

Applicant: **Lou, Vanny**
Organisation: **Fauna & Flora International**
Funding Sought: **£199,999.00**

DIR31CC\1931

Building Capacity: Karst and Cave Conservation in Cambodia and Myanmar

Community-based organisations (CBOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) in Myanmar and Cambodia are key actors in the management of the limestone karst hills ecosystems which are critical for their outstanding biodiversity, endemism, ecosystems services, and cultural heritage. This project aims to support our existing CBO and CSO partners to improve conservation, livelihoods, human health, and regional exchange opportunities within their communities and environments by leveraging the FFI's decades of technical karst management expertise and organisational development experience in the region.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Building Capacity: Karst and Cave Conservation in Cambodia and Myanmar

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Fauna & Flora International
Phone (Work)	
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Address	

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title

Building Capacity: Karst and Cave Conservation in Cambodia and Myanmar

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

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

☒ No

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical 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.

Community-based organisations (CBOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) in Myanmar and Cambodia are key actors in the management of the limestone karst hills ecosystems which are critical for their outstanding biodiversity, endemism, ecosystems services, and cultural heritage. This project aims to support our existing CBO and CSO partners to improve conservation, livelihoods, human health, and regional exchange opportunities within their communities and environments by leveraging the FFI's decades of technical karst management expertise and organisational development experience in the region.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Cambodia	Country 2	Myanmar (Burma)
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 months):
01 April 2025	31 March 2027	2 years

Q8. Budget summary

Darwin Initiative Funding Request	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
(1 Apr - 31 Mar) £	£109,204.00	£90,795.00	£ 199,999.00

Q10. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q11. 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?

Unsecured match from the Rainforest Trust has been included in the project budget, we have been invited by the Rainforest Trust to submit an application and the decision is due in January 2025. If unsuccessful, FFI will actively fundraise (Trusts and Foundations, major donor philanthropy) to support this project

Q12. Have you received, applied for, or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for your proposed project or a similar project?

☐ No

Section 4 - Project need

Q13. 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.

The project aims to address significant challenges in biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, particularly in the management of karst and cave ecosystems, by building local capacity and addressing threats to these ecosystems. This need is evident in regions like Myanmar and Cambodia, where karst landscapes are crucial for biodiversity and local livelihoods but face intense pressure from unsustainable tourism, hunting, and potential industrial development.

The project will build capabilities and capacities by enhancing the institutional and technical abilities of key local organisations, including one CSO, the Community Observer Association (COA) and two CBOs in Myanmar, and four in Cambodia. These organisations will gain skills in leadership, governance, financial management, and sustainable eco-tourism practices. Training sessions will cover key areas such as biodiversity monitoring, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) practices, safeguarding, and organisational management. Additionally, a regional Karst Conservation Network (KCN) will be established to facilitate knowledge exchange and long-term collaboration, further strengthening the local capacity to manage and protect karst ecosystems while improving livelihoods through sustainable tourism initiatives. Addressing these capacity needs will foster resilience against future environmental and socio-economic challenges, protect biodiversity and create pathways for economic development ensuring long term benefits for both conservation and the local communities.

The capacity needs identified for this project serve as a key component within a wider portfolio of work being conducted in karst landscapes by Fauna & Flora in Cambodia and Myanmar. This includes; 1.) biodiversity assessment surveys in both Cambodia [Ref-1] and Myanmar [Ref-2] which document the ecological importance of these karsts, and 2.) the establishment of new karst protection such as in Myanmar where 14 karst Key

Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) were identified and officially nominated as new KBAs in 2020.

Surveys conducted between 2014 and 2019 in Myanmar's Kayin and Mon States revealed that many KBAs face significant conservation threats, particularly due to tourism [Ref-2]. Visitor activities, such as lighting candles or altering cave environments, disrupt microclimates and endanger species like bats and invertebrates.

Similarly, in Cambodia's Battambang province, karst caves provide critical habitats to support the largest populations of Asian wrinkle-lipped bats in Cambodia that provide much needed-ecosystem services but are nonetheless vulnerable to local extinctions [Ref-3]. Surveys conducted in 2024 by Fauna & Flora through the BCOMING project discovered four new-to-science gecko species, endemic to individual hills along with important threatened terrestrial mammal species, including Sunda pangolin (CR), Long-tailed macaque (EN) and Mainland serow (VU) . However, unregulated tourism [Ref-4] and potential quarrying concessions for limestone [Ref-5] threaten these habitats.

For local communities living in and around these karst areas, biodiversity conservation is tightly linked to livelihoods. For example, in Cambodia, in Phnom Banan, bat guano harvesting generates significant income annually for local people [Ref-3]. Additionally, community-based ecotourism initiatives offer new opportunities for income generation while promoting conservation. However, the capability and capacity of COA, CBOs and the local community to sustainably manage karsts and caves remains limited, underscoring the need for capacity-building efforts.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

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

Q14b. 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, NAPs etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

This project contributes to Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) (2018-2030), and resonates with strategy 5.1. By fostering sustainable livelihoods through community-led ecotourism, the project contributes to MSDP's 5.1.13, ensuring access to alternative livelihoods for local populations to ensure environmental protection and conservation. The project is in-line with objectives of the National Environmental Policy (2019) by engaging local communities in managing karst landscapes.

Under Cambodia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016), the project supports Theme 1 (Protected areas), Theme 2 (Threatened species), Theme 20 (Awareness and education) by promoting sustainable management of karst ecosystems and increasing awareness of their ecological importance. It contributes to Theme 6 (Sustainable land-use planning) through cave management guidelines and zonation, and Theme 19 (Community participation) by establishing a regional KCN and enhancing CBO capacity. It aids Theme 22 (Quality of life and poverty reduction) through eco-tourism training and business model development. eco-tourism training and business model development.

The project aligns with international policies: CBD targets, SDGs and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The project develops guidelines for safe cave-use and guano harvesting (CBD Targets 5 & 9; SDGs 12, 13 & 15; GBF Target 9) and increases awareness of karst conservation by demonstrating the ecological

importance of karsts and need for both participatory and sustainable practices in decision-making (CBD Target 14, GBF Target 1). The project builds capacity for sustainable management to enhance self-reliance and implementation of sustainable management practices that yield economic benefits, e.g. sustainable eco-tourism initiatives, contributing to poverty reduction (CBD Targets 20/21, SDGs 1, 2 & 8; GBF Target 20). Establishment of a regional KCN to strengthen local capacity and knowledge sharing is also aligned (CBD Target 22), and training on GESI for CSOs and CBOs ensures gender-responsive approaches and improved gender equality (CBD Target 23; SDG 5; GBF Target 23).

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

Q15. 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.

Evidence and Lessons Learnt:

This goal of the project is to instill local ownership of karsts by enhancing the institutional and technical capabilities of local organisations to manage karst and cave ecosystems while improving livelihoods. The integration of GESI training ensures that new practices are inclusive of women and responsive to community needs. To achieve this, the project will build on previous work in Myanmar funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund [Ref-1], which led to the development of karst management guidelines, safe cave use practices, sustainable and safe bat guano collection initiatives to prevent zoonosis, and sustainable eco-tourism guidelines. These resources will inform the development of guidelines and training materials for Cambodia. The improvements in community participation, gender equality, and technical capacity have enhanced both karst conservation and livelihoods in Myanmar, providing valuable lessons for Cambodia.

Approach and Justification:

This project complements ongoing work by Fauna & Flora in karst landscapes in Cambodia and Myanmar under two other grants. The first step involved conducting karst biodiversity assessment surveys in both countries [Ref-1][Ref-2], which revealed many ecologically distinct species, including several new to science. The second stage utilised this information to secure local government support for new karst protections, resulting in the identification and official nomination of 14 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Myanmar in 2020 [Ref-1]. Additionally, participatory processes are underway to seek the gazettelement of Phnom Sampeu and Phnom Banan in Cambodia, with funding sought from the Rainforest Trust. This third phase adopts a capacity-building approach, focusing on key local organisations to enhance their ability to independently manage karst ecosystems through institutional capacity building and implementation training.

Activities, Materials, and Methods:

The project will be delivered through three key components. The first will focus on building institutional capacity of COA and six CBOs to independently develop and sustain conservation and livelihood initiatives. It will begin by conducting Training & Resource Needs Assessments (TRNAs) for COA and six local CBOs, including GESI assessments, to create tailored capacity-building plans and training materials. Next, 30 individuals from COA and the CBOs will receive training on safeguarding, including principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)

and GESI, with materials translated into local languages (Khmer/Burmese). The project will also provide institutional training on organisational management, covering the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), for HR, financial management, and project reporting. Additionally, five COA staff members will receive tailored training in project development, funding proposal writing, and project cycle management to enhance their independence in future project development and funding applications. To ensure effective implementation and demonstrate the new capabilities, quarterly meetings between FFI, COA, and CBOs will be conducted throughout the project using a Monitoring & Evaluation framework.

The second component will establish a regional Karst Conservation Network (KCN) between Cambodia and Myanmar, involving COA, CBOs and local/sub-national stakeholders in Cambodia's karst areas. This network will facilitate exchange visits enabling the sharing of lessons learned and the development of guidelines and training materials tailored to the Cambodian context, based on existing practices in Myanmar, while ensuring long-term knowledge transfer in the region. Working groups within the KCN will create best practice materials including guidelines for safe cave use, sustainable and safe guano harvesting for the prevention of zoonosis, sustainable cave/karst tourism, a tourism business model, and a sustainable management handbook. The handbook will cover topics such as the ecological importance of karst/cave ecosystems, zoonosis prevention and cave management.

The third component focuses on improving the capacity of COA, six local CBOs and communities to implement sustainable karst and cave management practices and eco-tourism interventions that improve local livelihoods. The project will provide Trainer of Trainers (ToT) training to at least 20 people from COA, CBOs and local communities on karst/cave management and biodiversity monitoring. Following this, 10 trained individuals will conduct workshops for at least 100 local community members to share their knowledge. Additionally, 20 people from COA, CBOs and the local community will receive training on sustainable eco-tourism and effective business models, with their skills' application assessed afterward. Furthermore, 10 CBO and community members will be trained in the sustainable and safe collection of bat guano to prevent zoonosis, ensuring biodiversity conservation and livelihood benefits.

Management and Governance:

The project will be led by FFI, working closely with COA and local CBOs. An adaptive M&E framework will be implemented, with quarterly meetings to monitor the progress of activities and training throughout the project cycle. These meetings will provide both positive and negative feedback, directly informing project management and enhancing overall delivery.

Q16. How will you identify participants?

How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and/or 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? How have you incorporated GESI considerations in identifying participants?

The Community Observer Association (COA), a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) working to advance social, environmental, and community-based initiatives based in Mon State in Myanmar, was identified as an essential participant that would benefit from institutional capacity building. COA has partnered with FFI for karst conservation since 2015 and demonstrated great potential for delivering effective conservation in the karst ecosystem whilst promoting eco-tourism to benefit local livelihoods. With an established track record of managing karst landscapes, providing capability and capacity building would significantly improve COA's ability to independently develop, operate and sustain local conservation and livelihood initiatives alongside CBOs and allow the organisation to apply for future funding opportunities using in-house expertise that allows a sustained impact in the region post-funding. COA expressed interest to receive training on FPIC, safeguarding and GESI, organisational management training, development of SOPs including HR, financial management and donor reporting. COA would like to receive training in project development, funding proposal writing and project cycle management.

Six CBOs, including two Cave Management Committees based in Myanmar—at Kayon Cave in Mon State and Yathaepyan Cave in Kayin State—and four Community Forestry Committees based in Cambodia, located at Phnom Banan, Phnom Takriem, and Phnom Sampeu, are key beneficiaries for institutional and technical capacity building with existing working relationships with FFI through former projects. These organisations actively support biodiversity conservation and management alongside local community members. They currently possess limited capacity and technical expertise in best practices, such as safe cave use, sustainable and safe bat guano collection to prevent zoonosis, sustainable karst management, and eco-tourism implementation. Building their capacity in these areas significantly enhances their ability to support local communities in boosting livelihoods while minimising biodiversity impacts. Training on the importance of GESI ensures greater female representation in future decision-making and during the implementation of initiatives.

Q17. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be disadvantaged or excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will ensure meaningful participation for all those engaged.

Due to social norms resulting from a patriarchal structure, women in both Cambodia and Myanmar are often restricted from leadership roles, particularly in conservation and eco-tourism management. This leads to women lacking access to technical training, limiting their involvement in project activities. Additionally, as women are generally responsible for household tasks, additional work can place a disproportionate burden on them.

Without understanding how these challenges limit women's participation, this project may not be able to improve women's opportunities in the political, economic and social spheres. Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) often face language barriers, limited access to education, discrimination, and geographic isolation which can limit their inclusion in decision-making and capacity-building opportunities. Currently no ethnic minorities have been identified at the Cambodian sites, but Kayin and Mon ethnicities are present at Yathaepyan and Kayon caves, respectively.

Inclusive Capacity-Building: The project will deliver tailored capacity-building programs, ensuring that at least 40% of participants are female, as outlined in the GESI strategy. Training sessions will include topics such as leadership, governance, and technical skills (e.g., eco-tourism operation and sustainable resource management), with materials translated into local languages. All training and workshops will be designed to accommodate women's needs, including considerations of time and location. Additionally, the project will engage male leaders and husbands to build support for women leadership. Although the project only has a 40% inclusivity target, this would represent a significant improvement on current societal ratios.

Institutional Capacity Building: COA and CBOs in both countries will receive institutional capacity-building through GESI, FPIC and safeguarding training to highlight the specific challenges faced by women and marginalized peoples to ensure that IPLCs are fully informed. This will highlight the importance of having a strong female representation in decision-making and the design and implementation of both conservation management and livelihood improvement initiatives.

Q18. Change expected

Detail the expected changes and benefits to both biodiversity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction, and links between them, that this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who exactly will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project – including capability and capacity building benefits) and b) the potential changes in the long-term (after the project has ended).

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

In the short-term, key local organisations such as COA and six CBOs will benefit from increased institutional capacity and improved technical expertise gained through tailored training of 30 staff increasing their effectiveness to implement safe cave-use guidelines, perform sustainable and safe bat guano collection to prevent zoonosis, conduct sustainable karst management, and implement eco-tourism initiatives. The capabilities and capacities gained will also empower the leadership of these local organisations making them key decision-makers, allowing them to engage with other stakeholders and instilling a sense of local ownership of the karsts. Additionally, tailored training provided to five members of COA on project development, funding proposal writing, and project cycle management will be the first step in fostering independence in the development of future projects and funding applications.

The development of eco-tourism guidelines and a sustainable business plan will generate immediate income for local communities while promoting sustainable karst management. Training in responsible tourism and cave-use will enable them to attract visitors without harming biodiversity, supporting both livelihoods and conservation efforts.

Women will also benefit significantly from the institutional training on GESI provided to COA and the CBOs highlighting the importance of female inclusion within decision-making processes. Additionally, setting a target of at least 40% female participants for tailored capacity-building programmes ensure women have increased access to technical training, increasing their involvement in project activities and livelihood initiatives.

The overall result is increased biodiversity protection of sensitive cave ecosystems and minimising the negative impacts of eco-tourism and guano collection activities on biodiversity whilst ensuring that livelihood activities and therefore poverty reduction remains robust.

In the long-term, karst biodiversity is anticipated to remain protected due to careful and motivated management by local communities led by CBOs, with guidance and support from COA in Myanmar, and support and information sharing across both countries through the established regional Karst Conservation Network (KCN). The long-term benefits of this project on multi-dimensional poverty reduction are anticipated to be the strongest; natural resources will be managed sustainably, ensuring that livelihoods are not impacted by the potential loss of bat colonies producing economically important guano or the loss of tourism from degraded or destroyed ecosystems. ~1,200 CBO member households in each country (~2,400 total) will have direct long-term benefits from the capability & capacity building.

Less directly but nonetheless as crucial are the widespread ecosystem services of bats as both pest regulators and pollinators for agriculture. These benefits are well studied, and by building capacity of CBOs to act as stewards in the long-term and therefore ensuring the protection of cave bat colonies, increasing food security within the region. In Battambang province, Cambodia, the karst cave colonies of approximately 6 million insectivorous wrinkle-lipped bats is estimated to prevent the loss of >2,000 tons of rice per year to pests, securing an integral food crop for an estimated >20,000 Cambodians for a year of meals [Ref-1], equivalent to ~US\$440,000 - 600,000 annually in current local rice sale prices (\$0.22-0.30/kg), ensuring the project's impact on both biodiversity and poverty reduction.

Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

How will the project reach a point where the benefits of strengthened capability and capacity can be sustained post-funding?

How will the capability and capacity be retained and remain available to deliver benefits in-country after the project? Is there potential for the new capability and capacity to renew itself or deliver additional capability and capacity, for example by building future environmental leaders beyond the project?

The project will enhance COA’s project development, proposal writing, and project cycle management through tailored training in organisational management, GESI, FPIC and safeguarding practices capacity. COA’s strengthened institutional capabilities, especially in project development and funding, will enable it to secure resources and support for new initiatives, ensuring that the impacts and leadership fostered during the project are maintained. The ToT approach ensures training delivered can be refreshed and reapplied beyond the project, as the membership of the CBOs change. This will be combined with continued support and guidance from FFI which has experience supporting partners to apply for conservation initiative funding.

The project will increase the capacity of the CBOs through comprehensive training on sustainable natural resource management, including specific areas such as sustainable cave-use, bat guano collection, and eco-tourism. This will empower CBOs to take the lead in managing karst ecosystems, making them stewards of biodiversity and drivers of local livelihood improvements.

COA and the CBOs increased capabilities and capacities alongside the establishment of the KCN will ensure continued support and knowledge exchange between COA and CBOs ensuring that strengthened capabilities are maintained post-funding and enabling them to build on their expertise as environmental leaders and key decision-makers in karst landscapes.

The sustainable cave/karst tourism business model will build long-term benefits by equipping local communities with the skills to independently manage eco-tourism while conserving biodiversity. The best practices and guidelines developed during this project will act as pilot models, demonstrating initiatives which can be scaled-up and expanded to other karst areas to provide further benefits to local communities and reduce poverty levels. The implementation of these guidelines will be monitored by the KCN along with ongoing support from FFI which can provide refresher training to local community members to uphold the standards of eco-friendly tourism initiatives in the long-term.

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

 [DIR31CC_1931_Additional_Supporting_Document](#)

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 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, two Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
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Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated).	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	This project will adhere to Fauna & Flora's Anti-Fraud & Financial Crime Policy & Procedure and Anti-bribery Policy and Procedure. Finance Managers from Cambodia & Myanmar are the key staff responsible for closely monitoring and reporting the project expenses. Finance officer will be invited to coordinate the expenses.	Minor
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	FFI has a mandatory Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy & Procedure requiring compliance from FFI and partner staff. Staff and community stakeholders will be trained on safeguarding and GESI. The project will encourage feedback/input from women and marginalised groups on safety concerns and incorporate feedback into training plans.	Minor
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff.	Moderate	Possible	Severe	The project will develop safe and sustainable bat guano collection guidelines and provide the training to partners to ensure the health and zoonotic disease transmission risks are minimized. Appropriate personal protective equipment such as protective masks will be provided to guano collectors to prevent health complications.	Major

Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model. Project staff and local partner travel to the project sites with some travel restrictions during the current civil unrest in Myanmar.				The team will regularly assess the security situation using trusted sources and local contacts pre-travel, changing routes or schedules to minimise risks while also assessing the possible use of virtual meetings/work. An emergency plan will outline safety guidelines, evacuation steps, local emergency contacts, and a check-in schedule while travelling.	Major
Risk 5 The Government of Myanmar will not allow its citizens to get out of the country once the situation gets worse and vice versa the Government of Cambodia will advise its Cambodian citizens not go to Myanmar for security and safety reasons.				The project is fully aware of and takes the current situation in Myanmar into consideration. If the project team and partners cannot travel between countries, exchange of knowledge, best practice and success stories on karst & cave management could be organised virtually, however, this may result in lessened engagement.	Major
Risk 6 The project is perceived to not respect local community rights and sub-national government authority doesn't allow CBOs to further get engaged in the project activities.				The project will fully apply FPIC process and GESI with local communities to ensure that any concerns, complaints and suggestions are taken consideration and fully addressed.	Major
Risk 7 Travel to and from trainings and the project site can be hazardous due to poor road conditions in rural areas.				Training activities will be planned with a priority focus on ensuring that activities will commence and conclude in-time for safe, daylight travel when trainings are located off-site. Training schedules will also be based around regular check-ins with trusted local contacts about road safety and other potential hazards.	Minor

Q21. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

☒ Yes

Please provide brief details.

In Myanmar both areas are considered safe and without armed or ethnic conflicts, enabling a successful implementation of project activities.

Additionally, for both Cambodia and Myanmar detailed species location data would undoubtedly increase threats if widely published, particularly for high-value terrestrial mammals such as pangolins and serow, as hunters may be motivated to travel to the sites for what may be seen as enticing poaching opportunities due to the relative ease of access to small karst hills.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

 [DIR31CC 1931 Workplan vF](#)

 21/10/2024

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q23. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the performance 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).

To ensure the project succeeds it is essential that an adaptive M&E framework is fully integrated within design and implementation to monitor the progress of activities and training. To achieve this, FFI, COA and CBOs will hold quarterly meetings both in-person and online to assess project progress throughout the project cycle, providing both positive and negative feedback directly into project management and improving delivery. The meetings will utilise the project workplan and log frame to ensure that the development of training materials, best practice guidelines and implementation of trainings remains on track according to project timelines.

The M&E framework will also collect data on the following:

- Capacity Building: Pre- and post-training evaluations to measure knowledge retention of trainees and organisational capacity improvements.
- GESI Indicators: Gender-disaggregated data on participation, leadership, and decision-making roles within COA, CBOs and local community members to ensure female representation is strong.
- Stakeholder Feedback: Surveys and focus groups for community input, especially regarding potential negative impacts.

- Local Organisational Feedback: Surveys to understand if training and materials delivered meet the needs of COA and the CBOs.
- Safeguarding: A grievance mechanism will be in place to record any safeguarding incidents, including the nature of the incident, resolution, and actions taken.

This data will ensure that the project can perform real-time adjustments to any problems or negative impacts that arise. This approach ensures the project remains adaptive, responsive, and aligned with its objectives.

Total project budget for M&E (£):	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Total project budget for M&E (%):	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	

Section 10 - Indicators of Success & Standard Indicators

Q24a. 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.

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
Outcome Local CSO and CBOs have greater institutional and technical capabilities to sustainably manage karst and cave ecosystems and operate community-based eco-tourism services to improve local livelihoods.	0.1. Number of local organisations with enhanced capability and capacity. Target: One Myanmar CSO (Community Observer Association – COA), along with two Myanmar and four Cambodian CBOs, have improved institutional and technical capabilities to manage karst/cave ecosystems and enhance local livelihoods. By project end.	0.1. A report detailing institutional statutes, regulations and policies (e.g. governance, HR, finance, safeguards, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI)), disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar) and organisation type (public).
Output 1 By project end, COA and six local CBOs will have improved institutional capacity (e.g., leadership, governance, finance, GESI) to independently develop, operate and sustain conservation and livelihood initiatives.	1.1. Number of local or national organisations with completed Training & Resource Needs Assessments (TRNAs) and capacity building plans. Target: 1.1. COA and six CBOs will have completed TRNAs (including capacity to implement GESI approaches) and developed tailored capacity-building plans	1.1. TRNA reports, including GESI assessments and capacity-building plans, are documented and available, disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar), organisation type (public), and gender (male/female). 1.2/1.3/1.4 Training report, including participant evaluation, disaggregated by country

(incl. training & mentoring). By Y1 Q2. (Cambodia/Myanmar)	(Cambodia/Myanmar), gender (male/female) and IPLC status. Local language (Khmer/Burmese) training materials/ guidelines available.
1.2/1.3/1.4 Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training.	
Targets:	1.5. Key M&E data collected along with minutes of meetings including topics discussed and participants lists, disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar) gender (male/female) and organisation.
1.2. 30 people (at least 40% female) from COA and six CBOs receive training in safeguarding (including principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and GESI with training materials/ guidelines translated into local languages. (Khmer/Burmese) by Y1 Q3. (Cambodia/Myanmar)	
1.3. 30 individuals from COA and six CBOs (at least 40% female) receive tailored training on organisational management, including for the development of SOPs (incl. HR, financial management and project/donor reporting) by Y2 Q2. (Cambodia/Myanmar)	
1.4. Five individuals (at least 40% female) from COA receive tailored training on project development, writing funding proposals, and project cycle management. By Y2 Q3. (Myanmar only)	
1.5. Number of meetings between FFI, COA and CBOs to monitor progress. Target: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) implemented through quarterly meetings between FFI, COA and CBOs to ensure effective implementation of delivered training and to demonstrate new capabilities until the end of the project. (Cambodia/ Myanmar)	

Output 2

2.1. A regional KCN between Cambodia and Myanmar is	2.1. KCN document/agreement, including vision, membership,
---	--

Establish a regional karst conservation network (KCN) between COA, CBOs and local/sub-national stakeholders in Cambodia and Myanmar to share lessons learned and develop training materials to facilitate long-term knowledge exchange.	established and sustained, involving both COA and CBO partners, and in communication with the IUCN WCPA Cave and Karst working group and Karst Invertebrate Specialist Group. By Y1 Q4 (Cambodia/Myanmar)	program of work (TOR) produced in local languages (Khmer/Burmese).
	2.2 Number of exchange visits between FFI country teams, COA and CBO members. Target: At least three exchange visits between Cambodia and Myanmar to share lessons learned and best practices in karst/cave management. Y1 Q2 Myanmar to Cambodia, Y1 Q4 Cambodia to Myanmar, Y2 Q3 Myanmar to Cambodia. (Cambodia/Myanmar)	2.2. Exchange visit reports and presentations documented with participant list disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar), gender (male/female) and organisation.
	2.3. Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed. Target: Guidelines for safe cave use and sustainable guano harvesting developed through working groups formed within the KCN and in consultation with local stakeholders/IPLCs and disseminated in local language (Khmer). By Y1 Q4. (Cambodia only)	2.3. Best practice guidelines will be endorsed by an independent party to ensure that the plan is considered viable and ready for implementation. These guidelines will be disseminated through printed copies and online availability, disaggregated by country (Cambodia) and language (Khmer).
	2.4. Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed. Target: Sustainable cave/karst tourism guideline and best practices developed, and disseminated, and at least one sustainable cave/karst-tourism business model developed through working groups formed within the KCN and in consultation with local stakeholders/IPLCs. By Y1 Q3. (Cambodia only)	2.4. Best practice guidelines will be endorsed by an independent party to ensure that the plan is considered viable and ready for implementation. These guidelines will be disseminated through printed copies and online availability, disaggregated by country (Cambodia) and language (Khmer).
	2.5. Number of best practice guides and knowledge products	2.5 Best practice handbook will be endorsed by an independent

published and endorsed.

Target:

A sustainable karst/ cave management handbook prepared and disseminated (including topics such as: ecological importance of karst/cave ecosystems, prevention of zoonosis, cave management, best practise examples. Established through working groups formed within the KCN and in consultation with local stakeholders/IPLCs. By Y1 Q3. (Cambodia/Myanmar)

party to ensure that the plan is considered viable and ready for implementation. These guidelines will be disseminated through printed copies and online availability, disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar) and language (Khmer/Burmese).

Output 3

COA, six local CBOs and local community members have improved capacity to implement sustainable karst and cave management practices and operate sustainable eco-tourism intervention that improve local livelihoods.

3.1. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training. Target:

At least 20 COA, CBO and local community members (at least 40% female) receive Training of Trainers (ToT) for karst/cave management and karst/cave specific biodiversity monitoring. By Y2 Q1. (Cambodia/Myanmar)

3.1. ToT training report, including participant evaluation, disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar), gender (male/female) and IPLC status. Local language (Khmer/Burmese) training materials/guidelines available.

3.2 Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training. Target:

At least 10 people with ToT training lead further workshops with 100 members (at least 40% female) of the local community. By Y2 Q3. (Cambodia/Myanmar)

3.2. A report demonstrating 10 ToT trainers conducted at least one workshop each, based on species identification, karst importance and zoonosis prevention awareness. Disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar), gender (male/female) and IPLC status.

3.3. Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training. Target:

At least 20 people (at least 40% female) from COA, CBOs and the local community trained and applying new capacities to improve income opportunities from cave tourism. By Y2 Q3. (Cambodia/Myanmar)

3.3. Training reports (including attendance and participant evaluations) will be prepared for sustainable eco-tourism and effective business models training. Capacity information will be recorded in the initial workshops and follow-up workshops to demonstrate knowledge retention six months after the training. Disaggregated by country (Cambodia/Myanmar), gender (male/female) and IPLC status.

3.4. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training. Target:

15 COA, CBO and community members (at least 40% female) trained on the sustainable and safe collection of bat guano. By Y1 Q3. (Cambodia/Myanmar)

3.4. A report compiled on individuals trained on sustainable and safe collection of bat guano. Disaggregated by country (Cambodia/ Myanmar), gender (male/female) and IPLC status.

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.

Output 1:

- 1.1. Conduct TRNAs for COA and six CBOs (including capacity to implement GESI approach) and develop tailored capacity-building plans (incl. training & mentoring).
- 1.2. Provide training in safeguarding (including FPIC and GESI) to 30 individuals from COA and six CBOs and make training materials/guidelines translated into local languages (Khmer/Burmese) available.
- 1.3. Conduct tailored training to 30 individuals from COA and six CBOs on organisational management, including for the development of SOPs.
- 1.4. Conduct tailored training on project development, writing funding proposals, and project cycle management for five COA staff members.
- 1.5. Facilitate quarterly meetings between FFI, COA and CBOs to ensure effective implementation of delivered training and to demonstrate new capabilities.

Output 2:

- 2.1. Establish a regional KCN between Cambodia and Myanmar, involving CSO and CBO partners, in communication with the IUCN WCPA Cave and Karst working group and Karst Invertebrate Specialist Group.
- 2.2. Facilitate three exchange visits between Cambodia and Myanmar to share lessons learned and best practices in karst/cave management.
- 2.3. Develop safe cave use and sustainable guano harvesting guidelines through working groups formed within the KCN and in consultation with local stakeholders/IPLCs.
- 2.4. Develop a sustainable cave/karst tourism guideline and tourism business model through working groups formed within the KCN and in consultation with local stakeholders/IPLCs.
- 2.5. Develop a sustainable karst/cave management handbook through working groups within the KCN and in consultation with local stakeholders/IPLCs.

Output 3:

- 3.1. Provide ToT training to at least 20 COA, CBO and local community members for karst/cave management and karst/cave biodiversity monitoring.
- 3.2. Assist 10 people with ToT training to lead a workshop with the local community on training they received regarding karst/cave management and karst/cave biodiversity monitoring.
- 3.3. Provide training to >20 people from COA, CBOs and the local community on sustainable eco-tourism and effective business models and assess their application of these new capacities.
- 3.4. Provide training to 15 COA, CBO and community members on the sustainable and safe collection of bat guano.

Important Assumptions:

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

- Local government support for capacity building of one CSO and six CBOs is sustained for the duration of the project.
- Political situation in Myanmar enables the ongoing actions of CSO and CBOs.
- One CSO and six CBOs remain enthusiastic about adopting new skills and practices to increase their effectiveness.
- Local community members continue to support and engage with sustainable karst/cave management practices.
- Inter-country collaboration remains feasible for the duration of the project.

Q24b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
e.g. DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3	e.g. 60	e.g. 30 non-indigenous women; 30 non-indigenous men
DI-A03: Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity	Output indicator 0.1	7 organisations total: 1 CSO (Myanmar) and 6 CBOs (2 in Myanmar and 4 in Cambodia)	Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) and organisation type (public)
DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Output indicator 1.2	30 people (minimum 40% female)	Gender (male/female) Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) IPLC Status Language (Khmer/Burmese)
DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Output indicator 1.3	30 people (minimum 40% female)	Gender (male/female) Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) IPLC Status Language (Khmer/Burmese)
DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Output indicator 1.4	5 people (minimum 40% female)	Gender (male/female) Country (Myanmar) IPLC Status Language (Burmese)
DI-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output indicator 2.3	1	Country (Cambodia) Language (Khmer)
DI-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output indicator 2.4	1	Country (Cambodia) Language (Khmer)
DI-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output indicator 2.5	2	Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) Language (Khmer/Burmese)
DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Output indicator 3.1	20 people (minimum 40% female)	Gender (male/female) Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) IPLC Status Language (Khmer/Burmese)

DI-A05: Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training	Output indicator 3.2	10 people (minimum 40% female)	Gender (male/female) Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) IPLC Status Language (Khmer/Burmese)
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output indicator 3.3	20 people (minimum 40% female)	Gender (male/female) Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) IPLC Status Language (Khmer/Burmese)
DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Output indicator 3.4	15 people (minimum 40% female)	Gender (male/female) Country (Cambodia/Myanmar) IPLC Status Language (Khmer/Burmese)
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

If you cannot identify three Standard Indicators you can report against, please justify this here.

No Response

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q25. 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.

 [DIR31CC 1931 FFI Budget Final](#)

 21/10/2024

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 xlsx 92.1 KB

Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q26a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

☒ Development of existing/past activities

Please provide details:

This project builds on significant prior work in karst ecosystems in both Myanmar and Cambodia. In Myanmar, 14 karst Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) were identified and nominated as new KBAs in 2020 [Ref-1]. In Cambodia, Fauna & Flora's ongoing work through the Horizon Europe project BCOMING [Ref-2] conducted biodiversity assessment surveys in Phnom Sampeu and Phnom Banan, which revealed distinct ecological species including

four new gecko species to science, providing critical biodiversity data to guide conservation. This project aligns with and expands on these efforts bringing in capability and capacity building to key local organisations and stakeholders. Many of the sustainable management guidelines developed within the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) project in Myanmar [Ref-1] will be adapted to the Cambodian context providing valuable lessons learnt and knowledge transfer.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

☒ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

In Cambodia, Fauna & Flora is pursuing funding through the Rainforest Trust for the gazettelement of Phnom Sampeu and Phnom Banan as protected karst landscapes. The community-driven establishment of the two Protected Areas (PAs) will significantly reduce the risk of ecological and cultural destruction from industrial mining activities. Securing land titles through the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction (MLMUPC) will eliminate the potential for such concessions, ensuring these vital areas remain protected for both local communities and endemic species in perpetuity.

This project complements the planned gazettelement project by strengthening local CBOs and the local community through capacity building, providing them with the knowledge and expertise necessary to become key decision makers within the landscape and effectively manage the karsts through sustainable guidelines while enhancing economic income through sustainable eco-tourism initiatives. This will instil local ownership of the karsts further strengthening protection of the landscape benefitting both nature and community members.

Q27. 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). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

Economy:

The project will be implemented alongside a Rainforest Trust-funded project, pending confirmation of funding at the end of 2024, allowing for complementary project activity costs. The planned trainings will be organised at target commune halls free of charge as in-kind contribution from local authorities. Additionally, the project aims to improve human health and create sustainable income and job opportunities for local people through safe bat guano collection and the operation of community-based karst ecotourism

Efficiency:

The project leverages FFI's existing working relationships with the sub-national governments through our current EU-funded BCOMING project in Cambodia and CEPF-funded initiative in Myanmar. Local governments have already expressed their support for this project, ensuring there will be no hurdles in delivering expected outcomes and outputs.

Effectiveness:

This project builds on over a decade of FFI's expertise in karst & cave management in Myanmar transferring successful experiences and knowledge to Cambodia ensuring long-term sustainability for karst ecosystems and local livelihoods. This approach will enhance sustainable management of karst sites and also foster regional learning and knowledge exchange, facilitating wider-scale implementation through leveraged funding.

Equity:

All activities are gender-focused, with at least 40% of participants being women, and inclusive of all local communities living in and adjacent to the target karst landscape. We will promote the increased involvement of women from COA and six CBOs in karst and cave management roles by enhancing their capacity and capability to sustainably manage karst and cave ecosystems after the project concludes.

Q28. 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.

Not applicable

Section 12 - Safeguarding

Q29. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in operation.

Please outline how your project will ensure:

(a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how they can confidentially raise a concern,

(b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld,

(c) you will ensure project partners also meet these standards and policies.

Indicate which minimum standard protocol your project follows and how you meet those minimum standards, i.e. CAPSEAH, CHS, IASC MOS-PSEA. If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans to address this.

FFI has a mandatory Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy (developed in alignment with IASC MOS-PSEA standards) that require compliance from all FFI staff, associates and partners, including sub-grantees, service providers and third parties who carry out work in conjunction with FFI. All FFI staff are required to complete training, and FFI has developed open-source online safeguarding training that is available to partners and relevant stakeholders, with in-person training delivered where needed. The Policy adopts a zero-tolerance approach to safeguarding breaches, clear investigation and disciplinary procedures for when allegations and complaints are made, and clear processes for when a disclosure is made (see policy's flow-chart).

For practical implementation, as well as wider risk management, we will utilise an incident log and a grievance mechanism, with multiple channels of communication to enable communities raise any project related concerns. Grievance mechanism procedure is in place for FFI country program in Cambodia and will be developed in Myanmar. Any issues related to safeguarding will be escalated to regional and global focal point for further investigation as necessary. Training in safeguarding will also be provided to both COA and the CBOs to build the capacities of partners and enable them to improve their policies and procedures, and avoid potential risks to ensure the safety of staff and IPLC from any harm

Defra recommend you appoint a safeguarding focal point to ensure the project's PSEAH work is taken forward. This can be a separate member of staff or a current member of staff who spends a proportionate amount of time for safeguarding and PSEAH activities. Please name this individual here - this person should also be included in your overall staff list at Q31 and in your budget.

[REDACTED]

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q30. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies. Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them. Please note that some embassies or high commissions may not be able to respond to you but your project will not be penalised for a lack of response.

☒ Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

-  [DIR31CC 1931 Evidence of FCDO Contact Myanmar and Cambodia vF](#)
-  21/10/2024
-  16:49:22
-  pdf 214.62 KB

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q31. 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.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Vanny Lou	Project Leader	4	Checked
Aye Chan Maung	Field Manager (Myanmar)	90	Checked
Min Win Bo	COA Project Officer (Myanmar)	100	Checked
Sothearen Thi	Karst Biodiversity Coordinator	21	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Jonathan Moore	Technical Specialist, Asia Pacific	4	Checked
Phyroum Chourn	Protected Area Specialist	6	Checked
Kanitha Chap	Social Equity & rights specialist	6	Checked

Ngwe Lwin	Country Coordinator (Myanmar)	4	Checked
Frank Momberg	Technical Advisor	3	Checked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked

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

 [DIR31CC 1931 Combined Project Staff CVs.docx](#)

 21/10/2024

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 pdf 271.16 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

☒ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q32. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Organisation who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

Lead Organisation name: Fauna & Flora International (FFI)

Website address: <https://www.fauna-flora.org/>

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

Fauna & Flora brings value as the lead organization through their expertise in developing and implementing sustainable karst and cave ecosystem management initiatives in both Cambodia and Myanmar. For example, Fauna & Flora has an active EU-funded BCOMING project in Cambodia, which focuses on biodiversity assessments, highlighting species of conservation concern that are critical for establishing future protections [Ref-1]. In Myanmar, Fauna & Flora worked on a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund [Ref-2], which led to the development of karst management guidelines, safe cave use practices, bat guano collection guidelines, and sustainable eco-tourism guidelines. Additionally, Fauna & Flora is actively pursuing funding through the Rainforest Trust for the gazettelement of Phnom Sampeu and Phnom Banan in Cambodia as protected karst landscapes. These expertise and capacity allow Fauna & Flora to take the role of conducting institutional capacity building on sustainable karst management, safe cave use practices, bat guano collection, and sustainable eco-tourism. The organization also has the ability to provide training on safeguarding, GESI, and institutional management. Fauna & Flora's established relationships with stakeholders, such as COA in Myanmar and local CBOs in both Cambodia and Myanmar, further ensure effective project implementation and knowledge transfer across regions.

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: Community Observer Association (COA)

Website address: N/A

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	COA brings significant value to the project through its strong local presence and expertise in community-based conservation in Myanmar's karst ecosystems, particularly in Mon and Kayin states. As a long-term partner of Fauna & Flora since 2015, COA has developed a deep understanding of local environmental and socio-economic dynamics related to karst conservation, which is crucial for implementing sustainable conservation and livelihood initiatives. With institutional capacity building provided by Fauna & Flora, COA will be well-positioned to support the enhancement of local CBOs' capabilities and the empowerment of community members to independently develop, operate, and sustain conservation and livelihood initiatives. Training on project development, funding proposal writing, and project cycle management will equip COA with the technical skills needed to pursue future funding opportunities independently using in-house expertise. Combined with Fauna & Flora's support, this will give COA the financial autonomy to develop and lead future projects. COA's role in promoting eco-tourism will further align conservation goals with livelihood improvements, benefiting both the environment and local communities. COA also has the potential to become a leader in areas such as FPIC, safeguarding, and GESI, with the appropriate training to ensure gender equality and effective project implementation.
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International/In-country Partner	☒ In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☒ No
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? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	No Response
International/In-country Partner	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	No Response

 [DIR31CC 1931 Letters of Support Combined FFI and Partners vF](#)
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 pdf 2.75 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (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
DARCC052	Ubayd Gulamadshoev	Small but mighty: empowering Tajik conservation organisations through capacity building
IWT136	Michelle Moeller	Tackling wild meat demand, supply and trade in Western Equatoria
IWT130	Angelica Valdivia	Protecting yellow-naped parrot through situational crime prevention in Ometepe, Nicaragua
DAREX006	Serah Munguti	Increasing ecological and socio-economic resilience of Upper-Ewaso Ng'iro North Ecosystem
30-009	Adams Toussaint	Developing sustainable sea moss farming methods in Saint Lucia
DARNV016	Helen Anthem	Promoting equitable gender norms to strengthen conservation governance and impact

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

☒ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q34. Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.

On behalf of the

Company

of
Fauna & Flora International

I apply for a grant of
£199,999.00

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, logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- 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	Paul Hotham
Position in the organisation	Senior Conservation Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Paul Hothman Signature  21/10/2024  18:27:31  png 2.16 KB
Date	21 October 2024

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

 DIR31CC 1931 FFI Annual Accounts 2022  21/10/2024  16:52:44  pdf 1.19 MB	 DIR31CC 1931 FFI Annual Accounts 2023  21/10/2024  16:52:37  pdf 1.52 MB
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Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF. Optionally you can also upload your Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan here.

 [FFI Global Health & Safety Principles](#)

 21/10/2024

 16:54:30

 pdf 296.57 KB

 [FFI Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy & Procedure](#)

 21/10/2024

 16:54:30

 pdf 499.71 KB

 [FFI Code of Conduct](#)

 21/10/2024

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 pdf 279.46 KB

 [FFI Global Security & Risk Management Policy](#)

 21/10/2024

 16:54:30

 pdf 245.4 KB

 [FFI Code of Conduct External](#)

 21/10/2024

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 pdf 224.89 KB

 [FFI Whistleblowing Policy](#)

 21/10/2024

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 pdf 250.92 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Ensure you submit this application on	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk 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 the 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 the application: a cover letter from the Lead Organisation.	Checked
• a budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• a completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan (Question 29)	Checked

1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 32, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	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
The additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all the responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	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
Ensure you submit this application on Flexi-Grant.	

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 Biodiversity Challenge Funds. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our regular 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 organisation, project leader, location, and total grant value).