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Vicuña management for biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods in Bolivia

We will increase the capability of the association of vicuña managers to replicate best practices for vicuña and habitat management including censusing, shearing, and marketing tools, as well as habitat (e.g., peatland) monitoring approaches. These best practices have been developed through partnerships that will be leveraged for impact at the national scale to build the institutional framework to support local livelihoods and conserve species associated with highland peatlands and pastures, such as Andean flamingos and Andean hairy armadillos.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Lilian
Surname Painter
Organisation Wildlife Conservation Society
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
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Address [REDACTED]
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Other local charitable organisation
Name	Wildlife Conservation Society
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Title:





Vicuña management for biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods in Bolivia

Q4a. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

No

Please attach a cover letter.

Please include a response to any previous feedback in your cover letter.

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Q5. Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the capability and capacity problem/need it is trying to address, 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.

We will increase the capability of the association of vicuña managers to replicate best practices for vicuña and habitat management including censusing, shearing, and marketing tools, as well as habitat (e.g., peatland) monitoring approaches. These best practices have been developed through partnerships that will be leveraged for impact at the national scale to build the institutional framework to support local livelihoods and conserve species associated with highland peatlands and pastures, such as Andean flamingos and Andean hairy armadillos.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Bolivia	Country 2	<i>No Response</i>
Country 3	<i>No Response</i>	Country 4	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 months):
01 April 2023	30 March 2025	2 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£98,987.00	£101,011.00	£ 199,998.00

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %



Q10a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

We have matching funds to support vicuña management in Apolobamba from the Legacy Landscape Fund, estimated at £[REDACTED] and from the Laguntza Foundation (£[REDACTED] during the project duration.

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)

£[REDACTED]

Q10c. 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?

No Response

Section 4 - Project need

Q11. 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 challenges and opportunities.

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).

This project will support implementation of the Organizational strengthening plan for the Community Association for the Commercialization of Vicuña Fibre in Bolivia (ACOFIVB) which was developed by the previous Darwin Initiative project 26-021 with the participation of all 11 regional associations¹.

1) We will support the legal establishment of ACOFIVB and its regional associations and the change of their tax statuses to inscribe them as exporters, reducing taxes on utilities. Their legal consolidation is necessary for engagement with national authorities, local governments, technical cooperation agencies and private markets. We will also assist in the development of institutional and administrative procedures.

2) We will strengthen the capability of ACOFIVB to provide assistance to the regional associations and monitor the implementation of best practices identified in the framework of project 26-021 and approved by both ACOFIVB and DGB-AP (General Biodiversity Directorate) for animal welfare, population census, capture, mechanical shearing, fiber selection, fiber collection and sale. These practices reduce fiber loss and increase fiber quality, leading to an increase of 36% of benefits to their members². 3) We will support ACOFIVB establish and develop the capability to implement a program for conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species, using a Citizen Science approach. Highland peatlands are a vicuña habitat and threatened ecosystem because of climate change and local interventions such as mining and overgrazing. The National Development Plan 2021-2025³ identifies them as a priority ecosystem.

4) We will support ACOFIVB to establish the capability to implement a disease surveillance system based on ecological and epidemiological indicators; as well as implementation of interventions to prevent mange and other diseases in vicuña and domestic camelids with their 11 regional associations. Mange has dramatically reduced vicuña populations in Argentina and although Bolivian populations currently have low mange prevalence⁴ the potential impact warrants the establishment of a monitoring protocol⁵. Collective monitoring is necessary to support timely responses to disease outbreaks.

5) We will support ACOFIVB to develop their capability to act against illegal trade of vicuña fiber by engaging with stakeholders such as national press, government authorities and public prosecutors to raise awareness on the conservation value of vicuñas and the legal framework established for vicuña fiber sale.

6) We will support ACOFIVB to evaluate and adjust the current regulations, in particular regarding benefit distribution to establish a revolving fund. The current regulations distribute the benefits as follows: export costs (3.3%), bank costs (1.1%), taxes (3.1%), Bolivian government (8%), other costs (0.2%) and community members (84.4%)⁶. This means ACOFIVB has no funds to support the regional associations to build capacity to improve the livelihood and biodiversity benefits. A review of current regulations and establishment of this finance mechanism is required to consolidate the organizational structure for community-based management of vicuña across Bolivia.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. 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)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your capability and capacity 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.

This project will contribute to obligations under three international conventions.

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): by supporting indigenous ownership, and fair and equitable use of a wildlife species.

CITES: through producing information on the importance of pasture management for ecosystem and animal health; and for fibre production for a wild vicuña population listed on CITES Appendix II.

CBD: by reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting resilient sustainable use by Andean pastoralist communities across the Bolivian highlands, as well as enhancing benefit sharing and increasing the capability of the ACOFIVB and its regional associations.

SDGs: The project will contribute to Goal 15, "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss." It will contribute to address the following targets by improving capacity for priority peatland monitoring and promoting sustainable management of a CITES Appendix II species. The project will also contribute to Goal 1, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere" by supporting resilient livelihoods of Andean pastoralists. We will also work closely with the focal point of the CBD (General Biodiversity Directorate and Protected Areas DGB-AP of the Vice Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Forestry Development and Management). The NBSAP will be supported specifically through sustainable management, strengthening of participation mechanisms, and increasing women's participation. The vicuña national management plan is part of the NBSAP and is regulated by the Regulations for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Vicuña (Supreme Decree 0385).

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

Q13. Methodology

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

- How you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- The specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- How you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- What the **main activities** will be and where these will 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?

This project builds on lessons learnt from Darwin Initiative project 26-021, including the importance of coordination across different scales, at the national level, through work with ACOFIVB; to the regional and the local level with all the vicuña management communities, to improve their capability to monitor vicuña populations, vicuña health, pasture quality, organize shearing campaigns, reduce fibre loss during shearing and improve fibre selection. The livelihood benefits of these best practices were documented and manuals for their implementation approved by the national biodiversity authorities. As a result of the increase in shorn numbers of vicuña (38%), increase in fiber yield (45%) and increased income for vicuña herders (37%) there have been requests from the regional associations across the country to receive training for implementation of these practices.

As a result of this experience WCS has established an alliance with the ACOFIVB which looks to move beyond an approach of benefiting local people, to one of strengthening their capability to lead the provision of technical support to their members. We propose to not only focus on developing their technical capability but also to develop a financial mechanism to support shearing campaigns. This financial mechanism will be developed by supporting ACOFIVB first establish the financial need (based on the historical costs of each regional association, identifying existing government funds to support the shearing campaign, and measuring the financial gap), identifying a financial management partner, and designing a transparent governance mechanism for distribution and reposition of a revolving fund. The fund for the development of the protected area system FUNDESNAP is an obvious partner to manage a fund because several of the vicuña manager associations are found within protected areas. However, the final determination will depend on the decision of the ACOFIVB assembly with representatives from their regional associations. To ensure the long-term sustainability of decisions surrounding this financial mechanism the project will support ACOFIVB also carry out consultations with the community members of the regional associations.

This same bottom-up and multi-level approach will be used to carry out workshops to discuss the internal statutes required for ACOFIVB and its regional associations to become legally established. We will use previously established methodologies to facilitate development of internal statutes <https://herramientasgti.org/#/modulo/2/37> and will also provide support from a legal consultant in this process and later in the analysis of their tax status and responsibilities. First, we will establish an internal agreement between ACOFIVB and its 11 regional associations to carry out this process. Then we will carry out workshops with representatives from their member communities in each region to establish agreements. These internal agreements will be transcribed in a statute and by-laws format, presented for approval to the regional associations, transcribed into the community book of minutes, and then registered in the Public Registry. A bottom-up process will also be carried out to enable the ACOFIVB leadership develop a manual of functions and administrative procedures, in consensus with their membership.

Peer-to-peer learning in field schools will be used to develop capacity for carrying out population census (11 field schools), vicuña capture, visual disease surveillance and mechanical shearing (11 field schools), fiber selection and fiber collection and storage (11 field schools). The most experienced vicuña herders in each of the processes will accompany the implementation of the process in each regional association, ensuring that at least two representatives from each of the regional associations participate in each field school. WCS staff and where possible representatives from the national authorities (DGB-AP) will participate in all field schools in support of ACOFIVB. The participation of women in the field schools will be encouraged and indicators of participants in training, decision making and benefit sharing disaggregated by gender.

11 field schools will also be held to establish a program for conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species. Each regional association will initially identify the priority peatlands to be monitored. Their size and water level will be monitored at the end of the wet season and end of the dry season. Indicator species will be identified and monitored throughout the year using iNaturalist. ACOFIVB and their regional organizations will work with the local schools to involve them in this activity. Results of this monitoring activities will be shared in real-time through iNaturalist. We will support ACOFIVB with a legal consultant so they can engage more effectively with national press, government authorities and public prosecutors to raise awareness on the conservation value of vicuñas, and the legal framework established for vicuña fiber sale.

Q14. How will you identify participants?

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

This project will focus on 11 regional organization of vicuña managers that are part of ACOFIVB and represent 113 communities, and 5500 families of the highland areas of La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, Tarija y Cochabamba; regions of the country with a 73% extreme poverty rate. All members will be encouraged to participate in the field schools taking place within their management area, and each regional association will also identify at least two additional members to accompany other field schools depending on their interest and experience.

ACOFIVB capacity building activities will involve all the directorate, at present made up of: René Paca Pacolla, (President), Daria Camata Salas (General Secretary), Domingo Nina Flores (Minutes Secretary), Bladimir Suxo Barrera (Vocal) and Daniel Maydana Choque (General Counsel), and representatives of each of the regional organizations. To ensure legitimate decision making these representatives will previously consult with their members through assemblies with participation open to all their members. Power structures within communities may represent an obstacle for fair and equitable participation. In order to mitigate this risk, we have designed a bottom-up capacity building process that brings decision making to the community level and does not require travel which could represent an obstacle for participation of women and older community members. Community workshops will be open to participants with their children so that family care responsibilities do not represent barriers to participation. Finally, implementation of WCS's grievance mechanism, that will be communicated in all workshops, will permit us to monitor perceived or real exclusion from decision making. The grievance mechanism establishes a clear process to respond to these events and is respectful of people's rights to anonymity.

Q15. 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. Please summarise how your capability and capacity project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

Women participate in management of wild vicuña shearing during the selection of the fiber. Implementation of a guide for fleece management during shearing and fiber selection⁷ leads to increased benefits to local communities. In this project we will strengthen the capability of ACOFIVB to provide assistance to the regional associations and monitor the implementation of these best practices for fiber selection, replicating the successful experience in the previous Darwin Initiative project.

Benefits from the sale of vicuña are distributed at the household level and this is an obstacle for women to access benefits equally. We will address this issue by supporting ACOFIVB to actively include their women members in the process of review of regulations and development of their manual of functions and administrative procedures, in training events with their regional associations, in the peatland monitoring and disease surveillance activities, and in the communication efforts. Equal participation of women representatives from the regional associations will be encouraged by ACOFIVB in the communications convening national level meetings. Additionally, workshops will budget to permit the participation of parents with minors, so that responsibility for their care is not an obstacle to women's participation.

Q16. Change expected

Detail what the expected changes to in-country capability and capacity will deliver for both biodiversity and poverty reduction. 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) and the potential to scale the approach.

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

The project will result in both short term and long-term changes. By the end of the project we will increase the capacity of ACOFIVB to represent highland vicuña managers by consolidating its legal status and changing its tax status; developing their capability to provide technical assistance and monitor implementation of best management practices, including capture, shearing, disease surveillance and fiber selection; to communicate and engage with government authorities and broader society; and establish the internal agreements, regulations, and administrative procedures for a revolving fund to support the implementation of best practices during the annual shearing campaigns. As a result, in the short term this project will consolidate capacity to implement sustainable and informed management of vicuña by 11 regional

associations, increasing by at least 30% the benefits to 5,500 households from 113 communities of Indigenous Aymara and Quechua highland pastoralists. Changes are also expected in the participation of women in training and benefit sharing by at least 35%.

In the short term the project will also lead to benefits to vicuña populations, by supporting sustainable management of this species as an alternative to illegal hunting, and by improving capacity for range monitoring during the shearing campaigns. In addition, we expect to improve the capacity of the 11 regional organizations to collectively monitor extent and condition of critical peatlands found over 12M hectares of highland pastures and indicator wildlife species.

In the long-term developing this monitoring capacity will improve the management capacity of the habitat of endemic species such as the endangered Andean cat, near threatened Chilean flamingo, pampas cat, mauri catfish, and the vulnerable marbled waterfrog. These species require highland pastures and peatlands that are threatened by climate change, mining, over grazing and in some cases by the expansion of intensive quinoa plantations. All these threats exacerbate water stress by competing for this scarce resource and lead to degradation of peatlands. Hence, monitoring the condition of peatlands and indicator species will enable ACOFIVB to identify the need for conservation action if negative trends are identified.

Q17. Exit Strategy


How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding?

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 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?

This project is directed at establishing the governance structure, technical and financial capacity for sustainable management of vicuña populations, and monitoring of peatlands and vicuña health. The project will build capacity in-country, and specifically within the representative organizations of Indigenous vicuña herders. The establishment of a financial mechanism to support annual shearing campaigns will ensure the sustainability of these efforts and allow ACOFIVB to provide technical and financial support to its members. Sustainability will also be secured by strengthening the capacity of ACOFIVB to maintain quality control during the vicuña management process and coordination with the national authorities. Finally, we will also develop the capacity of ACOFIVB to monitor peatlands and vicuña health. This project will scale up best practices developed under Darwin Initiative project 26-021 and consolidate capacity across the 11 regional associations. This bottom-up and participatory approach, together with the technical, legal and financial interventions provide a solid exit strategy based on consolidating the capacity of ACOFIVB to represent and support Indigenous vicuña managers in Bolivia.

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


 [Work Cited List](#)

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 [Footnotes](#)

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q18. 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 [Risk Assessment template](#), 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
Fiduciary (financial) Risk 1 ACOFIVB or Regional Associations are unable to manage funds transparently.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Clear instructions will be provided to ACOFIVB to enable them to use the funds appropriately. Additionally, WCS staff will accompany workshops and provide assistance.	Minor
Safeguarding Vicuña suffer whilst captured and sheared	Major	Possible	Major	Training will be provided to all regional organizations to implement best practices for animal welfare.	Minor
Delivery Chain Changes in government authorities can delay implementation	Moderate	Possible	Major	Written minutes will be taken after every meeting between ACOFIVB and the DGBAP to ensure traceability and facilitate takeover by new authorities.	Minor
Risk 4 Reinvestment. Lack of interest from communities to establish a revolving fund.	Major	Unlikely	Major	Transparent flow of information regarding management of the rotating fund to all regional associations and participatory development of regulations for its management.	Moderate
Risk 5 Formalizing the legal establishment of ACOFIVB and reviewing their tax status can lead to review of past tax payments.	Major	Likely	Severe	Hiring a legal consultant with specific experience on community-based export initiatives will identify risks and opportunities of all options.	Minor
Risk 6 Revolving fund is mismanaged.	Severe	Possible	Severe	A manager of the fund (external) will be identified based on previous experiences and clear audits, as well as complementary mission.	Minor





Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q19. 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.

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.

 [BCF-Implementation-Timetable-Template-2022-23Boli viavicuña_ForUpload](#)
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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q20. 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 improved 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).

The monitoring and evaluation plan will be supervised by the project lead, with support from the team and ACOFIVB.


The Outcome will be verified by the achievement of high scores in a governance capacity evaluation, using the questionnaire to evaluate legality, legitimacy, representativeness, and capacity included in the tool kit for territorial management <https://herramientasgti.org/#/modulo/2/26>; as well as by the inclusion of critical biodiversity monitoring in the internal regulations of ACOFIVB and increased income for 5500 vicuña herder households.

Output 1 will be verified by the approval of internal regulations by the 11 regional associations, presented in communal minutes; and through the the legal constitution documents of the 11 regional associations and ACOFIVB in the public registry.

Output 2 will be verified with the training materials and participant lists of all the field schools.

Output 3 will be verified looking at the content of the training materials and participant lists of field schools; as well as maps and monitoring reports of priority peatlands and indicator species.

Output 4 will be verified by the existence of reviewed regulations and the establishment of a revolving fund, including a manual of functions and administrative procedures.

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

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E 

Number of days planned for M&E 80

Section 10 - Indicators of Success

Q21. Indicators of success

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

See the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance** for advice on selecting 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>Outcome</p> <p>Consolidate ACOFIVB capacity to support sustainable and informed management of vicuña, increasing benefits to 5500 Indigenous households and monitoring capacity of critical biodiversity habitat within highland pastures over 12M hectares.</p>	<p>0.1 Regulations of ACOFIVB include monitoring of critical biodiversity habitat within 12M hectares of highland pastures.</p> <p>0.2 Income of 5500 vicuña herder households increases by 30% by Year 2, from a baseline of USD119 a year.</p> <p>0.3 ACOFIVB governance capacity is consolidated by Year 2.</p>	<p>0.1 ACOFIVB regulations including monitoring responsibilities.</p> <p>0.2 List of beneficiaries amongst vicuña herders, disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>0.3 Exit evaluation of governance capacity.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and their regional associations.</p>	<p>1.1 Internal regulations of 11 regional associations developed and approved by Yr 1.</p> <p>1.2 ACOFIVB and 11 regional associations are legally established by Yr 2.</p>	<p>1.1 Communal minutes approving internal regulations of regional associations.</p> <p>1.2 Public registry of legal constitution of 11 regional associations and ACOFIVB.</p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB with regional associations on best practices for animal welfare, population census, capture, mechanical shearing, disease surveillance, fiber selection, fiber collection and sale.</p>	<p>2.1 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on vicuña census.</p> <p>2.2 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on vicuña capture, visual disease surveillance and mechanical shearing.</p> <p>2.3 Eleven regional associations, 1,625 men and 875 (35%) women participate in field schools on fiber selection and fiber collection and storage.</p>	<p>2.1 Training materials and participant lists of field schools, disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>2.2 Training materials and participant lists of field schools disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>2.3 Training materials and participant lists of field schools, disaggregated by gender</p>

Output 3

Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB and regional organizations on peatland and wildlife monitoring

- 3.1 Eleven regional associations participate in field schools on conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species.
- 3.2 Eleven regional organizations map priority peatlands and identify indicator species to be monitored.
- 3.3 Four monitoring reports on size and water level of priority peatlands.
- 3.4 At least 6 local schools monitor indicator species using iNaturalist.

- 3.1 Training materials and participant lists of field schools disaggregated by gender
- 3.2 Maps of priority peatlands and lists of indicator species for 11 regional organizations.
- 3.3 Monitoring reports of priority peatlands.
- 3.4 Monitoring reports of indicator species.

Output 4

Vicuña regulations reviewed by ACOFIVB and revolving fund established

- 4.1 Participatory review of current regulations and inputs for a manual of functions and administrative procedures with regional associations.
- 4.2 Adjusted regulations and establishment of a revolving fund with agreement of regional associations.

- 4.1 Workshop meetings with suggested adjustments to existing regulations and inputs for manual of functions and administrative procedures.
 - 4.2 Reviewed regulations and manual for management of revolving fund.
-

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 Develop internal agreement between ACOFIVB and its 11 regional organizations for the whole process.
- 1.2 Communal workshops with all regional organizations and at least 35% women participants to develop internal regulations.
- 1.3 Transcribe internal regulations in a statute and by-laws format and present for approval by the regional associations.
- 1.4 Register internal regulations in the Public Registry and legal status for ACOFIVB and 11 regional organizations (Personeria Juridica).
- 1.5 Communication of legal status of ACOFIVB and vicuña management program with biodiversity and law enforcement agencies to increase awareness on the impact of wildlife traffic.
- 2.1 Field schools on vicuña censusing with 11 regional associations
- 2.2 Field schools on vicuña capture, disease surveillance and mechanical sharing, and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations.
- 2.3 Field Schools on fiber selection and fiber collection and storage; and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations.
- 3.1 Field schools on conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species; and evaluation (dry and humid seasons)..
- 3.2 Identify priority peatlands and indicator species to be monitored with each regional association.
- 3.3 Monitor size and water level of priority peatlands at the end of the wet season and end of the dry season.

3.4 Support ACOFIVB and regional associations work with local schools and monitor indicator species using iNaturalist .)

4.1 Support ACOFIVB develop a bottom-up methodology to evaluate and adjust the current regulations, including benefit distribution to establish a revolving fund.

4.2 Regional workshops to review current regulations and provide inputs for a manual of functions and administrative procedures.

4.3 Approval by regional organizations of adjustments to regulations and establishment of revolving fund.

Important Assumptions:

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

Changes in government authorities do not prevent coordination for legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and its regional organizations.

Vicuña fiber market is not affected by global recession or any other macro-economic disruption.

Political conflicts do not prevent travel across Bolivian highlands.

Economic crisis and increase of illegal hunting of vicuñas do not threaten implementation of the legal and sustainable national vicuña management program.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q22. 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 under £100,000 and over £100,000. 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.

NB: 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 the Lead Partner's accounts (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance) at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [Budget St2 - Darwin Vicuñas ACOFIVB](#)
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 xlsx 78.87 KB

Q23. Funding

Q23a. 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 initiative builds on the work carried out by WCS with project Darwin Initiative project 26-021.

Q23b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q24. 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 budget includes purchasing of electrical shearing scissors for the regional associations. At project end they will all remain with the beneficiaries. These capital items do not represent more than 10% of the budget.

Q25. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

WCS has an on-the-ground presence and a long-term technical partnership with the Apolobamba vicuña herders and with ACOFIVB. The budget was developed taking into account existing and projected counterpart funds and possibilities to leverage alliances. Costs are calculated using our concrete experience of field costs in Bolivia. In terms of cost benefits of the intervention, the average annual volume of fiber sheared is worth £ [REDACTED] as such the return of the requested support from Darwin is less than a tenth of that value annually. The investment in terms of livelihood benefits, considering 5500 beneficiary households and an average of 5 people per household is a modest £7.3, and the proposed 30% increase per household is more than £30.

Investing in strengthening ACOFIVB is the best strategy for ensuring vicuña populations and associated key biodiversity are managed sustainably and securing a long term financial mechanism for vicuña shearing will improve management capacity over critical habitat across 12M hectares, or less than 2p per hectare under the influence of 113 communities.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q26. 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.

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 on certification page)	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 all 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 safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. If any of the responses are “no”, please indicate how it is being addressed.

Safeguarding policies will be applied under the Human Rights in Conservation Principles. In the context of our work in conservation, WCS respects internationally proclaimed human rights and seeks to assure that, in that context, we are not complicit in and do not contribute to human rights abuses. In this project we will develop the capacity of ACOFIVB to represent the rights of their member communities. In this way we will strengthen the rights of vicuña herder communities in the context of conservation and natural resource use. We will strengthen their governance capacity and implement the project under a formal agreement.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q27. 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

Q28. 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?
Oscar Loayza	Project Leader	20	Checked
Humber Alberto	Vicuña specialist	100	Checked
Jose Luis Mollericona	Wildlife veterinarian	60	Checked
Saul Callancho	Local technician	100	Checked

Do you require more fields?

No

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

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

 [CV package](#)
 07/11/2022
 21:42:27
 pdf 191.25 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q29. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner) – i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project and 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.

Lead Partner name: Wildlife Conservation Society

Website address: <https://bolivia.wcs.org>

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value do they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

WCS will lead technical implementation, reporting and financial management. WCS has been supporting the implementation of National Vicuña Management Plan since 2002, including censuses, distribution, disease monitoring, benefit sharing, management practices and habitat management. Through a previous Darwin project WCS supported the development of five technical documents related to the management and sustainable use of vicuña fiber, based on the experience developed in the Apolobamba National Integrated Management Natural Area (ANMIN Apolobamba). These guides will be used in the field schools. Additionally, WCS has over 20 years' experience in Bolivia supporting territorial management and community based natural resource management. During this period, we have developed experience in working in alliance with rural producer organizations.

International/In-country Partner

In-country

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£ [REDACTED]

Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?

Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:

ACOFIVB

Website address:

N/A

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

ACOFIVB was established in 2007 as the national representative organization of vicuña managers. Hence, they have the capacity to convene field schools and participatory consultations. They are also the organization whose capacity and long-term sustainability will be developed by this project. They therefore have a critical role in approving all products.

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner

In-country

Allocated budget:

£0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes

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

2. Partner Name: *No Response*

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

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes
 No

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

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

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

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes
 No

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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

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

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes
 No

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

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

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes No

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

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





Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) 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 combined PDF of all letters of support.

 WCS Bolivia LetterOfSupport Signed
 07/11/2022
 21:54:57
 pdf 123.94 KB

 Partner Letter of Support WCS-DARWIN-29 ENG
 07/11/2022
 21:44:23
 pdf 201.36 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q30. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund 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
29-010	Edgard Herrera	Community conservation of critically endangered Hawksbill turtles in Nicaragua
28-015	Jeni Pareira	Delivering public-private partnerships to benefit farmers and biodiversity in Sulawesi
IWT116	Rhett Bennett	Equipping southwest Indian Ocean countries to combat illegal shark trade
IWT115	Md. Zahangir Alom	Demand reduction for threatened freshwater turtles and tortoises in Bangladesh
IWTEV003	Thuy Hoang	Exploring drivers of wild meat consumption and interventions in Vietnam
IWTEV001	Sarah Fumey	Developing a problem-oriented approach to reduce turtle trafficking in Cambodia

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

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q30. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Wildlife Conservation Society

I apply for a grant of





£199,998.00

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, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance) are also enclosed.

















Checked

Name	Joe Walston
Position in the organisation	Executive Vice President, Global Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Joe W. Signature 2  07/11/2022  21:48:57  jpg 41.3 KB
Date	07 November 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts or other financial evidence (see Finance Guidance)

 6fmdelwbr6 Audited Financial Statements 2020 WCS  07/11/2022  21:49:44  pdf 355.95 KB	 2dkjperhcs Audited Financial Statements 2021 WCS  07/11/2022  21:49:40  pdf 375.63 KB
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 1. WCS Safeguarding Policy FINAL EN 2020 1203 (1) (1)  07/11/2022  21:50:27  pdf 517.23 KB	 4. WCS Whistleblower Policy English Approved 2014-05-19 (2017-12-06) (1)  07/11/2022  21:50:12  pdf 198.65 KB
 3. WCS Code of Conduct APPROVED 2019-02-26 (1)  07/11/2022  21:50:09  pdf 239.39 KB	 2. WCS Harassment Sexual Harassment Policy Revised Feb 2021 (1)  07/11/2022  21:50:06  pdf 413.84 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Management Guidance", 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 attached the below documents to my application:	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My budget (which meets the requirements above) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 28, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 29, or an explanation of why not. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received 1 has been addressed where relevant. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 26. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance), or provided an explanation if not. 	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	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 checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Unchecked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in 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).

Project Title: Vicuña management for biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods in the Bolivian highlands

Guidance – please delete before submitting

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Quarters are based on UK FYs (**1 April – 31 March** - Q1 therefore starts April 2023).

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The activity numbers should correspond to the activities in your logical framework (logframe). The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

This template covers multiple Biodiversity Challenge Funds schemes, so ensure you check the eligible dates/project length for the scheme you are applying to and feel free to delete later years if not applicable for your project.

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Legal consolidation of ACOFIVB and their regional associations.									
1.1	Develop internal agreement between ACOFIVB and its 11 regional organizations for the whole process	0.5	x							
1.2	Communal workshops with all regional organizations and at least 35% women participants to develop internal regulations	3	x	x						
1.3	Transcribe internal regulations in a statute and by-laws format and present for approval by the regional associations	1			x					
1.4	Register internal regulations in the Public Registry and legal status for ACOFIVB and 11 regional organizations (Personeria Juridica)	4				x	x			
1.5	Communication of legal status of ACOFIVB and vicuña management program with biodiversity and law enforcement agencies to increase awareness on the impact of wildlife traffic	4						x	x	
Output 2	Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB with regional associations on best practices for animal welfare, population census, capture, mechanical shearing, disease surveillance, fiber selection, fiber collection and sale.									
2.1	Field schools on vicuña censusing with 11 regional associations.	4		x				x		

Project Title: Vicuña management for biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods in the Bolivian highlands

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.2	Field schools on vicuña capture, disease surveillance and mechanical shearing; and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations.	6			x				x	
2.3	Field Schools on fiber selection and fiber collection and storage; and evaluation of their implementation with 11 regional associations.	4				x				x
Output 3	Field schools implemented by ACOFIVB and regional organizations on peatland and wildlife monitoring									
3.1	Field schools on conservation and monitoring of highland peatlands and associated wildlife species; and evaluation (dry and humid seasons).	6		x		x		x		x
3.2	Identify priority peatlands and indicator species to be monitored with each regional association.	1		x						
3.3	Monitor size and water level of priority peatlands at the end of the wet season and end of the dry season.	2		x		x		x		x
3.4	Support ACOFIVB and regional associations work with local schools and monitor indicator species using iNaturalist.	18			x	x	x	x	x	x
Output 4	Vicuña regulations reviewed by ACOFIVB and revolving fund established									
4.1	Support ACOFIVB develop a bottom-up methodology to evaluate and adjust the current regulations, including benefit distribution to establish a revolving fund.	2				x				
4.2	Regional workshops to review current regulations and provide inputs for a manual of functions and administrative procedures.	4					x	x		
4.3	Approval by regional organizations of adjustments and establishment of revolving fund.	2							x	