

Applicant: **POTESS, FERNANDO**
Organisation: **People Resources and Conservation Foundation**
Funding Sought: **£178,700.00**

DIR31CC\1726

Strengthening NGOs for Community-based Gibbon Conservation in India and Bangladesh

Northeast India and eastern Bangladesh is an area rich in ethnic and biological diversity and home of the most western gibbon species, which is globally Endangered. This project will strengthen the capability and capacity of two conservation organizations in Bangladesh and India to scale up their community-based conservation programs and collaborate in transboundary gibbon conservation partly through sharing experiences and skills. Additionally, it will support them to empower grassroots community organizations in protecting biodiversity and natural resource management.

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DIR31CC\1726

Strengthening NGOs for Community-based Gibbon Conservation in India and Bangladesh

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title

Strengthening NGOs for Community-based Gibbon Conservation in India and Bangladesh

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

-  [Cover Letter PRCF to DIR31CC1726](#)
-  19/10/2024
-  08:20:58
-  pdf 1.31 MB

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.

Northeast India and eastern Bangladesh is an area rich in ethnic and biological diversity and home of the most western gibbon species, which is globally Endangered. This project will strengthen the capability and capacity of two conservation organizations in Bangladesh and India to scale up their community-based conservation programs and collaborate in transboundary gibbon conservation partly through sharing experiences and skills. Additionally, it will support them to empower grassroots community organizations in protecting biodiversity and natural resource management.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Bangladesh	Country 2	India
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) £	£92,135.00	£86,565.00	£178,700.00

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?

No Response

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 Creative Conservation Alliance (CCA) and Conservation Initiatives (CI) are actively conducting community-based conservation in eastern Bangladesh and northeast India respectively. This is a region characterized by

incredible biological and ethnic diversity (1,2,3,4,5) at the crossroads between the Eastern Himalayas, the sub-continent and Indo-Burma Ecoregion. Their initiatives work with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to enhance the relationships between people and nature, mentor and support grassroots conservations, promote sustainable and resilient livelihoods, and engage IPLCs in protecting and monitoring biodiversity.

Together they have identified areas of cross-border collaboration, starting with conservation of the Endangered Western Hoolock Gibbon. There are thought to be less than 500 of this species left in Bangladesh (6) with only a handful of forest areas being viable for the species survival (7). In India the outlook is better, yet the population is declining dramatically across its range (8). Habitat fragmentation and genetic isolation are major issues (9,10) and furthermore, gibbons are being hunted by some tribes for subsistence and, more recently, are being targeted for wildlife trafficking (11, 12, 13). In December 2024 CCA alongside IUCN Section on Small Apes will hold a workshop in Dhaka to develop a National Gibbon Conservation Action Plan for Bangladesh, which will include a transboundary component with India.

The gibbon serves as a flagship species for the region's biodiversity. Since there is extensive gibbon habitat on community-managed lands, effective conservation in this region necessitates robust community involvement and cross border collaboration. The region is characterized by a rich ethnic diversity of hills tribes, which largely practice swidden agriculture and a culture of hunting among many groups is driving species declines. Nevertheless grassroots movements that protect biodiversity are on the rise, especially led by some tribal communities in India (e.g Ido Mishmi and Khasi people) that hold gibbons sacred (14), but these initiatives are small-scale and need strengthening.

CCA and CI have both been developing grassroots-led programs to conserve this gibbon species, its forest habitats and other threatened wildlife. As relatively young and growing organizations, they have identified multiple institutional and technical capacity needs that are holding them back from developing more multi-dimensional biodiversity conservation and poverty-reduction programs. These needs were identified by each organization through a series of meetings and internal assessments (See annex):

- Institutional capacity to strengthen to handle larger projects; improving financial planning and management, strategic long-term institutional and programmatic planning, and updating operating procedures and safeguards.
- More technical capability for conservation planning, especially for CCA on gibbon population monitoring and research, and methods and approaches for better engaging tribal communities.
- Developing skills and engagement in conservation through key actors at the grassroots level among local communities.
- Access growing funding opportunities for conservation linked to poverty alleviation for the region, both in-country and internationally.

By meeting these capacity needs, both organizations will have the tools and processes in place to allow them to effectively scale up their community-based programs and contribute to producing solutions that benefit both wildlife and people.

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.

Through a strengthened CCA and CI, this project will support the CBD for the protection of land areas critical to global biodiversity and contribute to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 3, 4, 19 and 22 by building institutional capacity to protect forest habitat of species threatened with extinction through participation of local communities. The target area is a key region for the Western Hoolock Gibbon and other globally threatened species, such as Asian Elephant, Bengal Tiger, Clouded Leopard, Gaur, Giant Asian Forest Tortoise, and Chinese Pangolin (5). Thus, the project aligns closely with national conservation priorities.

Western Hoolock Gibbons are listed under CITES and are threatened by wildlife trafficking (12,13). The project seeks to protect gibbons species within their natural habitats and prevent their removal from the wild by raising conservation awareness while concurrently fostering sustainable livelihoods and engaging grassroots conservationists in combating poaching. Other CITES-listed species, which will benefit include the Critically Endangered Chinese Pangolin and several highly threatened turtle and tortoise species.

Furthermore, by protecting forests vital to combating climate change, the project aligns with the Nationally Determined Contributions of India and Bangladesh under the UNFCCC. These contributions focus on enhancing and securing forest cover and emphasize policies aimed at improving community resilience through the maintenance of ecosystem services and One Health approaches.

The project contributes to building institutional capacity in support of the SDGs, specifically Goals 1 (No Poverty), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnerships). It empowers grassroots partners and communities to develop sustainable livelihoods, mitigate forest loss, and preserve biodiversity. Additionally, the initiative seeks to strengthen the commitments of CCA and CI towards achieving gender equality (SDG 5) and reducing inequality (SDG 10) through the inclusion of marginalized indigenous communities.

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.

Overall management of the project will be provided by PRCF, supported by a project steering committee comprising senior leadership from each partner organization. To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of

project deliverables, the steering committee will convene quarterly. The principal role of the PRCF is to enhance institutional capacity, manage the consortium, and oversee larger project opportunities. CCA and CI will engage in a reciprocal exchange of expertise, leveraging their respective strengths to strengthen respective weaknesses while identifying areas of convergence. This collaborative framework will enable the project design to be customized for both the consortium as a whole and its individual partners.

The project will facilitate peer learning and mentorship, capitalizing on the existing skills of each partner. Specialized training will be offered, with PRCF sharing knowledge on institutional strengthening, CI training on gibbon surveying and monitoring, and CCA on community support programs aimed at reducing hunting pressures. We will also hold workshops with grassroots conservationists, who will offer a perspective of conservation driven by indigenous actors, while receiving training for capacity building.

Tailored training workshops will focus on essential areas such as project management, financial planning, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Field training will emphasize gibbon surveying, conservation planning, and community development, while additional online training courses for project management and proposal writing will be made available.

Institutional Capacity Building

Finance: An external consultancy will review the financial systems of each organization, resulting in updated procedures and the implementation of new accounting software. We aim for Techsoup certification that will accredit CCA and CI, enabling more funding opportunities, discounted software and other benefits.

Organizational Management and Administration: A management consultant will review and support update administrative and human resource procedures, supported by training for implementation.

Strategic Planning: Each partner organization will create a 5-year plan through a series of facilitated workshops, culminating in a consolidated strategy. CI and CCA will hold internal meetings such that training permeates to all members of the organization, including representatives of local communities and grassroots groups from focal landscapes. Thus embedding the strategy within all operations down to the field.

Social Safeguards and Gender Equality: Community engagement protocols will be developed and include Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and GESI guidance. All staff of CI and CCA will be trained on these protocols. We will revise CCAs Code of Practice to include a PSEAH Policy (CI has one in place as mandated by Indian Law, but will review and strengthen it).

Joint Programmatic Plan: Annual workshops will align gibbon conservation efforts with national action plans, serving as a means of tracking implementation and planning action.

Technical Skills Acquisition

Gibbon Survey and Monitoring Training: CI will train CCA staff on gibbon survey methodologies, enabling CCA to independently conduct significant surveys.

Community Engagement: Leveraging the unique experiences of CCA, CI, and grassroots conservationists in working with communities locally and PRCF's similar experience across Southeast Asia, a tailored community development approach will be developed, leading to community development plans that incorporate biodiversity goals as well as FPIC procedures and a grievance mechanism.

Engaging grassroots in conservation

CI and CCA will leverage their expertise to enhance the capabilities of grassroots conservationists involved in

gibbon conservation at select sites. They will establish a cascading knowledge transfer framework through a series of workshops and biomonitoring programs designed to develop essential conservation skills for 38 grassroots conservationists from four indigenous groups in northeast India (24 participants) and one tribe, along with native Bengali communities in Bangladesh (14 participants).

Additionally, the project will provide professional development opportunities to foster the personal growth of three key personnel within CCA and CI and four grassroots conservationists from indigenous organizations in India .

Fundraising

Two key staff from each partner will be enrolled into online conservation courses on grant writing and project management from Wild Team UK, enabling more room to the respective upper management team. Mentoring will be provided by PRCF staff. CI will hold 2 training workshops for 8 grassroots conservationists from 4 grassroots organizations on project management and proposal development, while 4 grassroots conservationists will enroll in the online course.

Fundraising strategies will be developed for each organization, facilitated by PRCF and include a strategy for tapping into national-level Corporate Social Responsibility funds via a specialized national consultancy, allowing greater level of funding for partners. The consortium will collaborate to develop at least 3 larger fundraising proposals, supported by PRCF, in order to upscale the work of each organization and sustain them well beyond the time frame of this project.

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?

PRCF will be the lead and mentoring partner for this project due to its extensive experience in community-based conservation, particularly regarding gibbons across Southeast Asia, and its robust network with international donors. Both PRCF's Program Development Officer and Chief Operations Officer possess substantial experience in collaborating with local NGOs to support their institutional growth.

CCA and CI are the primary beneficiaries of this project, selected for their ongoing community-based initiatives in Hoolock Gibbon conservation within Bangladesh and India. Their selection comes from mutual overlapping interests with PRCF on community-based conservation, especially for gibbons. Additionally, grassroots conservationists will benefit from the knowledge transfer facilitated by these main partners. Grassroots organizations will be selected based upon current relationships with CCA and CI.

All staff from both organizations will participate to varying degrees, engaging in training on institutional protocols and advanced technical skills. Staff members involved in training activities and professional development opportunities will be chosen based on their specific roles and responsibilities. Field-level training and safeguarding mechanism workshops will encompass all staff members, as they embody the organization's values in practice. Strategic organizational workshops, led by specialists from PRCF, will target upper management teams to guide the organization's development and vision attainment. The criteria for fellowships selection have already been developed and include tribal members from gibbon conservation landscapes who exhibit a strong commitment to gibbon and forest conservation and demonstrate potential for leadership in conservation efforts.

The village stakeholders where the grassroots conservationists are part of are chosen based on their location within gibbon habitat and eagerness to be part of gibbon conservation efforts. The villages that CCA and CI are engaging with are part of their ongoing work at the various sites.

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.

Communities in the landscape vary in terms of the role of women in decision making and conservation, which usually still lies in the hands of men; and community leaders are typically—with a few exceptions—men. But there is some nuance across tribes; for instance, Meghalaya follows a matrilineal system, and women take decisions with respect to management of privately-owned land. Community youth who are involved in conservation activities are mostly men, likely as a reflection of the demography that was most involved in hunting. Yet this is changing, at some locations in Meghalaya CI is seeing increasing involvement of women in conservation activities.

This project will help us systematize practices that actively enhance the role of women in conservation and will prioritize gender equality within the partner organizations. Partners will collaboratively develop a plan aimed at enhancing gender balance, particularly within leadership roles, where CCA must focus on improvement. In contrast, CI currently demonstrates strong gender representation among its senior leadership. Each partner will designate an individual responsible for overseeing safeguarding mechanisms and promoting gender equality internally and in field projects. The objective is to ensure a minimum of 30% female participation across all levels, including management.

Both CCA and CI have >30% of permanent staff belonging to indigenous minority groups that the overall work targets, while grassroots field-site beneficiaries are mainly belonging to indigenous minority groups. In Northeast India CI will support the growing indigenous grassroots movement, consisting of various groups, namely the Society for Upliftment in Roing, of the Ido-Mishmi Tribe in Arunachal Pradesh, the Malai Sohmat Multi-Purpose and Tourism Society, of the Khasi tribe in Meghalaya, and the Bhutan Glory Eco Club of the Yimkhuing tribe in Nagaland. In Bangladesh grassroots conservationists of the Mro tribe as well as non-tribal Bengali communities are engaged.

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.

Short-Term

Benefits to CCA and CI:

Financial management substantially improved, more efficient, transparent, and robust, enabling better overall institutional management and decision making

External third-party audit enables better financial accountability for each organization

All key personnel are familiar with financial management and administrative guidelines, resulting in a more effective work environment and reduced financial risk

Stronger internal communications and understanding of administrative processes

An organizational strategic plan is in place to effectively guide CCA and CI

A transboundary gibbon conservation strategic plan is guiding effective program development with a clear

fundraising strategy

4 CCA staff and 38 grassroots conservationists at key sites have increased skills for conducting gibbon surveys and monitoring under the mentorship of CI

Partners are better positioned for effective implementation and monitoring of community development within the overall gibbon conservation program

Partners are better able to respond to funding opportunities nationally and internationally

CCA and CI are more effective at passing on acquired knowledge to grassroots partners and stakeholder communities

Benefits to Biodiversity:

CI and CCA have plans in place for improved biodiversity management across approximately 50,000 ha of gibbon priority areas.

Improved skills of grassroots conservationists associated with CI and CCA at key sites for gibbon conservation (38 members of 5 tribes targeted across Northeast India and Bangladesh), leading to more effective, inclusive, and participatory conservation efforts.

Funding for gibbon conservation secured from the ARCUS Foundation with strategic actions initiated by Year 2 and expected funding from other sources too.

Benefits to People:

More effective livelihood support to marginalized tribal communities across 22 villages (15 villages in India and 7 in Bangladesh amounting to around 600 households)

Partners can develop Livelihood Support Plans to guide the implementation of community development components

Long-Term

Benefits to partners:

Increased capacity to fundraise and manage more projects, thus maintaining key positions and increasing CCA's and CI's capacity to carry out more effective conservation and community development work.

Greater capacity for financial management of more and larger projects that enables scale up and a greater scope across the region.

A sustainable financing plan will look long-term for developing diverse financing options to ensure the sustainability of a larger organization.

Stronger conservation team filling in a multitude of conservation roles—local grassroots conservationists, project leaders, and organization heads.

Benefits to Biodiversity:

CCA and CI work on biodiversity conservation doubling the area of impact to 100,000 ha, benefiting other globally threatened species, in addition to the Western Hoolock Gibbon, such as Chinese Pangolin, Giant Asian Forest Tortoise, Great Hornbill, Clouded Leopard, and Asian Elephant

Benefits to People:

CCA and CI can facilitate sustainable livelihood transitions through dissemination of practical knowledge and skills for over 600 households

More people are involved in protection of important areas for biodiversity and empowered in decision-making. 4 grassroots organizations in India have the capacity to raise funds independently and further their missions for local communities and gibbon conservation.

Marginalized indigenous communities are benefiting from the ecosystem services that functional ecosystems bring and are more resilient to climate change.

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 fundamentally build more robust and competent organizations in CCA and CI, laying the groundwork for securing additional funds and enhancing financial sustainability. Moreover, an organizational strategic plan will be implemented, which includes a clear financing strategy. At the project's conclusion, CCA and CI will have substantially greater capacity for managing a larger and more diverse range of projects under its overarching program, efficiently capitalizing on the growing funding opportunities that the current donor environment in Bangladesh and India provides.

Currently, multiple proposals are in the development pipeline (USFWS Great Apes Fund and ARCUS Foundation) to support the envisioned transboundary Western Hoolock Gibbon conservation program. We anticipate securing funding from the ARCUS Foundation within year 1 of the project based on our ongoing discussions with them. Besides gibbon-specific funding CCA has other funding sources for our overall work in the pipeline with some major multi-year grants already secured for the ongoing conservation work in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. CI has a multi-year partnership and support for gibbon conservation from funders within India, and support from partners for its other programs, primarily its elephant program. CI is collaboratively raising funds for community-based conservation with partners at the University of Vermont, and are currently engaged in a start-up project supported by the University.

The project will essentially strengthen CCA and CI at its core, enabling the expansion of its program over the ensuing year, incorporating a broader scope, and effectively addressing the interconnected gibbon conservation and community development issues across priority areas. This approach of directly engaging grassroots partners that represent locally driven action and marginalized tribal communities into biodiversity conservation.

This will also be the beginning of a program of support from PRCF to the two organizations.

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

 [Appendix DIR31CC1726 PRCF-CCA-CI](#)

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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).	major	unlikely	major	The project will strengthen financial management as a set of activities at the beginning of the project by increasing personnel capacity and significantly updating its system and training staff. The newly trained and recruited staff will monitor financial reporting and implementation with additional support from the PRCF on M&E.	unlikely
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff.	major	rare	moderate	CCA and CI have procedures for safeguarding against SEAH. They need to be made more effective through ensuring they are well understood by all staff including reporting mechanisms. Staff will communicate expected conduct and safeguarding protocols with stakeholders.	rare
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff.	major	possible	major	CCA and CI have learned to navigate political complexities through long experience in these areas. Close relationships with local communities has ensured safety, by advance notice if issues arise; in which case field work would be suspended. We do not anticipate that the political situation impacts the proposed project.	rare

Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model. As other projects are coming in some staff may be overburdened with activities and leading to delays in implementing this project.				Co-funding and further expected funding allows some flexibility to cover funding gaps. Some activities may need to be adjusted, e.g. reducing travel and working on-line over a series of sessions where an in-person meeting was budgeted for.	rare
Risk 5 Trained staff and trainers may be lost from the organization.				Training materials and guidelines will be documented and stored centrally with broad access to appropriate staff. No training will be focussed on one person, training will include groups whether small or large. Also the project focuses on long-term program establishment.	unlikely
Risk 6 Additional funds are not secured to maintain the capacities and capabilities acquired during the project				The project is tailored to access more funds and run a larger program that is beyond the scope of short-term projects. There are multiple funding proposals already in the pipeline with several that are likely to be positive (e.g. ARCUS), while also enabling greater access to national CSR funds.	rare
Risk 7 Grassroots conservationists may not continue to engage with conservation activities.				The grassroots conservationists we will work with have shown dedication over the years, through actions such as setting aside subsistence lands for conservation and engaging in conservation monitoring. Our programs include efforts to spur conservation interest and support in the larger community.	rare

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.

The work of our partners is in a politically complex region, with high cultural diversity. Issues related to conservation—land management, agricultural practices, hunting, restoration etc—are also driven by traditional

customs and community governance. Due to this, the region has had its share of political turmoil. The region is also characterized by a long international border, the Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-Myanmar, and Bangladesh-Myanmar border. Borders have been contentious, and there is a substantial presence of defense personnel in some regions. Partners need to navigate these sensitivities; but have been doing so for the past 10 years.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

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

 [bcf-workplan-DIR31CC1726-PRCF-CCA-CI](#)

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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).

The project will have a steering committee, consisting of PRCF's Program Development Officer and Chief Operations Officer and 2 representatives from the partners (CI and CCA Directors/Project Coordinators; CI Gibbon Conservation and Gender Equality Lead; and CCA Chief Operations Manager). Project delivery will be monitored in quarterly steering committee meetings, which will assess technical and financial progress using the project logical framework and workplan. The project emphasizes the development of monitoring systems, potentially impacting other projects. This includes internal financial monitoring and safeguarding initiated during the project.

PRCF will conduct organizational assessments for CI and CCA at the beginning and end of the project using www.capacityforconservation.org or equivalent tools.

Repeated training activities will require participant feedback and assessments. In Q3 and Q4 of the second year all trainees will be evaluated on use and implementation of training.

One project outcome will see improved financial management, with priority given to budget monitoring. The Chief Financial Officer of PRCF will assess process quality through online evaluations.

The project leader and one project coordinator from each partner will lead M&E with 3 days total per quarter allocation and will facilitate and conduct monitoring, archiving outputs and supporting reporting. Several other project positions will dedicate time to project monitoring:

PRCF Chief Operations Officer

PRCF Chief Finance Officer

CCA and CI Finance and Admin Officers

CCA Biodiversity Research Officer and CI Biodiversity Research Trainer

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 Two conservation organizations have increased institutional capacity for transboundary conservation of gibbons (and other threatened wildlife) that better engages and supports IPLCs in northeast India and eastern Bangladesh.	0.1 CCA and CI organizational 5-year strategic plans show routes for supporting key community-protected forests for conservation of gibbons and other threatened wildlife at priority sites by Q2 Year 2.	0.1 Annual reports on implementation of strategic plans show effective implementation.
	0.2 At least 10 national conservation scientists and 38 grassroots conservationists are reporting that they are applying new skills by the end of the project.	0.2.1 TOT follow up surveys 0.2.1 Post-training assessment reports achievement
	0.3 CCA and CI are in stronger financial positions for delivering their community-based programs for conservation of gibbons and other biodiversity by end of the project.	0.3.1 Annual budgets for 2026 and 2027 0.3.2 Donor agreements

Output 1 CCA and CI are stronger institutions with plans for long-term strengthening and greater impact to support poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation.	1.1 Ten people (5 from each organization) complete structured training for institutional capacity building around 3 areas; finance, administration, and safeguarding by end of year 1	1.1.1 Training materials and pre- and post test assessments 1.1.2 Revised employment regulations 1.1.3 Revised code of conduct signed by all staff 1.1.4 Staff assessments related to code of conduct and PSEAH
	1.2 Financial management system in place by end of Q2 and staff showing capability for good financial management to use by end of year 1.	1.2.1 Accounting software in place 1.2.2 Monthly, and annual financial reports 1.2.3 Annual audits
	1.3 Two strategic organizational planning workshops and 1 joint workshop conducted, resulting in 5-year strategies plans for each organization by end of year 1	1.3.1 Strategic operational plans 1.3.2 Financing plans
Output 2 Greater capability and collaboration between the two partners for gibbon conservation and livelihood development of IPLCs.	2.1 CI staff assess that four trained CCA staff can conduct gibbon surveying and monitoring by Q3 year 1.	2.1.2 Report on gibbon training that includes date, locations, participants, pre and post training assessments
	2.2 Strategic transboundary gibbon conservation plan produced and endorsed by the IUCN Primate Specialist Group Section on Small Apes by end of Year 1	2.2.1 Feedback from IUCN Primate IUCN Primate Specialist Group Section on Small Apes 2.2.1 Transboundary gibbon conservation plan
	2.3 Community development and conservation plans, that following updated FPIC and GESI procedures, are endorsed by local governments by end of year 2	2.3.1 FPIC and GESI socialization manuals 2.3.2 Training reports with participant assessments 2.3.3 Community development and conservation plans 2.3.4 Endorsement letters 2.3.5 Workshop reports, including assessment of process.

Output 3 CCA and CI build technical and institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation and monitoring at the grassroots level at key sites for gibbon conservation in northeast India and Bangladesh.	3.1 Four grassroots conservationists and 1 indigenous conservation scientist partake in a fellowship/personal development program (3 in year 1 and 2 in year 2)	3.1.1 Individual assessments 3.2.1 Report on training 3.2.2 Gibbon monitoring sheets completed by grassroots conservationists 3.2.3 Reports on analysis of gibbon monitoring.
	3.2 Thirty-eight grassroots conservationists are able to apply training on biodiversity monitoring with specific focus on gibbons by mid year 2	3.3.1 Guidelines in place for safety in the field and displayed at field stations 3.3.4 Training reports 3.3.2 Organizational assessments
	3.3 Improved protocols for developing and implementing projects demonstrated by 4 grassroots groups in India and field staff working with CCA in Bangladesh by end of year 1	
Output 4 CI and CCA have greater capacity to fundraise internationally and in-country and support their grassroots partners.	4.1 CI, CCA and grassroots conservation groups have greater funding raising capacity by end of year 1	4.1.1 Course completion certificate and acknowledgement 4.1.2 Proposal development guideline document produced by trained staff 4.1.3 number of larger funding proposals submitted by CCA and CI, including at least one join proposal 4.1.4 number of funding proposals submitted by grassroots organizations 4.1.5 Revenue form and annual budget for 2026 and projection for 2027;
	4.2 Demonstrated improved potential for CI and CCA to access funding from in-country Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding by end of project.	4.2.1 Consultancy reports 4.2.2 Fundraising strategies 4.2.3 Number of minutes of meetings held with potential donors for CSR funding 4.2.4 Databases of potential partner and donors by mid Year 2 4.2.5 CSR funding agreements secured.
	4.3 CCA and CI become certified Techsoup by end of year 1, validating their legal and financial compliance to Indian and Bangladeshi laws, allowing improved access to funds.	4.3 Techsoup or similar Certification documents validating legal and financial compliance

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 Organizational resilience and needs assessment and SWOT analysis with each partner, using the assessment tool from <https://capacityforconservation.org> to establish baselines.
- 1.2 Annual financial audits for each partner (Q1 Y1; Q4 Y2)
- 1.3 Financial management consultants conduct full financial management assessments and training and recommendations to staff of finance and admin teams (2 people each partner).
- 1.4 Purchase of financial and HR management software and training for staff on use.
- 1.5 Three-day training sessions with each partner revolving around project and grant management, safeguarding, etc.
- 1.6 Three-day strategic planning workshops with each partner linked to 1.1 with 3 modules (finance, human resources, and planning) inclusive of capacity development plan.
- 1.7 Three-day joint workshop with all partners on strategic transboundary gibbon conservation planning, entailing the core blocks for future funding proposals.
- 1.8 Preparing organizational strategic plans based on 1.1 and 1.6 and integrating aspects from 1.7.
- 1.9 Quarterly operational planning and administration meetings for the steering committee, inclusive of M&E evaluation.
- 1.10 Safeguarding training for all staff provided by PRCF Chief Operations Officer to review and revise (where needed) policy and develop SOP

Output 2:

- 2.1 CI develops a training package for CCA research team and grassroots conservationists, translated to the local language if required.
- 2.2. CI delivers a multi-day training for CCA research team (4 people) on conducting gibbon surveys and processing the data.
- 2.3. CI undertakes a gibbon monitoring exercise with the CCA research team.
- 2.4 Produce a Livelihood Support Plan and community engagement SOP for each partner via workshops including grassroots conservationists.
- 2.5 Develop a guidance manual and SOP for FPIC and GESI, inclusive of field level dissemination workshops.
- 2.6 Two key staff from CCA and one from CI get professional development support to join relevant international seminars, workshops, and conferences.

Output 3:

- 3.1. CI supports the professional development of members from 4 grassroots conservation groups in India through a fellowship program.
- 3.2. Fellows of the program undertake training and attend conferences to develop their potential as conservation leaders.
- 3.3 Training on biodiversity monitoring with specific focus on gibbons for 38 grassroots conservationists (24 in India and 14 in Bangladesh) via a series of trainings.
- 3.4 CI undertakes camera trapping and biomonitoring exercises with 4 grassroots groups in India, for co-generation of knowledge on biodiversity in community forests.
- 3.5 CCA replicates biomonitoring exercises at two sites in Bangladesh.
- 3.6. Data is analyzed from the biomonitoring exercises to get an assessment of gibbons and other wildlife in monitored forests.
- 3.7 Educational programs with communities to disseminate knowledge and promote community support for biodiversity conservation.
- 3.8 Develop educational posters on biodiversity to share with community schools in gibbon conservation landscapes.
- 3.9 CI holds a webinar and workshop to disseminate information on guidelines against sexual harassment and legal compliance to field practitioners in India and Bangladesh.
- 3.10 CCA further disseminates safety guidelines in the field to prevent sexual harassment to the field and grassroots level.
- 3.11 PRCF and CI conduct joint fundraising and proposal writing workshops for 4 Indian grassroots groups.

3.12 CI and CCA provides mentorship and guidance for 4 Indian grassroots groups and grassroots conservationists in Bangladesh through regular field meetings and online discussions.

Output 4:

- 4.1 Develop fundraising plan for both the gibbon program overall and for each partner individuals linked to 1.6 and 1.7
- 4.2 2 Key staff from CCA and CI and 1 member of 4 grassroots groups complete an online grant writing and project management course by WildTeam UK.
- 4.3 PRCF provides mentoring support for proposal development for each partner.
- 4.4 Each organization individually submit proposals for medium-sized grants.
- 4.5 CSR strategy is developed by a specialized consultancy for CCA and CI respectively.
- 4.6 Each partner engages with companies within Bangladesh and India to tap into CSR funds available within the country
- 4.7 PRCF provides support and guidance during the implementation of projects secured by each partner.
- 4.8 Jointly develop and submit a proposal to the ARCUS Foundation with Y1 and two other larger proposals by end of Y2.
- 4.9 Each partner applies for TechSoup or similar certification that allows for new fundraising opportunities and certifies the organization for legal and financial compliance.

Important Assumptions:

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

Safeguarding is generally recognised and reflects fundamental behavioral norms.
 Training results in technical knowledge and skills and the confidence to utilize these.
 New knowledge and skills and the overall upscaled institutional capacity is maintained and becomes standard practice.
 Expertise will be retained and the impact improved.
 Increased institutional capacity and capability translates into an increased ability to access and manage larger funds.
 The political complexity in Bangladesh and northeast India allows for safe travel to deliver training sessions by PRCF to partners

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	Output Indicator 1.1/ Output 1 Output Indicator 2.1/Output 2	14	1.1. Nationality-5 Indians (2 women); 5 Bangladeshis (1 woman); 5 indigenous people: Khasi (2), Jaintya (1) tribes, Chakma (2) 2.1 Nationality - Bangladeshi; 3 men (2 indigenous - Chakma) and 1 woman 4.1 Nationality - 6 Indian (2 women) and 2 Bangladeshi (1 woman) - 6 indigenous and 2 non-indigenous
DI-A03: Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity	Output indicator 0.3/ Outcome Output indicator 4.1/ Output 4	2	Bangladesh and India (Northeast); non-governmental and non for profit conservation organizations
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output Indicator 0.2/ Project Outcome Output Indicator 3.2/ Output 3	48	Nationality: 30 Indian; 18 Bangladeshi Gender: 10 women (3 indigenous and 7 non-indigenous); 38 men (28 indigenous and 10 non-indigenous) Community: Members of Khasi, Jaintya, Karbi, Adivasi, Yimkhuing, Angami, Chakma, and Mro tribal communities, and Assamese and Bengali non-tribal communities.
DI-B02: Number of new or improved species management plans available and endorsed	Output indicator 1.4/ Output 1	1	Country: transboundary conservation plan between Bangladesh and India linked to respective national species action plans
DI-B04: Number of new or improved sustainable livelihoods/ poverty reduction management plans	Output indicator 2.3/ Output 2	2	1 local plan in Bangladesh and 1 in India
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.

 [bcf-budget-DIR31CC1726-PRCF-CCA-CI_Final](#)

 20/10/2024

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 xlsx 98.74 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)?

☒ New Initiative

Please provide details:

The work is built on the decade-long community-based conservation activities of the partners in the region. Now through the project proposed herein we aim to strengthen both the institutional and technical capacity to upscale the gibbon conservation program that is targeted for delivering livelihood benefits to marginalized hill tribe communities, while stabilizing and recovering the populations of the Western Hoolock Gibbon and other globally threatened species.

In addition to a program on hoolock gibbon conservation, CI works towards landscape-scale elephant conservation and human-elephant coexistence, community-based forest biomotoring and conservation, preserving social-ecological wetland ecosystems, and identifying links between nature conservation and human well-being.

Other projects are currently being implemented in the respective target areas, predominantly focusing on the livelihood improvements of the indigenous communities. While certain aspects of our project activities, such as community development, may intersect with these ongoing initiatives, a key difference of our overall program is the integral role of biodiversity conservation. In Bangladesh’s Chittagong Hill Tracts, CCA is the only group that

integrates biodiversity conservation and livelihood development of hill tribe communities, while CI is implementing a similar pioneering approach in parts of northeast India.

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.

Numerous international donor agencies have planned projects where partners are actively striving to join as consortium members for fund application and the proposal herein will aid them in responding to these opportunities. These include:

- USAID Multi Species Biodiversity Conservation Activity: A project focused on multi-species biodiversity conservation by tackling wildlife trade in Bangladesh.
- Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program: A transboundary initiative dedicated to the conservation of tiger habitats.
- GREEN (Grassroot level Response towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing) Meghalaya, by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, has initiated a PES Scheme.
- In Nagaland, Foundation for Ecological Security is working with communities towards conserving forests and biodiversity.

Our work is unique in combining scientific evidence, community engagement, and focus on flagship species, for protected biodiversity and improving wellbeing of ILPCs. We expect that through this project, CI and CCA will be better prepared to engage with and contribute to these large initiatives.

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:

Equipping local conservation practitioners with key skills - and the ability to train others- provides long-term cost-effectiveness, reducing the need to bring in additional expertise in the future. We will develop integrated financial systems to ensure robust oversight of financial management, enhance efficiency by using existing and national resources, reducing travel costs and providing remote mentorship and support where appropriate by PRCF. Economy will be further enhanced through accessing a more diverse set of funding opportunities during the project lifetime and beyond.

Efficiency:

Increased operational efficiency will be a key result of the capacity-building that partners will receive through this project. Overall, partners have the potential to be highly cost-efficient because they are well networked at the grass-roots level.

Effectiveness:

The PRCF has strong experience of helping local NGO partners become stronger. This project will transfer knowledge and skills and greatly accelerate that process. Progress will be carefully monitored, and we will ensure that the project's impacts are sustained over the long-term. The project will enable partners to work with more communities and more effectively, and to ensure strong site protection. Further, there is a strong focus on

peer to peer learning between partners, transferring skills from one partner to the other.

Equity

Striving for more gender equality within the organization and at the project implementation level through engagement of women in training will help partners grow into a fully equitable organization. Both partners are already leading examples of involving indigenous people both at the organization and project level.

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.

This project will not purchase large capital items. Computers will be purchased and bioacoustics monitoring equipment will be purchased. All equipment will remain with CCA and CI after the project for the duration of their expected lifespan.

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.

PRCF is currently reviewing its PSEAH policy in the light of meeting all three of CAPSEAH, CHS and IASC MOS-PSEA standards. We plan to have a finalized policy in place in February 2025, when training will be given to senior staff for roll-out. PRCF, will conduct safeguarding training using their in-house expertise combined with online tools. A safeguarding officer is assigned within each organization. Any concerns raised will be kept confidential and addressed in accordance with our internal policies. Partners will ensure the maintenance of safeguarding protocols across all projects, and any partners we engage with must have safeguarding mechanisms in place. In terms of working with local community stakeholders, they will be informed of the safeguarding policies and their rights, including a proper grievance mechanism in case of any misconduct on the part of the respective field team. Relevant PRCF policies are attached being Code of Conduct, HSS policy, whistleblower policy and Sexual harassment policy.

CI has an institutional policy and committee against sexual harassment. The committee has women membership, and an external expert member who has expertise in issues related to women's rights and safety. CI's co-founder supports a collaborative effort aimed at enhancing institutional policies to prevent sexual harassment and improve safety for women working in conservation (<https://www.cease-india.in>). An ethics policy

and committee lay out a Code of Conduct that all staff abide by. All field staff are covered by a group insurance which covers occupational accidents, and all staff with salaries under a predetermined limit are covered under a government-sponsored medical insurance scheme.

CCA's revised Code of Practice prioritizes gender equality and includes a PSEAH Policy, which will be applied at all organizational levels. This project will strengthen CCA's practice in this respect.

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.

-  [Proof of contacting UK embassies](#)
-  19/10/2024
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-  pdf 770.81 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?
Sinan Serhadli	Project Leader	30	Checked
Paul Insua-Cao	PRCF Chief Operations Officer: Strategic Planning; Safeguarding Compliance; and M&E support	15	Checked
Nguyen The Quynh Nga	PRCF Chief Finance Officer and project finance monitoring	5	Checked

Divya Vasudev, PhD	Deputy Director CI - Gibbon Conservation Lead and Gender Equality Lead	17	Checked
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Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Varun Goswami, PhD	Director CI - Project Coordinator	17	Checked
Biang La Nam Syiem	Biodiversity Research Trainer CI	30	Checked
Prity Hait	Finance, HR, and Admin Officer CI	15	Checked
Sharia Caesar Rahman	Director CCA - Project Coordinator	20	Checked
Fahimuzzaman Nobel	Operational Manager CCA	30	Checked
Shafil Hossain	Finance, HR, and Admin Officer CCA	20	Checked
Sourav Chakma	Biodiversity Research Officer CCA	25	Checked
Rifa Nanziba	Gibbon Conservation Officer CCA	20	Checked

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

 [CVs-PRCF-DIR31CC1726](#)

 20/10/2024

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 pdf 429.75 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: People Resources and Conservation Foundation

Website address: www.prcfindonesia.org

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

PRCF has a longstanding experience working with local NGOs across Southeast Asia and in 2021 entered a formal partnership with CCA to support a community-based conservation program in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Through this and other proposed projects PRCF will establish a more formal partnership with CI.

PRCF will transfer institutional knowledge to its local partners as it has done with other organizations, strengthening the institution to deliver more effective conservation and poverty reduction projects. Both the Program Development Officer (Project Leader) and Chief Operations Officer (Safeguarding Compliance Lead) will be involved in providing training and mentorship to its partners.

Across Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia and Vietnam, PRCF has been implementing and demonstrating successful models for achieving improved livelihoods and conserving biodiversity in highly challenging contexts, using a host of approaches tailored for the specific site context. It is PRCF's commitment to work with and through local NGOs and while doing so strengthen their institutional capacity in a way that they can access and manage larger grants on their own. Additionally, PRCF has a longstanding relationship with the ARCUS Foundation, to whom this consortium herein will develop a joint proposal to fund the transboundary Hoolock Gibbon program.

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: Creative Conservation Alliance (CCA - officially registered as the Society for Conservation of Natural Resources)

Website address: www.conservationalliance.org

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Through the utilization of multiple small grants, CCA has implemented community-based conservation projects within the Chittagong Hill Tracts for over a decade. By cultivating strong alliances with indigenous communities, CCA has achieved significant progress towards population recovery of various species, with particular emphasis on the Critically Endangered Asian giant tortoise. In collaboration with tribal subsistence hunters, CCA has successfully spearheaded the reintroduction of the Asian giant tortoise, while accomplishing a zero poaching rate within the specified area. CCA's wealth of experience, resources, lessons learned and established networks within the region have strategically positioned the organization to amplify and expand its conservation impact. However, the organization presently grapples with a shortage of capacity to access and manage larger funding sources, a factor that is critical for expansion and consolidation. In a strategic partnership with PRCF and local partners, CCA aims to bolster its technical and institutional capacity to a level where it can competently access and manage larger grants, and thereby implement more effective conservation and poverty alleviation projects. Key figures within the organization such as the CEO and Head of Operations will play integral roles in the project.
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:	Conservation Initiatives (CI)
Website address:	https://conservationinitiatives.org/

What value does this Partner bring to the project?	CI is a northeast India-based non-profit organization that is dedicated to science-based conservation of threatened wildlife and their habitats, conservation-friendly rural livelihood development, and sustaining positive human-nature relationships into the future. They use a boots-on-the-ground approach founded on three fundamental tenets: (a) the use of scientific evidence to prioritize best practices for conservation; (b) tailoring on-ground solutions to the local socio-ecological and conservation context; and (c) an inclusive participatory approach wherein stakeholders are integrally involved in the implementation of conservation strategies.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Conservation Initiatives (CI) has been focusing on population research and identifying conservation priority sites that have been overlooked, while also promoting conservation led by local communities. They have supported community-based conservation through co-production of knowledge on biodiversity, and have monitored over 2,000 km2 of community-managed forests. They collaborate closely with communities, engaging with >15 villages for community-based conservation, strengthening people-nature relations, mentoring and supporting community conservation leaders, and promoting gibbon-friendly practices. This adds momentum to a growing community-led effort to conserve gibbons and their habitat.

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

3. Partner Name:	No Response
Website address:	No Response
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	No Response
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	
International/In-country Partner	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	No Response
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ 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.

 Partner letters of support

 20/10/2024

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 pdf 2.3 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)?

☒ No

If no, please provide the below information on the Lead Organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered? 01 January 1995

What is the legal status of your organisation? ☒ NGO

How is your organisation currently funded?

The PRCF is funded via grants and donations from private individuals and organizations, corporate enterprises, and government agencies. No funding proceeds to the PRCF come from profit investments, membership dues, or from consultancy services to other parties.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

Aims	PRCF aims to conserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, and local cultural identities through participatory solutions that promote alternatives for sustainable natural resources conservation and community awareness and care for natural resources protection and sustainable use; revitalize the cultural identities of local communities; and support community-led socio-economic development.
Activities	PRCF activities are grouped within four main themes: (i) Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions; (ii) Sustainable management and use of natural resources; (iii) Community-based conservation and development initiatives; and (iv) Cultural revitalization
Achievements	1. Preserve 25,000 ha of West Kalimantan forests in eleven communities, enabling results-based financing. 2. Launched multi-year protection program for the Critically Endangered Tapanuli Orangutan with local NGOs and communities. 3. Community-based conservation of the Endangered Francois’ Langur, leading to notable population growth at its most important site in Vietnam

Provide detail of 3 contracts/projects held by the Lead Organisation that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	Community-led Tapanuli Orangutan and Gibbon Conservation (Indonesia)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	Phase-1 Two Years / Phase-2 Two Years / Phase-3 Two Years (started October 2024)
Role of organisation in project	Consortium leader, coordinating sub-grants to local partners, coordination with local government and conservation stakeholders, liaison and support to local communities, technical and financial reporting.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Phase-1: Ensure connectivity between key forest blocks in the Batang Toru Forest Ecosystem (BTFE) landscape; Engage villagers in conservation towards orangutans and gibbons; Define management actions for conservation of apes and their habitats; Gain support and understanding from local communities.
	Phase-2: Improve livelihoods through sustainable activities to protect local ape species and habitat; Consolidate conservation strategy, stakeholder approach to protect BTFE ape species; Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation; initiate community forestry; Livelihoods and community-based conservation strengthened and linked to forest corridors.
	Phase 3: Scale up and consolidation of approach: securing long-term results-based finance for 20,000ha of community-managed ape habitat.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Katy Scholfield, Arcus Foundation, [REDACTED]
Contract/Project 2 Title	Rimba Pakai Kemuka Ari (Lestari Capital Rimba Collective-1 Project)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	25 Years (Ongoing since Jun. 2022)
Role of organisation in project	Project holder through PRCF Indonesia, implementation of project components, coordination with local government and conservation stakeholders, liaison and support to local communities, reporting of technical and financial aspects to project donors.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Manage and utilize Village Forests in a sustainable manner via the active role of community by: Strengthening village forest governance through Village Forest Management Committee Forest protection through patrols against threats such as hunting, illegal logging and forest fires Forest restoration Improving local livelihoods in such a way as to reduce pressure on the village forests and other local natural resources Increasing environmental awareness through environmental education, development of conservation media, and community events Capacity building of human resources through the provision of scholarships for outstanding students from underprivileged families to continue their education to higher education
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Indra Divayana, Lestari Capital, [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 3 Title	Strengthening Co-management in the Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape, Vietnam
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	3 Years (June 2022 to May 2025)
Role of organisation in project	Overall project technical and financial management. Project start-up, coordination with local stakeholder community leaders and government agencies, liaison, and support to target communities in the landscape, financial management, monitoring of biodiversity, climate, and livelihood outcomes. Capacity building for communities for co-management of conservation measures.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The project aims to strengthen stakeholder conservation measures at the local level and promote co-management measures to preserve biodiversity and natural resources at the policy level in Tuyen Quang province and the Vietnam Forest Administration within MARD at the central level. The project provides technical and financial support to target local communities to further community-based and led conservation of the Francois' Langur, its sustaining habitat, and related species, preparing and encouraging villager engagement in co-management of the high-conservation value forests in Lam Binh Sinh Long region of Tuyen Quang province.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Jack Tordoff, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF),

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

People Resources and Conservation Foundation

I apply for a grant of

£178,700.00

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	Fernando Potess
Position in the organisation	President Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Fernando Potess signature  21/10/2024  08:52:24  jpg 6.24 KB
Date	21 October 2024

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

 PRCF IRS Form990 2021  21/10/2024  05:41:11  pdf 1.91 MB	 PRCF IRS Form990 2022  21/10/2024  05:40:53  pdf 1.57 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.

 PRCF Safeguarding.policies  20/10/2024  10:15:58  pdf 2.59 MB
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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)	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).