

Applicant: **Westen, Melody**
Organisation: **Akashinga**
Funding Sought: **£198,412.00**

DIR31CC\1977

Empowering Female and Community Leadership for Conservation and Livelihood Protection

Akashinga protects large-scale wilderness landscapes by empowering local communities and female rangers. While existing efforts have been successful in reducing illegal wildlife trade (IWT), capacity building is necessary both within and outside of communities to maximise anti-poaching impact, while protecting local livelihoods. This project follows a two-pronged approach: 1) building leadership capacity of Akashinga teams to reduce IWT, and 2) strengthening the capacity of Akashinga community teams to protect alternative livelihoods through human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation initiatives.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Empowering Female and Community Leadership for Conservation and Livelihood Protection

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Melody
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Akashinga
Phone (Work)	
Email	
Website	
Address	

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title

Empowering Female and Community Leadership for Conservation and Livelihood Protection

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

-  [Akashinga Darwin C&C Cover Letter FINAL](#)
-  21/10/2024
-  19:30:17
-  pdf 96.21 KB

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.

Akashinga protects large-scale wilderness landscapes by empowering local communities and female rangers. While existing efforts have been successful in reducing illegal wildlife trade (IWT), capacity building is necessary both within and outside of communities to maximise anti-poaching impact, while protecting local livelihoods. This project follows a two-pronged approach: 1) building leadership capacity of Akashinga teams to reduce IWT, and 2) strengthening the capacity of Akashinga community teams to protect alternative livelihoods through human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation initiatives.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Zimbabwe	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 2025	31 March 2027	2 years

Q8. Budget summary

Darwin Initiative Funding Request	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
(1 Apr - 31 Mar) £	£98,334.00	£100,078.00	£ 198,412.00

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?

Akashinga has confirmed matched funding from their philanthropic donors, Judith Neilson Foundation (25,000 GBP) and KH Dominion Foundation (25,000 GBP). These matched funds are unrestricted.

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.

Akashinga has been supporting counter illegal wildlife trade efforts in the project communities for the past 7 years through its female ranger program. Since the organisation's inception, over 300 females across the region have been provided employment and empowerment opportunities through this ranger program. In 2023, we trained 103 female Akashinga rangers and sent ten Akashinga instructors, including nine women, for LEAD Conservation's Advanced Field Ranger Instructor Course (AFRIC) training. They have now become the first female Zimbabwe-based trainers at our Phundundu LEAD Ranger Academy.

The Akashinga team has also been working closely with The Rallying Cry (TRC), an ecosystem initiative at the intersection of climate and gender. TRC is a small and growing international not-for-profit initiative that connects the international finance and development sectors. It is led by a collective of women business leaders and climate, gender, and development finance professionals and institutions. TRC conducted a needs assessment at the Akashinga camp, in which the team conducted interviews, participated in daily activities, and observed workshops with the female rangers. The main goals of the assessment were to build relationships, assess the current leadership skills and needs of the rangers and other staff, and identify areas for enhancement to strengthen female leadership and maximise their potential as environmental stewards to reduce IWT.

While the Akashinga rangers have been working in and around the communities on anti-poaching efforts to reduce IWT, the Akashinga Community Engagement Teams (CETs) have been working closely with these communities at the human-wildlife interface. Due to human-wildlife conflict, these communities frequently suffer extreme losses to crops, and therefore their livelihoods. For example, in July 2024 in Phundundu, over 100 goats were killed by large predators due to HWC. Elephant intrusions sometimes destroy an entire season's worth of produce in one night. This often fuels participation in illegal wildlife trade, either as retaliatory killings or as a means for livelihoods. Akashinga Community Liaison Officers assist the communities by helping to scare animals away and by creating awareness around predator behaviour and methods to prevent human wildlife conflict.

The CETs in the project areas have received training on Human Wildlife Conflict sensitisation, and Akashinga internal policies. However, the CLOs have not received formal training in project management skills to implement and lead community-based sustainable alternative livelihood programs or HWC initiatives in a

participatory manner. Building the capacity of the CETs is critical in order for these communities to protect their livelihoods in the long-term, especially as Akashinga rangers work to reduce IWT through anti-poaching initiatives. The training has mostly been focused on reactive responses, whereas a more evidence based long term planning and mitigation approach is crucial for success in a growing community.

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)
- ☒ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- ☒ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ☒ 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.

Zimbabwe's NBSAP: Objective 2 focuses on reducing direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use. By building the capacity of community teams to implement HWC programs, and developing female anti-poaching ranger capacity, the project will reduce pressure on biodiversity. Objective 5 of the NBSAP focuses on enhanced implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management, and capacity building. The project's two initiatives are in direct support of this priority.

Zimbabwe Climate Change Gender Action Plan: This Action Plan outlines how low representation of women in decision making processes constrains their ability to meaningfully participate in climate change decisions and mitigation initiatives. Target strategies listed in the Plan include creating inclusive platforms for local communities (especially women) and facilitating exchange learning programmes to train local facilitators. Although the proposed project seeks to reduce IWT rather than climate change, the target strategies align closely with those proposed in this project, particularly through community team capacity building and female leadership initiatives.

UN SDGs: This project supports 15 of the 17 UN SDGs, with a focus on gender equality, sustainable communities, responsible consumption, climate action, and life on land and below water.

Agenda 2063, with an emphasis on Goal 7: Creating environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities. This project will capacity of local communities and entities to protect the environment and sustainably manage their natural resources for consumption, allowing for resilient economies long-term.

Kasane Statement (C7 & D11). This project connects to statement C7 by supporting the female leaders as part of a larger Akashinga IWT ranger network. Additionally, providing employment to community members to protect wildlife addresses the balance between livelihood needs and wildlife protection.

London Declaration (Actions C & D). Akashinga leadership capacity building ultimately increases Akashinga's counter-IWT enforcement efforts. Furthermore, the project provides community members with sustainable livelihoods and economic development.

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.

Akashinga delivers ecological stability and long-term protection of large-scale wilderness landscapes by supporting and empowering local communities. In line with this organisational vision, the methodology for the proposed project follows a two-pronged approach aimed at building the capacity of both the Akashinga teams working to reduce IWT, as well as the community engagement teams to protect alternative livelihoods for those impacted by the counter IWT activities. The two-pronged approach is as follows:

1. Female Leadership Cohort Development Pilot

The Akashinga model is built on the capacity development of female rangers to be environmental stewards in the environment and communities in which they live. Akashinga seeks to implement the pilot of a female leadership cohort within the existing cadre of Akashinga rangers and across the broader organisation. The development phase will involve the development of course content, material, and practical case scenarios. In conjunction with the course content and material, learning and impact KPIs, as well as baseline assessment criteria will be determined. The delivery phase will involve participant selection (20 individuals) and the delivery of program content, both virtually and in-person. Online learning and select in-person workshops (e-learning, virtual workshops and webinars, peer learning circles, 1:1 coaching, modules on financial literacy, computers and IT, professional communications) will be held, as well as field assignments and practical applications (e.g. real-life scenario-based solutioning, individual reflective journals). Final skills training workshops, leadership challenge presentations, mapping individualised leadership pathways, reflection and debriefing are key activities scheduled for the conclusion of the cohort's programming.

The content will be translated into tech-enabled tools and resources for future access and delivery by participants, as well as for use when scaling the leadership cohort to include participants in Botswana and Mozambique in the future. Train the trainer materials will be developed to enable these future scaling efforts. At completion of the pilot program, a formal impact assessment will be developed, including recommendations and a blueprint for future programming.

2. Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) - CET Capacity Building

Akashinga understands that by working to protect the wilderness landscapes, particularly through counter IWT initiatives, households in the local communities may be at risk of losing income, particularly those reliant on forms of illegal natural resource harvesting. Akashinga has existing Community Engagement Teams (CET) in place in various districts in northern Zimbabwe working on community conservation (decreasing HWC) and community development (increasing livelihoods and resilience of communities). Data from our socio-economic survey conducted in and around Binga in 2022 reveals that more than 65% of the 313 respondents had experienced crop raids, and 90% of the respondents indicated feeling fear, hatred or anger towards wildlife.

The project team seeks to build the capacity of the existing CETs in Hurungwe and Binga districts to more effectively fulfil their duties working with communities at the interface of IWT. These duties include reporting and resolving HWC cases, monitoring the sentiment and actions of local community members in relation to flora and fauna, advising on cattle grazing practices, plant collection, and wood collection along the community and protected area boundary, and hosting meeting sessions between Akashinga and community leaders, as well as

collectively identifying specific interventions that can be expected to decrease HWC.

Capacity building of the CET will be achieved through a comprehensive training program, including orientation and planning sessions, onsite training sessions, learning exchanges, peer support, and Community of Practice, in the form of sharing experiences with other organisations in the region. The specific training subjects will be determined in collaboration with the CETs during the orientation and planning session, as it is critical to obtain stakeholder buy-in and ensure training is tailored appropriately. Proposed courses include: Participatory Project Design and Management, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC), Participatory Rural Appraisal Techniques, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building, Information Management Systems, and more.

The capacity building of the community teams will enable them to then effectively select and implement a series of HWC projects, resulting in decreased poaching and IWT, as well as the preservation of sustainable alternative livelihoods for the communities. The development phase of the HWC projects will involve analysis of existing trends through community reports, socioeconomic surveys, and participatory sessions. The CET officers trained will implement these projects with guidance from the two Community Supervisors, the two deputy head of operations, our partner (SAWC), and the Akashinga project team. Proposed HWC projects to be explored during the community participatory sessions include fencing, chilli bricks and string, crop variations, predator lights, and enhanced predator-proof bomas.

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?

For the leadership development cohort pilot, Akashinga will follow an inclusive and immersive approach in which individuals will be selected based on demonstrated interest, potential, alignment to organisational goals, and growth capacity at three levels (self, community, organisation). To identify and select these participants from the existing Akashinga staff, we will host fireside chats, conduct 1-on-1 confidential discussions, and publicise participation opportunities via Akashinga's online communication systems to ensure the process is unbiased, fair, and transparent. All participants chosen for this project will be women. As Akashinga sees the importance of developing the capacity of other mid-level management positions within the organisation, not just the ranger units, mid-level management from the Administration, Operations, and Community departments will be offered the opportunity to participate in the cohort.

For the second prong of the project, the CET capacity development for HWC initiatives, the participants will be selected from our existing staff in Akashinga's Community Department in Binga and Hurungwe. This includes 12 Community Liaison Officers, 2 CET Supervisors in each community (i.e., Songo and Phundundu), and the 2 deputy Head of Operations. As these CET officials have been working within the project communities for years, thus having developed strong working relationships with community members, they are the most suitable participants to receive capacity building training to implement the HWC initiatives.

The communities from Binga and Hurungwe selected to participate in the HWC projects will depend largely on the final HWC initiative chosen based on the community reports, socioeconomic surveys, and participatory sessions. The Akashinga project team will ensure equal (gender) representation in the participatory sessions, and hold them at times and locations suitable for the females. The session design will allow for smaller groups to share their input, making it easier for underrepresented groups to be heard.

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.

In the environmental conservation sector, women are outnumbered by men 100:1. Akashinga promotes women's leadership in the conservation sector, serving as a catalyst for improved healthcare, skills development, education rates, rape and sexual assault prevention, increased life expectancy, disease and poverty reduction, and structured family planning. Our approach promotes gender equality and opens new avenues for women to play a prominent role in conservation efforts regionally, ultimately breaking generational cycles and inspiring young women.

As participants for the Akashinga leadership cohort will be chosen based on their status as existing mid-level management Akashinga staff, we understand that other women within and outside of the organisation will be excluded from this pilot initiative. Once the first pilot has been completed, and these mid-level management females have moved into senior-level management roles, they will be able to train a new cohort of Akashinga staff themselves, enabling larger access and inclusivity for future iterations of the cohort programming.

Similarly, the CET members and their leadership receiving capacity building support are also all from Akashinga's existing Community Department, with a gender breakdown of 50% women.

Additionally, we understand that women in the project communities may not all have equal access to participate in the HWC initiatives being implemented by the CETs, due to physical disabilities, lack of childcare options, or restrictions by the male head of the household. Akashinga will take the following measures to minimise this risk and make the initiatives as inclusive as possible:

- Community awareness and sensitisation activities will take place before the HWC initiatives take place through community meetings and 1-on-1 conversations.
- Women who come from disadvantaged backgrounds will be identified and given preference. Individuals with disabilities will be given opportunities to participate in support roles for organising the HWC projects.

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.

PEOPLE

Short term:

A total of 20 individuals within the Akashinga leadership cohort will participate in the pilot program, thus gaining professional and personal development, enabling them to progress in their careers. These individuals will gain capacity building support relating to negotiation, communication skills, stakeholder management, teamwork, and stress management. The enhancement of technical and softer skills will enable them to take on leadership roles within Akashinga and their communities. The families of these individuals will benefit from the career advancement, as well, when factoring in increases in salaries and professional opportunities. Average household size in the project area is 6, thus benefiting at minimum 120 family members in the immediate short term.

A total of 16 individuals (12 CLOs, 2 supervisors, and 2 deputy heads of operations) will receive the capacity building training relating to implementing HWC initiatives. These HWC initiatives will have the potential to protect the livelihoods of the estimated 13,000 households in the project areas. Data from our 2022 socio-economic survey shows that 90% of the 1673 respondents are dependent on agriculture as their main source of livelihood, while 56% indicated crop raiding or predator attacks as the main threat to their livelihood, making HWC the largest perceived threat to people's livelihoods in the region. Enhanced HWC methods will enable these community members to spend time pursuing career development, as well as time for education, fulfilling healthcare needs, and social responsibilities.

Long Term:

The project will help alleviate poverty in the proposed country by increasing community resilience through investing in female conservation leaders and HWC initiatives. The direct influx of the total 15,000 GBP in the first 6 months (and 30,000 GBP across the project term) will support the women who serve as leaders and further economic development and gender pay disparity across the community. Furthermore, the protection of livelihoods through the HWC initiatives will lead to economic stability and bolstered local economies, as community members will have the time and resources to contribute to local economies and pursue alternative business opportunities. We anticipate that the HWC initiatives may be replicated in surrounding communities, directly benefiting an estimated 1,000 individuals of the total 57,800 community members.

BIODIVERSITY

Short-term: By investing in conservation leaders and human wildlife conflict initiatives, we anticipate a reduction in HWC, poaching, and trafficking of critically endangered or threatened species. Not only do we expect fewer large predators and elephants killed due to retaliation, but also a reduction in deaths of pangolins, rhinos, and other species commonly trafficked.

Long-term: Akashinga will indirectly and directly impact major trafficked wildlife species, such as rhinos, elephants, pangolins, and lions. A decrease in poaching will enable populations of endangered species to stabilise and eventually increase, resulting in enhanced biodiversity levels and wildlife restoration. Since Akashinga's establishment of the ranger model in 2009, there has been a 400% increase in wildlife populations in project areas. As such, Akashinga expects to see such an increase in the Zimbabwe project areas in the long-term.

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?

Investing in this Akashinga leadership cohort and supporting its members to further their professional and personal development, we are adjusting the status of their career path as conservation stewards which will be beneficial for generations to come, as their knowledge can be passed on to others within the organisation and beyond. Utilising the train-the-trainer approach, we will ensure that the capacity building provided through this project will be applied to future leadership cohorts, securing quick scaling of knowledge, skills, and abilities for long-term institutional building. The train the trainer materials developed will enable future scaling efforts. Additionally, the formal impact assessment developed at the completion of the pilot program will include recommendations and a blueprint for future programming.

Furthermore, the capacity building of the CETs will renew itself as the CETs targeted during this project will be able to share their skills and lessons learned to other Akashinga CETs in the broader region. Their newly acquired project management skills will enable them to lead new initiatives and community development projects through which they can train those implementing partners. The capacity building of the CET will deliver

additional capability and capacity to local community members, as they will gain knowledge, skills, and abilities through the HWC initiatives to better protect their livelihoods.

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

No Response

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
Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated). Exchange rate fluctuations alter the available spending budget available for use in each country.	Low	Unlikely	Low	Akashinga has conservatively accounted for potential exchange rate fluctuations in the development of the budget and will utilise additional available matched funding if needed.	Low
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. The female leadership cohort participants face sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment in the workplace.	Medium	Unlikely	Low	The rangers are actively encouraged to share any incidents with their peers and leadership. They have undergone trauma healing and leadership training sessions which help them respond in any such situations. Furthermore, our ranger defensive tactics training provides rangers with more confidence in dealing with potentially violent situations.	Low
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. The CET staff are harmed by wildlife (predators) during the implementation of the HWC initiatives.	High	Unlikely	Low	The rangers are equipped with a firearm, have been trained with firearm safety and reducing or de-escalating human-wildlife conflict. Rangers have never had to fire their weapon.	Low

Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model. Turnover within the CETs results in weakened relationships with local communities, reducing ability to gain buy-in for HWC initiatives.				The CETs are 14-person teams, ensuring that if one individual leaves there are no gaps in relationships with communities. Additionally, Akashinga staff and CET are composed of local community members, ensuring long-term embedded buy-in for organisational activities, including HWC initiatives.	Low
Risk 5 The Akashinga leadership cohort participants being trained for the “train the trainers” component do not stay in their position as Akashinga, and therefore cannot deliver continued capacity building support to others within Akashinga.				The individuals selected as “train the trainer” participants will be carefully selected by the project team to ensure high levels of suitability for the position. The impact assessment produced at the pilot’s conclusion will lay the blueprint for future programming and implementation that can be leveraged by new staff.	Low
Risk 6 Political/social conflict in the region results in dangerous armed conflict in the project areas.				Akashinga has been operating in the region for 15 years. with strong ties with the local communities. The Akashinga rangers are all trained in life saving skills ensuring they are equipped to operate despite political/social unrest. Counter IWT work is even more critical during periods of social/political unrest.	Low
Risk 7 Natural disasters, including drought, pose additional threats to sustainable livelihoods, particularly farming, thus escalating the interface of HWC.				Akashinga will leverage the strong relationships between the CETs and communities to understand and address the livelihood risks posed by the natural disaster. The project team is ready to support other alternative livelihood development opportunities when natural disasters pose threats to farming and existing HWC practices.	Low

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.).

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

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

 Akashinga Darwin C&C Workplan FINAL

 21/10/2024

 19:46:20

 docx 16.35 KB

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).

Akashinga will be responsible for primary oversight and management of the monitoring and evaluation component of the proposed project. The Akashinga Project Manager will conduct continuous monitoring of progress against proposed target indicators to ensure the project remains on track for achievement of the outputs and outcome. For the leadership cohort development portion of the project, the primary mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation will be: surveys and feedback sessions after each module; 6-month, 12-month, 18-month, and 24-month followup assessments; and annual check-in sessions for the following 5 years. For the CET capacity building component of the project, the primary monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be training course attendance sheets, training evaluations, household economic surveys, and CET self scoring surveys.

Monthly meeting sessions will be held with our partner, TRC, to collect any monitoring and reporting information obtained by their team for the leadership cohort development. All of the monitoring and reporting data, including statistics on numbers of training participants, will be documented immediately and provided to DEFRA in half-year and annual reports. For training activities, training logs will be kept to identify the name, title, agency, gender, and age group of each participant.

All monitoring data will be broken down according to the disaggregation listed in the logframe, with a particular focus on gender. Akashinga aims for 90% of all direct participants in this project to be female. Additional disaggregations include age, rank, and title.

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)



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		
The project communities in Zimbabwe have enhanced capacity to protect endangered wildlife species (elephant, rhino, pangolin & large cats) while simultaneously protecting the sustainable livelihoods of at least 1,000 individuals.	0.1 By the end of the project, at least 1,000 individuals have improved household income. 0.2 By the end of the project, there is at least a 20% reduction in human-wildlife reports in the project communities.	0.1 Results from 2027 Household socioeconomic surveys 0.2a. Akashinga ranger patrols reports 0.2b CET perimeter patrol logs
Output 1		
A cohort of 20 Akashinga leaders with enhanced capacity to carry out anti-poaching and counter IWT duties and carry out Good Conservation Practice.	1.1 By the end of year 1, at least 20 Akashinga staff have completed the leadership cohort structure programming. 1.2 At the end of the project, all 20 staff report they are applying their new leadership skills and knowledge in their IWT duties. 1.3 By the end of the project, at least 10 cohort members report training other Akashinga staff outside of the project cohort.	1.1 training course attendance, training evaluations 1.2 participant self scoring surveys issued in 2026 at project end 1.3 training course attendance, training evaluations, train the trainer surveys
Output 2		
12 CET members and their 4 leaders possess the capacity to successfully implement and manage HWC initiatives in project communities.	2.1 By the end of year 1, at least 12 CET members and their 4 leaders have completed their comprehensive training program (specific topics to be determined through consultations at the project start). 2.2 At the end of the project, all 12 CET members and their 4 leaders members report they are applying their new project management skills in implementing the HWC initiatives.	2.1 training course attendance, training evaluations 2.2 CET self scoring surveys issued in 2026 at the project end

Output 3 6 HWC mitigation initiatives implemented by the CET result in the protection of sustainable (alternative) livelihoods.	3.1 By the end of the project, at least 50 community members receive guidance or training on utilising the HWC mitigation method (specific method to be determined through analysis, community surveys, etc. at the project start).	3.1 training course attendance, training evaluations
	3.2 At the end of the project, at least 50 community members in Songo and 50 in Phundundu report they are applying the skills they learned as part of the HWC initiative in protecting their livelihoods.	3.2 CET self scoring surveys issued in 2026 at the project end
	3.3 By the end of the project, at least 50 community members in Songo and 50 in Phundundu have their sustainable livelihoods protected.	3.3 Household socioeconomic surveys for 2025 and 2026
Output 4 <i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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: Development: develop training content, timelines, and KPIs for 20 Akashinga leaders, including the establishment of baseline assessment criteria.
- 1.2: Delivery: deliver anti-poaching and counter-IWT training virtually, with in-person sessions where feasible, to 20 Akashinga leaders.
- 1.3: Modularisation: Convert the leadership cohort programming into scalable, tech-enabled tools, as well as "train the trainer" materials for ongoing capacity building of Akashinga leaders.
- 1.4: Assessment: Consolidate learnings, prepare a leadership case study, and conduct a full pilot impact assessment to enhance future anti-poaching programs for the 20 Akashinga leaders.
- 2.1: Conduct a 5-day on-site orientation session for 16 individuals covering the short course "Community Practice in Responsible Resource Use" and preparing for future learning exchanges.
- 2.2: Deliver a 10-day onsite formal training and coaching session for 16 people focused on HWC, participatory project design, and identifying HWC problems.
- 2.3: Conduct a 5-day onsite formal training and coaching session for 16 people focused on implementation of HWC projects.
- 2.4: Host a 10-day onsite formal follow-on training and coaching session for 16 people, topics TBD based on previous sessions.
- 2.5: Deliver a 5-day onsite formal training and coaching session for 16 people, focusing on MEL and evaluation HWC projects.
- 3.1: Implementat at least 3 Community Conservation Programs focused on HWC - Herbivore related, in Binga and Hurungwe districts.
- 3.2: Implementat at least 3 Community Conservation Programs focused on HWC - Predator related, in Binga and Hurungwe districts.

Important Assumptions:

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

1. Akashinga leadership cohort members remain engaged and motivated for personal and professional development to serve as conservation leaders within their community and beyond.
2. Program content for Akashinga leadership cohort development accurately addresses the needs of the participants.
3. Communities truly see the value of protecting endangered species and the importance of conservation.
4. Communities have alternative livelihoods that are realistic, grassroots-driven, and supported to succeed in reducing IWT.
5. Relationships among the Akashinga teams, CET, and communities remain conducive for learning and collaboration.
6. The HWC initiatives implemented are effective in protecting the livelihoods of communities from predators.

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-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Outputs 1, 2, 3	86	Country: 100% Zimbabwe Gender: 52 / 34 IPLC status: %0, 100% non-IPLC
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Outputs 1,2, 3	86	Country: 100% Zimbabwe Gender: 52 / 34 %0, 100% non-IPLC
DI-D03a: Number of people with Sustainable Livelihoods created or protected	Output 3	1000	Country: 100% Zimbabwe Gender: 500 Female / 500 Male IPLC status: %0, 100% non-IPLC Sector: 100% Agriculture
DI-D03b: Number of people with improved income	Outcome	1000	Country: 100% Zimbabwe Gender: 500 Female / 500 Male IPLC status: %0, 100% non-IPLC Sector: 100% Agriculture
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
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.

 [Akashinga Darwin C&C Budget FINAL](#)

 21/10/2024

 19:55:19

 xlsx 60.94 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 proposed project builds upon Akashinga's USAID-funded project aimed at building the capacity of Natural Resource Management Committees through its CETs in Mozambique. Lessons learned from the CET training and alternative livelihood implementation in Mozambique will be leveraged for this project.

Additionally, the project leverages the existing partnership between Akashinga and TRC, through which the early phases of a formal fellowship program has been designed. This project is in development and awaiting funding, however, if delivered, will provide a basis from which the leadership cohort can pull lessons learned, course material, best practices, programming information, and more.

Planet Women and WE Africa both have female empowerment focused fellowships, however, no female fellowship program in the region is conservation focused. Our pilot project is the only fellowship program geared to address both the professional and personal development of women and also the unique challenges that arise for women in this traditionally male dominated sector.

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.

A number of other organisations are operating in the region, including the Wildlife Justice Commission, Wildlife Conservation Society, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Environmental Investigation Agency, Fauna and Flora International, World Wide Fund for Nature, and more, many of which are conducting existing DEFRA funded projects. These projects are different and complement the Akashinga Darwin proposed project. Akashinga has a unique approach that no other organisation is doing in these countries, empowering and employing all female rangers and providing them with leadership skills.

At the start of the project, Akashinga will meet with relevant NGOs implementing counter IWT projects within the region to explore opportunities for collaboration, as well as to gain lessons learned regarding successful and unsuccessful HWC initiatives that have been implemented in similar contexts. Akashinga has a working relationship with the local Rural District Councils, ZimParks, and a number of NGOs operating in the region and aims to continue this regional learning exchange for this specific project.

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?

Akashinga has a working formula which involves setting up a strong, long-term base which is sanctioned by the local government and secured through legal arrangements. That is the platform for successfully engaging the local community and building a strong working relationship through a very cost-effective solution enabling both conservation and rural development.

Under the Akashinga ranger leadership program, over 62% of all operational costs go directly back to the local communities, with 80% flowing through at the household level. This ensures that the development of sustainable livelihoods will be maximised. Similarly, over 90% of the Akashinga staff is locally based, reducing project costs, minimising project startup duration, and increasing likelihood of community buy-in and contribution of traditional knowledge.

Akashinga will be building off of previous work in the project area, including INL and USAID funded grants, enabling the team to utilise existing resources for this project, including infrastructure. Best practices, knowledge, tools, and resources from the existing teams and projects in Zimbabwe can be utilised to maximise benefit for cost. Additionally, the budget will be carefully monitored by the project manager and financial manager to ensure costs are minimised as much as possible without compromising deliverables.

Furthermore, the female leadership cohort is a pilot program, through which female leaders will gain “train the trainer” skills, enabling them to capacitate other lower-level Akashinga management staff in future iterations of the program. This ensures that future iterations of the cohort will require very little cost.

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.

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.

Akashinga is committed to ensuring the welfare of all individuals involved in our projects. We have implemented a set of robust policies that reflect our zero-tolerance stance on any form of harm, bullying, harassment, or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). These policies align with international standards, and we continually work to ensure compliance and proactive safeguarding measures across all activities.

Safeguarding and PSEAH Policy: includes a clear statement of commitment to the protection of vulnerable individuals and a zero-tolerance policy toward any form of abuse, harassment, or exploitation. The policy adheres to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and the IASC Minimum Operating Standards for PSEA (MOS-PSEA), ensuring thorough prevention, response, and reporting mechanisms are in place to mitigate risks.

Whistleblowing Policy: provides a clear and confidential process for raising concerns. It guarantees that whistleblowers are protected from retaliation and outlines the steps taken to investigate complaints, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Code of Conduct: outlines the expected behaviours of all individuals associated with the project. It includes both in-workplace and out-of-workplace behaviour expectations and provides clear disciplinary measures for any breaches, including possible dismissal.

To ensure these policies are well-understood, all staff and partners receive training, are informed of the procedures for raising concerns confidentially, and are subject to regular policy reviews. We ensure that our partners are aware of and adhere to our safeguarding policies. Our approach aligns with CHS standards, and we remain committed to continuous improvement in this area.

Any safeguarding issues are brought to the attention of HR, who opens a case and investigates. Akashinga has a code of conduct that is adhered to and used as a basis for disciplinary procedures. All employees are trained on the code of conduct and on how to respond in case of a breach of the code of conduct.

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.

-  [High Commission - Akashinga Update and Darwin Opportunity.](#)
-  21/10/2024
-  19:58:03
-  pdf 138.8 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?
Wayne Cumming	Project Leader	10	Checked
Friday Muzingili	Community Liaison Supervisor Songo	50	Checked
Blessing Neya	Community Liaison Supervisor Phundundu	50	Checked
Carey Bohjanen	TRC Project Coordinator	30	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
AnnRita Njiru	TRC Project Officer	28	Checked
Rutendo Muderedzi	HR Officer & safeguarding focal point	10	Checked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked

No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
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.

 [Akashinga Darwin Combined CVs](#)

 21/10/2024

 20:01:49

 pdf 543.13 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:	Akashinga
Website address:	www.akashinga.org
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Akashinga is a locally based NGO and has extensive experience managing projects of a similar scope and size in Zimbabwe and the region. The Akashinga PM will be responsible for the planning, implementation, and ongoing management of project activities, including the budget, workplan, risk management, as well as developing and maintaining a robust monitoring and evaluation plan. Since 2009, Akashinga has supported over 50 conservation initiatives, most of which geared at training or supporting rangers for enhanced counter wildlife trafficking capacity, Akashinga has trained over 150 female rangers, scaling to patrol and protect a portfolio of 3 million acres, providing safe haven for 11,000 elephants. In total, rangers trained by Akashinga now help to protect over 20 million acres of African wilderness. Working alongside local agencies and NGOs, Akashinga-supported Akashinga units have made 1,440 arrests in 746 operations, for a total of 705 wildlife crime offences. Through its Akashinga and LEAD models, Akashinga has developed strong working relationships with ZimParks in Zimbabwe which can be leveraged for effective project implementation.

International/In-country Partner	☒ In-country
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:	The Rallying Cry (TRC)
Website address:	https://therallyingcry.org/

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

The Rallying Cry (TRC) is a small and growing local, not-for-profit initiative that connects the international finance and development sectors. It is led by a collective of women business leaders and climate, gender, and development finance professionals and institutions. As a catalytic intermediary, TRC's objective is to shift capital and narratives for inclusive private-sector climate leadership and solutions. The organisation's mission is to elevate new leadership and catalyse investment approaches to scale climate and gender smart solutions across Africa.

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

TRC will be responsible for leading the implementation of the leadership cohort development programming material, including the e-learning, virtual workshops and webinars, peer learning circles, 1:1 coaching, and the train the trainer modules.

TRC will also be responsible for supporting the M&E efforts regarding Output 1, including collection of means of verification from project activities under this output for reporting to Akashinga during the monthly meetings.

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:	<i>No Response</i>
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	
	<i>No Response</i>
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	
International/In-country Partner	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	<i>No Response</i>
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	
	<i>No Response</i>
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	
International/In-country Partner	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	<i>No Response</i>
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:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>

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:

No Response

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:

No Response

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: No Response

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.

 [Akashinga Darwin Combined LoS](#)
 21/10/2024
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 pdf 82.82 KB

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
IWTR10S1\1143	Melody Westen, Akashinga	Law Enforcement and Leadership Development (LEAD) Ranger Project
No Response	No Response	No Response
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 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

Akashinga

I apply for a grant of

£198,412.00

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	Melody Westen
Position in the organisation	Executive Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 MWESTEN Signature  21/10/2024  20:13:29  pdf 4.21 MB
Date	21 October 2024

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

 [Akashinga Combined Financial Statements 2023](#)

2022 2021

 21/10/2024

 20:13:41

 pdf 627.11 KB

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.

 [Akashinga Combined Policies](#)

21/10/2024

 20:13:52

 pdf 949.81 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:	Checked
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)	Unchecked

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).