes

## Section 17 - Certification

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### Q30. Certification

**On behalf of the**

Trustees

**of**

WCMC

**I apply for a grant of**

£199,933.00


**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.

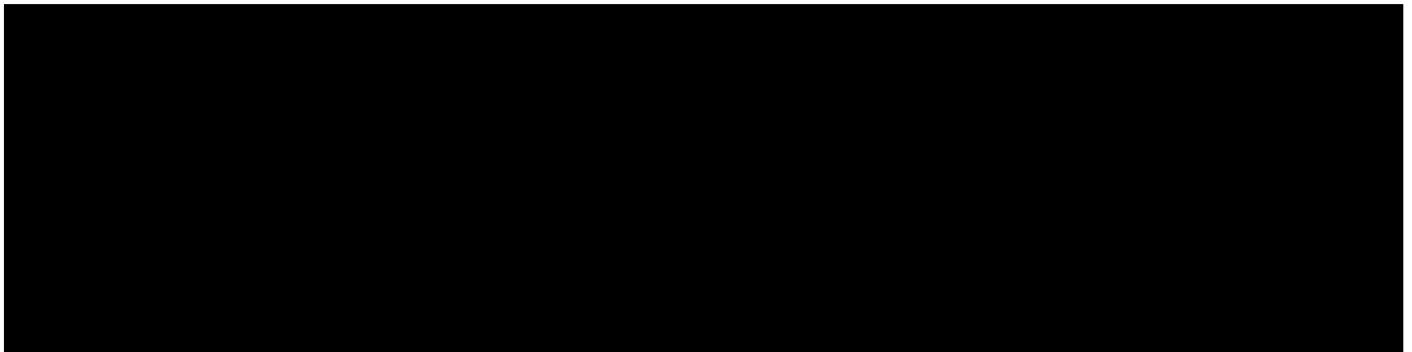
(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence - see Financial Guidance) are also enclosed.

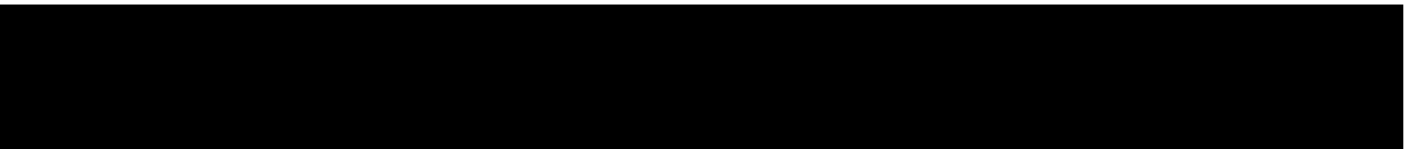
Checked

<b>Name</b>	Nadine Bowles-Newark
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Deputy Head, Ecosystem Assessment and Policy Support
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	
<b>Date</b>	06 December 2021

**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**



**Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF**



## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

Check



<b>I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Supplementary Guidance for Capability &amp; Capacity Projects”, “Risk Management Guidance”, and “Financial Guidance”.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 27, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 28, or an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a copy of the Lead Partner’s safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 25.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Financial Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.</b>	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 the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and](#)

Guidance Portal.

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).