

Applicant: **Jackson, Rodney**
Organisation: **Snow Leopard Conservancy**
Funding Sought: **£170,660.00**

DIR29CC\1076

Integrating local government and community conservation capacity for snow leopards

Scaling-up conservation-led actions over shared landscapes and local government boundaries by building upon successes in one mid-western Nepal Rural Municipality and replicating locally-designed enterprises to adjacent Municipalities through multi-stakeholder collaboration: (1) create common cooperative capacities for consolidated marketing of snow leopard biodiversity-linked enterprises; (2) promote funding for environmentally suitable initiatives from rural municipality partner resources; and (3) create a sub-national livestock owner cooperative to implement peer-to-peer learning and actions for snow leopard conservation and livestock compensation across sub-national jurisdictions.

Section 1 - Contact Details

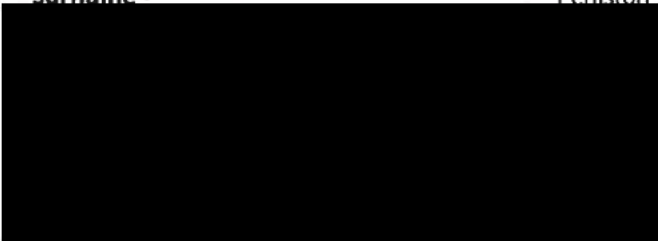
PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Rodney
Surname Jackson



CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Brian
Surname Peniston



GMS ORGANISATION

Type Organisation
Name Snow Leopard Conservancy



Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Title:

Integrating local government and community conservation capacity for snow leopards


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.

 [DIR29CC_SLC_CoverLetter](#)

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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.

Scaling-up conservation-led actions over shared landscapes and local government boundaries by building upon successes in one mid-western Nepal Rural Municipality and replicating locally-designed enterprises to adjacent Municipalities through multi-stakeholder collaboration: (1) create common cooperative capacities for consolidated marketing of snow leopard biodiversity-linked enterprises; (2) promote funding for environmentally suitable initiatives from rural municipality partner resources; and (3) create a sub-national livestock owner cooperative to implement peer-to-peer learning and actions for snow leopard conservation and livestock compensation across sub-national jurisdictions.

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	Nepal	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 months):
01 April 2023	31 March 2025	2 Years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£80,820.00	£89,840.00	£ 170,660.00

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?

Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) will provide matching funds from its annual general funds and from funds raised from specific proposals submitted to individual and Foundation donors to co-finance this conservation program. SLC will specifically fund the following piloting activities:

*Baseline questionnaire survey of 3 Gaun Palika administration units (at major or vice mayor level)

Identification, engagement and initiation of motivated, knowledgeable citizens to help catalyse local government commitment & buy-in for piloting promising income-generating enterprises

*Develop capacities of a subnational cooperative for marketing of snow leopard linked products and services (eg tourism, etc)

*Provide incentive grants to Project supported sub-national cooperative of herd owners, advocating for more effective livestock compensation schemes, supporting complimentary depredation deterrence (Foxlights and improved fencing) and livestock health and grazing management issues

Spreading sharing of lessons learned across subnational boundaries through Snow Leopard Network and other social media platforms

*Provide technical and Financial Program oversight

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



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?

SLC is confident that we can raise co-financing funds each year from individual donors, SLC Board members and SLC general funds based on the past 25 years of fundraising experience. SLC canvases new donors support and provides matching co-funding from the following sources:

- reinvestment of portions of product marketing revenues into snow leopard conservation and
- investment of rural municipality funds into snow leopard conservation activities across snow leopard hotspots.
- Contributions of Senior SLC Ex-Director/Founder and Senior Technical Advisor staff time

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).

The Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*), an apex predator / umbrella species for biodiversity (listed as Endangered, on Nepal's Red List and Vulnerable on IUCN's Red List) are sparsely distributed, occupying large home ranges, and frequently crossing administrative boundaries. Rural communities often perceive this cat negatively for killing livestock (See Appendix), which may constitute 15-30% of their diet. Although losses rarely exceed 1-3% of total livestock numbers, occasional incidents of multiple killing (10-50 + sheep/goats contained in poorly built corrals) drive retributive killing of snow leopards and other

predators like wolf (*Canis lupus*). Economic impacts to poverty-prone households are severe, given annual per capita incomes of <\$1,500 or annual losses totaling \$200-400. Compensation, if present, only covers 10-15% of the animal's market value; verification is difficult, costly and time-consuming. Multiple killing is prevented by predator-proofing corrals, but these number many hundreds, improvements are costly and predicting at-risk structures problematic. Improving wild prey populations is also needed. Conservationists must adopt multiple strategies, like improving livestock guarding and strengthening local livelihoods and revenue streams from livestock raising and trekking/tourism -- while also accounting for climatic change and other risks. To date, these activities are largely led by independent agents with limited networking, dominated by centralized government regulations. Additional diversified and more harmonious conservation mechanisms and well-targeted interventions are vital to help offset economic impacts of livestock depredation to marginalized pastoralists, supported with shifting the typical livestock owner's perception of snow leopards as a pest to being recognized as valuable ecological "assets".

However, scaling up will be challenging, requiring blending traditional and scientific knowledge, fostering greater community participation and leadership, greater advocacy and strengthening government capacity for biodiversity conservation at both regional and local scales. With Nepal's devolution of governance to regional and local levels, there are new unrealized opportunities currently in their infancy (see Conservation and Prosperity, 2018). Given the resource constraints (funding and technical knowledge), and imperatives for moving from one-off, single-site interventions to landscape level actions, this is an excellent time to build effective and operational networks of owners and local communities to address gaps and needs.

More streamlined and efficient livestock depredation compensation schemes operating at sub-national levels addresses the immediate poverty challenge of replacement incomes following snow leopard attacks on domesticated livestock. Scaling-up a snow leopard linked conservation enterprise and distributing benefits among all community shareholders establishes an equitable and sustainable funding source for future coordinated snow leopard conservation across rural municipality boundaries.

This initiative will assist local municipalities and their constituents (e.g., herd owners, businesses, marketing alliances, NGOs, NTNC-Annapurna Conservation Area Project, provincial veterinary agencies and technical universities) collaborate, network and solve problems, drawing on their combined resources and knowledge and employing participatory tools like APPA to (1) mobilize value-added marketing of select local products like the wild chives of NarPhu and adjacent valleys and (2) codify and implement an efficient and economically viable wildlife damage compensation program, and 3) improve livestock health and productivity through a newly established subnational livestock owner cooperative.

See Appendix for verification sources.

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)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- 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.

Project goals and activities align with Nepal's National Conservation priorities, as indicated by Nepal's endorsement of its National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Priorities (NSLEP) under the 12-range nation Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP; <https://globalsnowleopard.org/>) aimed at securing 22 viable Snow Leopard Population Landscapes across the species' range by 2020 (shifted to 2023 or 2024 because of covid and other considerations). The Annapurna Conservation Area is a priority landscape for Nepal.

Strong alignment also exists with Government of Nepal's Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan (2017-2021) particularly Section 3.2: (i) strengthening policy and institutions; (ii) managing prey and habitat; (iv) engaging local communities in reducing human-wildlife conflicts and improved mechanisms for supporting alternative livelihoods. These plans mesh with Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (2014-2020) by creating environmentally friendly economic development and alternative livelihood opportunities, gender and social inclusion, meaningful participation of local communities, and reduction in human-wildlife conflict. There is additional project compatibility with Nepal's new Constitution (2072), and its 2013 Wildlife Damage Relief Guidelines.

Finally, there is evidence-supported alignment with the following International Conventions endorsed by the Government of Nepal:

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Contribution to UNDP Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi targets, including activities under items 3, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 18

By strengthening governance capacity at local and sub-regional levels, the proposed project goals, if endorsed at the policy level under the New Constitution, will add significant and incremental capacity for biodiversity in the Nepal Himalaya, especially in and adjacent to snow leopard hotspots.

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?

The larger objective of this project is to promote collaboration, increased communication and cooperation between local community members, local government, the private sector, livestock herd owners and Provincial & Federal Government officials on snow leopard conservation initiatives.

The outcomes and capacities to be built are:

*Promoting conservation activities that cross sub-national boundaries and are more aligned with snow leopard movements and habitat;

*Creating a common marketing approach for snow leopard linked enterprises that generate greater economic returns and revenues for three snow leopard hotspot rural municipalities;

*Providing local community members a Cooperative forum for greater advocacy, autonomy in decision making and to obtain more rapid and effective compensation when livestock depredation occurs.

*** Creating a cooperative of livestock herd owners for more effective livestock management, grazing area management,

and enhanced livestock productivity and health

(*** NOTE: Darwin Funding will be used to create the livestock owner cooperative. The majority of complementary activities will be funded from SLC co-financing and from resources raised from rural municipality resources).

Approach: The first step is to establish a cooperative marketing structure for snow leopard linked enterprises across three rural municipalities in Mid-west Nepal. This creates the foundation for sustaining policy and practice improvements that result in biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. It includes product consolidation, common warehousing of products, developing common valued-added processing techniques (where appropriate), developing a "wildlife premium" brand and common marketing of select products and services. The precise legal structure will be determined through participatory consultation and a thorough review of the strengths and weaknesses of different legal cooperative mechanisms in Nepal. The prospect of generating economic benefits for shareholders across boundaries is expected to provide incentives for collaboration across sub-national (rural municipality) boundaries. Evidence for the effectiveness of this approach on natural resource management can be seen from the subnational governance experiences of The Asia Foundation and the Niti Foundation on the Paani project. (see Appendix; and Conservation and Prosperity, 2018)

Main Activities include :

- *Participatory reviews of the current GON policies and procedures including Fiscal Transfer process, (Federal to Provincial to Rural Municipality), communications mechanisms between municipalities and livestock depredation compensation mechanisms,
- *Developing a shared vision and strategy for subnational coordination and collaboration through workshops and "design working groups" (See A Practical Guide to Integrated Landscape Management, 2022); Sub-steps include developing shared collaborative understandings, defining areas of common priorities and taking initial actions, developing a larger shared vision with planning, and incorporating impacts and learning through results analysis and refinement.
- *Shared peer-to-peer learning on conservation linked enterprises, livestock and grazing management issues and local government support, negotiation and advocacy skills training for local government officials, livestock owners and local communities
- *Develop and legally register a trans-municipality marketing cooperative for snow leopard linked products;
- *Develop a cooperative of livestock herd owners across subnational boundaries
- *Obtain trans-municipality agreements to streamline compensation funding for livestock depredation and train livestock owner cooperative members in collective advocacy with Protected area officials (eg ACA and DNPWC),
- *Conduct subregional level conservation policy workshops to share experience, leading up to Provincial level workshops and meeting
- *Share results at National level conservation policy dialogues through workshops, followed up with small working group level policy dialogues

Management: The program will be led by Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) who will provide technical and professional advice and inputs, fiscal oversight and professional mentoring, supervision and management. SLC will make one to two management and technical trips per year to manage partners and contribute technically to the project. One-the-ground activities will be managed and implemented by the Nepal based Project Leader, working closely with Program Officer at Mountain Spirit who both have prior experience as implementer's of a prior Darwin Initiative project, working closely with one of the selected Rural Municipalities for this project. US based staff will be in regular bi-weekly telephone contact with the Nepal Project Leader except when he is in the field and unavailable due to communications challenges. Nepal partner Mountain Spirit will monitor daily activities and provide concise monthly technical and financial reports, and detailed quarterly reports under the supervision and guidance of the Nepal Project Leader. Mountain Spirit will also manage the three Project Motivators based in each of the rural municipalities.

SLC matching funds will help support corral improvements, innovative deterrence mechanisms and improved highland pasture management for livestock and native ungulates. These complementary activities to improve livestock herd and grazing area management and improved livestock productivity will be conducted independently from Darwin funded activities, except when funded from rural municipality funding.

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?

Project sites and participating rural municipalities are identified initially by presence of snow leopards and depredation events that have occurred in these sites. Rural Municipality of Nar and Phu was identified during Darwin initiative Project

#25-027, where they committed GON federally funded revenues to support snow leopard conservation and diversified income projects to cultivate high value Himalayan chives that addresses income loss from livestock depredation issues.

The Gaun Palikas of Manang and Lower Mustang were identified by their prime snow leopard habitat and hotspots with conservation and compensation risks and challenges from multiple livestock depredation incidents. Any tourism partners will be identified based on their known regional expertise in mountain tourism. Local coordinators will be recruited from key village institutions and Snow Leopard Conservation Committees.

Private sector partners will be identified based on their experience in marketing sustainable mountain products, and suitability for similar high altitude non-timber forest products. Other project participants such as ACA and DNPWC were identified as they have a history for management authority for protected areas.

A targeted study tour to a successful herders cooperative in Nepal will help herd owners determine the best livestock owners cooperative model and legal registration for them, complemented by a study tour to a nearby successful Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Cooperative.

Ad hoc technical support and advice for national level policy advocacy will be sought from Niti Foundation based on their national reputation for conducting decentralized and devolution policy analysis documented in written reports, (Appendix). In Nepal they are a premiere agency to promote national policy dialogue and analysis, with a particular focus on devolution under Nepal's Constitution of 2015 (2072 in Nepali calendar).

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.

Inequalities between gender can have significant effects on people's livelihoods, roles and opportunities, including within remote rural economies. For example, high mountain ethnic groups (Thakalis & Gurungs) dominate the project sites, with women often having relatively stronger positions within both households and the community, including being economically engaged. Men are often away for long periods – herding yaks, guiding tourists, trading or as migrant workers in Kathmandu or abroad – thus increasing women's work burden covering reproductive and care-giving roles, subsistence agriculture, and entrepreneurial activities like lodge/teahouse operation, and weaving/traditional crafts. However, they continue lagging in most social indicators (health, education), and they have limited representation, or capabilities for political and community leadership and decision-making. Emphasis on quotas for women and marginalized groups under Nepal's new governance system is thrusting them into leadership positions, yet their limited capacity can affect meaningful participation and voices.

We will follow Darwin guidelines regarding Gender Equity, including collecting gender and caste/ethnicity disaggregated data for all planning, implementation and policy feedback, aimed at increasing social inclusion and equality. All M&E formats will contain checklists for disaggregated data, complemented by use of gender-sensitive participatory and qualitative methods for informing how project activities impact gender roles/responsibilities, and help guide inclusion and supporting the voices of marginalized groups. Therefore, baseline household attitudinal surveys and indicators will be administered appropriately to men and women of different ages and wealth groups, to tease out differential perspectives.

The project recognizes such structural and attitudinal challenges and will integrate gender equality approaches and measures into all relevant project activities. Women will have equitable opportunities for training in biodiversity conservation and enterprises. Their capacity for nuanced understanding of the linkages between biodiversity conservation and enterprises will strengthen their voice and role in decision-making affecting resource allocation.

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

Starting with solid understanding of key underlying threats, our project hinges upon a Theory of Change modality that centers about current attitudes and practices, then seeks consensus-based and resilient actions for growing community wellbeing, economic enhancement and improving environmental quality. This is done by drawing on the power of collaborative partnerships between government, public sector and local communities community members especially herders. Changes will clearly take time, but the prospects for successful outcomes are increased by ensuring equitable participation of each stakeholder sector, transparent individual and collective decision making, realistic benefits, and cost & benefit sharing incentives etc.

Anticipated Long-term Changes: Mountain biodiversity conservation at the local rural level will be significantly strengthened through advocating the benefits of shared knowledge and fostering strategically focused asset building capacities across municipal administration collaboration for agricultural, livestock and tourism enterprises (see below) with imbedded conditionalities for protecting snow leopards, prey and habitat. We recognize this will involve potentially significant ways whereby the government supports conservation-development of rural mountainous areas, given constrained resources underpinning Agent-for-Change modalities for poverty-prone communities lacking or limited in access to external markets.

Over the Short-Term we plan to complete the following actions/outputs:

At least two common enterprise-driven marketing platforms (e.g. agricultural and livestock owners cooperatives) established, recognized under Nepali law and launching operations to produce, process and market sustainably raised mountain products and/or services supporting snow leopard conservation, directly or indirectly, through improved capacities for revenue generation, livelihood growth and diversification;

Workshop-driven dialogue and decision-enabled communication and coordination on candidate conservation measures launched and involving 3 Gaun Palika (GP) partners and motivated local area community stakeholders (e.g., user groups, business savvy households, local leaders). These partnerships and product-driven alliances will identify strategies for integrating and co-financing supporting conservation measures into normative development planning procedures and yearly operations of government interfaced with the private sector.

Similar multi-meeting stakeholder dialog, centered on livestock owners, ACA management and GP office staff to coordinate and consolidate workable approaches to compensation for livestock depredation (with technical input from wildlife experts and the National Parks, DNPWC). Goal will be to implement it sub-regionally (short-term) but serve as a model for replication to other ecological zones and protected species (e.g., tiger, rhino).

The project will explore other ways in which Local Governments can combine human and possibly financial resources across municipality boundaries for joint snow leopard conservation actions, including improved corrals, better trans-municipality grazing land management, improved veterinary services and measures for building resilience against wildlife-livestock-human disease transmission and pathogen exchanges

By end-of-project, at least two rural municipalities will be exposed to the concept of investing a portion of federal funds into local conservation activities. A Subnational and National Level Workshop will disseminate and share findings, offer Best Practices, highlight opportunities for improving decentralized governance policies, and minimizing key risks (e.g., environmental, economic and socio-political, climatic, pandemic) with observed shortcomings, as identified by Provincial and National level policy makers, private sector actors and local community leaders.

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?

In-country capacity will be maintained by a combination of public and private sector actors assuming key program and fiscal responsibilities. Snow Leopard enterprise and livestock owner cooperatives will take over advocacy and negotiation duties with local government and provide limited cooperative funding and marketing of local products. Local Government will assume advocacy and negotiation duties with ACA and DNPWC on creating more effective and responsive depredation compensation mechanisms.


The Nepal based Project Leader and Mountain Spirit will take over future program management and development from SLC. Replication will occur through hosting targeted study tours and by conducting regional and national networking workshops. Benefits will be scaled when other rural municipalities facing similar challenges are exposed to and adopt appropriate parts of the program approach for their sites. Project developed materials and lessons learned will be shared through community radio, reports produced in Nepali language and peer-to-peer networking workshops. Results will also be shared through national policy dialogues on conservation policy and natural resource political economy issues. Significant results will be written for consideration to publish in online fora like OnePlus.

Specific exit targets include:


- *A common marketing platform for snow leopard linked enterprises and products is established, operating and generates income across three rural municipality boundaries.
- *Each Rural Municipality commits resources for trans-municipality snow leopard and other conservation activities using Central or Provincial Government funds
- *A multi-municipality livestock owners cooperative is established, legally registered with strong advocacy capacities
- *Rural municipalities practice a common approach to expedite and streamline payments to local livestock owners suffering depredation by snow leopards or other carnivores such as wolves
- *Shared lessons-learned should motivate other Gaun Palika's facing similar depredation challenges and issues to build on these approaches, adapting or innovating for their own situation, and supported through future conferences, study tours and workshops.


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


 [Project Maps_DIR22CC_SLC](#)


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 [Appendix_DIR29CC_SLC_Selected Literature](#)

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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) Regular vouchers and monthly reports overstate actual costs. Local Government partners are unwilling to share benefits across boundaries	insignificant	unlikely	minor	Monthly review and reports on all project expenditures by Project leader. Project leader actively develops, oversees and monitors all contracts and inspects vouchers routinely. contracted works. Careful selection of partners based on past integrity and audits	minor

<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Exclusion of women and poorest or other marginalized groups from full participation and equitable decision-making Partners, project staff and consultants not adhering to project's safeguarding and ethics policies</p>	moderate	possible	major	<p>Poor, women and vulnerable are included on cooperative Boards. Time is allotted in each meeting, training, etc for their participation and facilitated and enforced by trainers and facilitators. Do no harm procedures are incorporated into Cooperative By-laws and enforced</p>	minor
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Cooperatives promote individual sales rather than collective marketing Municipalities do not agree to cooperate or share funds Government and Protected Area authorities reject modified compensation process</p>	moderate	possible	major	<p>Collective bargaining creates incentives through increased revenues Co-funding and targeted study tours demonstrate value of trans-boundary cooperation Shared trans-boundary financial benefits generates cooperation Past innovators are praised in Regional and National fora Rural Municipalities are educated in their expanded powers and changes advocated by National institutions</p>	moderate
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>National, regional or local Political Pressures on Gaun Palika decision-makers to invest most of its annual budget on road-building or other infrastructure rather than some support for conservation action (widespread in Nepal) and/or otherwise excluding needy or marginalized groups, or others negatively impacting biodiver</p>	moderate	possible/likely	major	<p>Cofinanced activities should encourage targeted conservation / livelihood collaboration & strategic investments by stakeholders Targeted study tours demonstrates conservation and economic benefits Peer-to-peer networking convinces skeptics Past Nar and Phu experience is convincing as similar problems are addressed Knowledge of short and long terms impacts of poorly sited,constructed roads</p>	moderate
<p>Risk 5</p> <p>Reaching Markets:</p> <p>Remoteness, poor communications & infrastructure raise costs and impede reacting to changing markets Natural disasters close temporary access and disrupt communications Another pandemic or public health crisis occurs, impeding business operations</p>	moderate	possible	major	<p>Product consolidation reduces per unit costs, increases competitiveness Warehouse storage of consolidated products until access improves following natural calamities. Works against market price fluctuations Workshops, meeting and trainings held off site until access improved Use cellular communications Collaborative community support helps local government address emergencies</p>	moderate

Risk 6 Climate Change:	minor	unlikely	minor	These communities are resilient and already aware of impacts of climate change over medium / long-term Enhance awareness and offer additional mitigation options via sharing of proven climate-smart measures (WWF-USAID resources) Encourage climate-adaptive agriculture techniques (e.g. local genetically hardened seed sources; water saving & sustainable use)	minor
Not a real risk in a short term two year project as Jimbu is adapted to local environmental conditions Wildlife more constrained by available space, human disturb					





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.

-  [DIRCC-1076 SLC Project Implementation Timetable 1](#)
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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 project team will follow Darwin's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning protocols, especially those related to evidence-based data gathering, evaluation and improvement, by employing standard yet feasible SMART indicators for targeting key outputs or outcomes where stakeholder capacities may differ. Adaptive management will support corrections, along with encouraging equitable stakeholder participation, while also remaining responsive to the needs of poorer mountain communities whose dependency on natural resources we ultimately seek to improve in positive ways.

Using this participatory process for engaging local community and municipality stakeholders, and led by Dr. Thakali (Mountain Spirit), with support from SLC Technical staff, a M&E plan will be developed to guide monitoring of project results (outputs, outcomes and impact); activities (timely fiscal delivery and work-plan activities like planning meetings or training workshops); legal compliance and government performance; community partner - institutional performance and their evolving capacity for networking and collaboration, and use of funds (budget tracking, transparency of expenditures and audited accounting procedures).

M&E will be guided by Success Indicators as summarized in Section 21. The baseline condition is "no or little collaboration between communities and government for snow leopard, biodiversity and natural resource conservation." Special attention will be devoted to ensuring and balanced generation of those Outputs (e.g., establishment of 2 cooperatives) important to meeting projected Outcomes (i.e., more effective cost-sharing collaboration between livestock owners, businesses or associations, existing village institutions) and enhancing snow leopard and biodiversity conservation support from govt.

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

29

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
Outcome Outcome (Max 30 words): Mechanisms for coordinated snow leopard conservation across sub-national boundaries in Central Nepal established and operational	Fora of three rural municipalities formed, legally registered and functioning across three snow leopard hotspots	Marketing Cooperative Legally registered, Livestock Owner Cooperative legally registered Livestock depredation scheme and procedure is simplified and operational notes from regular meetings

Output 1

Three rural municipalities collaborate and market snow leopard linked products and services (like tourism) promoting snow leopard conservation

A legally recognised marketing body Institution is formed, (eg a cooperative etc)

Business plan produced including common consolidation of products/services, processing, branding, marketing and pro-rated benefit sharing.

Products/services markets and revenues shared across boundaries, establishing a larger & better informed consumer base

All three rural municipalities commit and contribute some portion of their annual Federally funded monies to support coordinated snow leopard conservation activities

Legal registration of a subnational institutional body or working group with mandate to reach across three Rural municipalities

Federal funds from all three Rural Municipalities are committed and coordinated priority conservation activities are initiated
Workshops and review conducted
Legally recognized business structure is formed and operational
Revenue is generated and shared across municipality borders
Quality and environmental responsibility of market products and services
Sharing of lessons between three municipalities and local stakeholders

Output 2

New livestock owner's cooperative established and operating across three rural municipalities

Key informants identify common priorities and implement joint programs

Study tour to successful livestock cooperative completed and ideas adopted

Livestock cooperative established legally

Shared challenges identified and pilot program implemented (* Funding from non Darwin sources)

Provincial and national workshops conducted and results shared

Common Priorities Report

Study tour report

Legal registration documents

Pilot program implemented and funded from non Darwin Sources

Workshops conducted and reports prepared

If appropriate, peer reviewed paper prepared for on-line distribution

Output 3

Common approach, standards and mechanism to compensate herders for livestock depredation events is formed and operates across sub-national boundaries.

Review of existing compensation schemes conducted and strengths and weaknesses identified with recommendations for ensuring fair treatment of complaints as well as equitable use of limited resources

Agreement is reached to refine or if necessary create more robust, effective and efficient compensation approaches supported by new institutional structure and operational protocols

Results shared at Province and National Levels

Workshops conducted and Report produced

Improved structure and approach is agreed upon

Cross boundary compensation mechanism is institutionalized and operates with workable means of informing the public on how to file compensation requests

National and Provincial level workshops conducted and results shared

Output 4

No Response

No Response

No Response

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 Desk and key informant review of Fiscal Transfer Process under evolving Constitution reviewed and "Best Practices" for

- conservation funding allocation options and fund transfer mechanisms produced
- 1.2 Desk review and key informant interviews on communication and coordination processes across 3 rural municipalities is conducted and bottlenecks and remedial measures identified
 - 1.3 Key informant interviews to identify current marketing structures identified and strengths & weaknesses identified recognized
 - 1.4 Study tour to successful community based NTFP marketing in East Nepal conducted, and lessons learned and adapted for use
 - 1.5 Subnational marketing cooperative capacity established, legally registered and operating
 - 1.6 Common capacity for consolidation, processing, branding and marketing of snow leopard linked products are operating using chives cultivation as a model, but adapted for other sites
 - 1.7 Revenues generated and benefits shared across Rural Municipality boundaries and among community members
 - 1.8 Provincial and national workshops conducted and results shared
 - 1.9 If appropriate, results shared in peer reviewed on-line publication like OnePlus
- 2.1 Livestock owners common priorities and challenges identified and prioritized
 - 2.2 Key informant interviews conducted with livestock owners and herders
 - 2.3 Study tour to East Nepal to get lessons learned from successful livestock cooperative
 - 2.4 Livestock cooperative legally established, registered and capacity to operate in place
 - 2.5 Shared challenges identified and prioritized and pilot activities ignited across three municipalities.
- ***Note: ***Approaches likely to differ based on locally identified priorities designed to tackle specific constraints, risks and opportunities. Anticipated priorities based on past experience are: Livestock Health product marketing and rangeland restoration (Nar and Phu), Cultural Conservation (Manang) and Corral Improvements (Jomsom)
- 2.6 Provincial and national workshops held to share results
 - 2.7 if appropriate, result consolidated and shared in online peer reviewed journal like OnePlus.
- 3.1 Desk review and key informant interviews on existing compensation mechanisms
 - 3.2 Three municipality (subnational) workshop to identify areas to improve compensation mechanisms, new structure proposed and implemented
 - 3.3 Results from new compensation schemes are analysed and recommended improvements implemented based of field experiences
 - 3.4 Provincial and national level workshops conducted and documented

Important Assumptions:

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

- *Communities and local governments recognize value of networking
- *Municipalities (mayors and staff) provide financing (as in the chives/jimbu project) and endorse collaborative efforts across administrative boundaries
- *Marketing cooperatives achieve cross-boundary collaboration and marketing agreements
- *Municipalities receive sufficient funding from the Central and Provincial governments for supporting conservation projects with communities or cooperatives going forward.
- *Outside political pressures do not adversely dictate or impact how funds are utilized
- *Pandemics or natural calamities are short-lived and do not adversely impact the local economy, enterprise operations or product marketing and sales

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.

 [SLC-MS R29 BCF-Budget-over-£100k](#)
 03/11/2022
 23:07:50
 xlsx 273.27 KB

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

New Initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new project that builds on foundational work completed with Darwin Initiative #25-027 and Snow Leopard Conservancy funding from 2018-2022. It takes achievements conducted in one rural municipality and expands and replicates them to 2 additional nearby rural municipalities that are known snow leopard hotspots. It also expands the areas for collaboration to include developing an approach to compensating herders for losses from livestock depredation. Focusing on capability and capacity-building, the project, if funded, also includes ad hoc consultations with the Niti Foundation, a known organization with a solid reputation for political analysis on devolution of powers and political economy of natural resource management at higher levels under Nepal's 2015 Constitution.

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.

No significant capital equipment expenditures are anticipated for this project. The only capital items under BCF funding are one laptop and one printer for Mountain Spirit, the partner organization. Snow Leopard Conservation will provide matching funds for other capital equipment items such as Foxlights, solar fencing and other snow leopard deterrence devices.

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.

In developing this project, we conducted ad hoc “value for money” theoretical comparisons of the potential impact and benefits associated with traditional small, single-site (one-off or replicated over time) to the model of capacity-building collaborations across administrative boundaries. We especially examined a conservation-linked enterprise market model (cooperatives) embracing multiple households and several neighboring communities leveraged with local Municipality co-funding (e.g., the chive project pioneered under a separate DI grant to SLC, #25-027). We hypothesize that capacitation scaling (deploying peer-to-peer learning and linking cooperatives to private sector market networks) will result in efficient conservation benefits leading to habitat stabilization and restoration (i.e., landscape scaling). It could offer a game-changer for remote rural areas where resources, technical capacities and communications are so constrained. Literature review validates networking as a conservation tool (e.g., cotton-top tamarin program, see Appendix, numerous studies). This strategy should also lead to more resilient communities and commitment for protecting rare species like snow leopards. The project offers in-kind co-financing from highly experienced persons like Dr. Jackson and Mr. Peniston, who are providing technical input as needed. We also believe SLC’s donors and partners like WCN (Wildlife Conservation Network) will see this as a good opportunity for co-matching specific activities and outputs. We plan to reach out and seek additional funding for additional cooperatives should this prove effective, again presenting new opportunities for donors to invest in biodiversity conservation, “One Health” and human well-being.

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.

SLC develops formal work contracts with all NGO or private partners and consultants to include safeguard and non-discrimination clauses (see attached document) along with specific directives embedded in the mutually-agreed work plan and field directives. We inform and expect partners, contractors and associates to be aware of the need and

importance of respecting marginalized and indigenous people's viewpoints, their knowledge systems (intellectual property rights) and basic rights like fair, transparent treatment, to better ensure their voices are heard and taken into account. All contracts clearly specify the grounds for action including termination.

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.

No

If no, why not?

We are not aware of any security or political sensitivities related to the proposed project, including implementation localities in Nepal.

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?
Shailendra Thakali, PhD	Project Leader	30	Checked
Brian Peniston	Co-leader	20	Checked
Rodney Jackson, PhD	Snow Leopard expert, Technical Advisor	10	Checked
Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson	Snow Leopard Conservancy, Executive Director	5	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Mr. Gokul Pyakurel (Consultant)	Cooperative and Enterprise Promotion Expert	15	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

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.

-  [SLC & Partner CVs DIR29CC 2022 submission](#)
-  02/11/2022
-  22:13:26
-  pdf 181.85 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: Snow Leopard Conservancy

Website address: <https://snowleopardconservancy.org/>

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

Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) was established in 2000 and incorporated in 2010. Its mission centers around conservation of snow leopards, prey and habitat in partnership with rural communities and local institutions. Key activities include blending traditional knowledge with modern science, increasing environmental awareness, and pioneering innovative grassroots measures for minimizing the economic impact of livestock depredation, while improving local people's livelihoods. By developing an appreciation for this wild cat, the Conservancy turns. SLC is widely known for pioneering community-based conservation of snow leopards in 8 of the 12 range countries. In 2005-2008 with its Indian affiliate, it established an award-winning Homestay Programme leading to herders valuing snow leopards alive rather than dead, and thereby turning conflict into coexistence. SLC brings more than 40 years of high-level experience, working in diverse sites in South and Central Asia, building local capacity, fostering new conservation and enterprise tools, valuing local knowledge and enabling local people play greater roles in snow leopard and biodiversity conservation of fragile mountain ecosystems. It will serve as lead fiscal agent for distributing funds and providing final oversight, drawing on its experience from several major projects, including Darwin Initiative grant 25-027. .

International/In-country Partner

International

Allocated budget (proportion or value):



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:

Mountain Spirit

Website address:

<https://www.mountainspirit.org.np/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Mountain Spirit is committed to environment and culture conservation, resource mobilization and sustainable mountain community development and conservation initiatives. It was registered as a National NGO in Nepal in 1998, formed by like minded professionals of diverse mountain communities to improve livelihoods, protect the environment and conserve mountain cultures through capacity building, participatory research, social empowerment, awareness raising, and sustainable development initiatives with meaningful participation of local communities. MS has been working with Snow Leopard Conservancy on Savings and Credit programs in Sagarmatha National Park (2009-2012), assisting in conducting the policy study "Conservation and Prosperity in New Federal Nepal: Opportunities and Challenges, (2018)" and was Nepal based project partner for the Darwin Initiative Project #25-027 on snow leopard conservation (2018-2022). Mountain Spirit was also a lead partner for the European Union funded "Community-based Land and Forest Management Project (2009-2012). They have conducted numerous socio-economic and resource surveys and projects related to eco-tourism planning, lodge and hotel management, community development, income generation and forest management programs in Nepal, Sikkim and Tibet. Project staff are also trained in Business planning using the Model Business Canvas methodology for developing locally managed business and conservation enterprises.

International/In-country Partner

In-country

Allocated budget:

██████████

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

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

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.

 [DIR29CC_Combined Letters of Support](#)

 03/11/2022

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 pdf 441.57 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
25-027	Brian Peniston	Project Leader
25-027	Shailendra Thakali, Phd	Project Co P I, (Nepal based)
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response

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

Trustees

of

Snow Leopard Conservancy

I apply for a grant of

£170,660.00

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 Rodney M. Jackson





Position in the organisation President





Signature (please upload e-signature)  [Rodney Jackson signature DIR29CC-1076](#)
 03/11/2022
 15:13:30
 jpg 170.69 KB





Date 03 November 2022

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





 [DIR29CC_SLC Impact & Annual Reports](#)
 03/11/2022
 22:55:26
 pdf 85.64 KB

 [SLC 2021 990 IRS low res](#)
 31/10/2022
 20:25:19
 pdf 3.01 MB

 [SLC 2020 990 IRS](#)
 31/10/2022
 20:25:17
 pdf 1.3 MB

 [Darwin grant financial review Sept. 22, 2022](#)
 31/10/2022
 20:25:14
 pdf 766.43 KB

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

 [SLC Employee Handbook V3 Updated 7 6 2021](#)
 31/10/2022
 16:31:34
 pdf 702.07 KB

 [SLC Summary of Policies DIR29CC Proposal](#)
 31/10/2022
 16:31:33
 pdf 246.7 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) 	Checked
<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.

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).

Project Title:

Integrating local government and community conservation capacity for snow leopards (DIR29CC\1076)

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)						
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Output 1	Three rural municipalities coordinate and market snow leopard linked products and services (eg nature tourism, etc) supporting snow leopard conservation												
1.1	Desk review and key informant interviews of Fiscal Transfer Process between federal, provincial and rural municipalities (Report)	1	X										
1.2	Desk review and key informant interviews on current communication and coordination processes across three rural municipalities conducted, and bottlenecks and remedial measures identified (Report)	1	X										
1.3	Key informant interviews to identify current marketing structures, strengths & weaknesses identified recognized (Report)	3	X	X	X					X			X
1.4	Study tour conducted to visit successful community based plant based marketing enterprise, lessons learned and adapted for use (Workshop)	1		X									
1.5	Subnational cooperative structure identified, legally registered and operating (legal registration, business plan, operationalized Cooperative Bylaws and Board Meetings)	18						X	X	X	X	X	X
1.6	Common capacity consolidation, processing, branding and marketing of snow leopard linked products are operating (Cooperative business / operational reports)												
1.7	Revenues generated and benefits shared across Rural Municipality boundaries and among community members (Funds committed, shared and disbursed)												

Project Title:

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)					
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1.8	Regional and National workshops to share results (Workshops)	1										X
1.9	Publications like OnePlus, where appropriate (publications)											X
Output 2	New livestock owner's cooperative established and operating across three rural municipalities											
2.1	Key informant interviews conducted with livestock owners and herders (Report)	1	X									
2.2	Livestock owner's cooperative identifies common priorities and implements activities (Report)	1	X									
2.3	Study tour to successful livestock cooperative to get lessons learned from successful livestock cooperative (Report)	1		X								
2.4	Livestock owner cooperative legally established and registered (legal bylaws and constitution with business strategy)	4		X	X							
2.5	Shared challenges identified and prioritized for coordinated activities and pilot activities initiated across three municipalities. (Pilot field -based project activities, *** Funded with SLC and rural municipalities co-financing) (Activity Reports)	18		X	X			X	X	X	X	X
2.6	Regional and national workshops conducted to share experiences and lessons learned (Workshop)	1										X
2.7	Publications where appropriate (Publications)											
Output 3	Common approach, standards and mechanism to compensate herders in remote regions for livestock depredation events is formed and operates across sub-national boundaries. Results are shared at provincial and national levels											

Project Title:

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)					
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
3.1	Desk review and key informant interviews on current compensation mechanisms (Report)	1	X									
3.2	Three municipality (subnational) workshop to identify areas to improve compensation mechanisms, new structure proposed and implemented (Workshop)	1		X	X							
3.3	Results from new compensation schemes are analysed and implemented based on field experiences (Reports)	15				X	X	X	X			X
3.4	Provincial and national level workshops conducted and documented (Workshop, Reports)	1										X
	Output											

