

Applicant: **Latt, Kyaw Thinn**
Organisation: **Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF)**
Funding Sought: **£200,000.00**

DIR31CC\1581

Resilient CSOs for Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Myanmar's Evolving Challenges

This project strengthens the capability and capacity of three Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Myanmar to lead effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development. By providing tailored training, fostering community-led initiatives, and supporting pilot activities, the project equips CSOs to independently manage conservation efforts. The project will benefit three CSOs and approximately 200 households, ensuring long-term sustainability. It addresses gaps in governance, technical skills, and resource management, empowering CSOs to tackle evolving environmental and socio-economic challenges in Myanmar.

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Kyaw Thinn
Surname Latt
Organisation Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF)
Website (Work) <https://myanmarbiodiversityfund.org>

Tel (Mobile) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

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Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Kyaw Thinn
Surname	Latt
Organisation	Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF)
Website (Work)	https://myanmarbiodiversityfund.org
Tel (Mobile)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF)
Phone (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title

Resilient CSOs for Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Myanmar’s Evolving Challenges

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

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

☒ No

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the capability and capacity problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

This project strengthens the capability and capacity of three Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Myanmar to lead effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development. By providing tailored training, fostering community-led initiatives, and supporting pilot activities, the project equips CSOs to independently manage conservation efforts. The project will benefit three CSOs and approximately 200 households, ensuring long-term sustainability. It addresses gaps in governance, technical skills, and resource management, empowering CSOs to tackle evolving environmental and socio-economic challenges in Myanmar.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Myanmar (Burma)	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	24 months

Q8. Budget summary

Darwin Initiative Funding Request	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
(1 Apr - 31 Mar) £	£103,292.00	£96,708.00	£200,000.00

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.

Myanmar is one of the world's most biodiverse countries with unique ecosystems home to endangered species including Sarus Crane, Hoolock Gibbon, and sea turtles. However, these ecosystems are under increasing pressure due to deforestation, habitat loss, and unsustainable exploitation of resources. Deforestation in Myanmar has one of the highest rates in the world, with over 27% of its forest cover lost in the last few decades. This environmental degradation is exacerbated by widespread poverty, particularly in rural areas where communities depend on these natural resources for their survival.

The government's ability to enforce conservation policies and manage outside of Protected Areas is limited, especially in rural regions. CSOs have become essential in leading community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in these areas. However, following the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, the political environment has worsened, creating a hostile and restrictive landscape for CSOs. Many organizations have been forced to scale down or cease operations, with the CSO population shrinking due to political repression. This increased pressure on CSOs, alongside existing limitations in governance and technical capacity, highlights the urgent need for strengthening CSOs so they can continue conservation efforts.

Identifying the Need: The need for this project was identified through extensive consultations with local communities, CSOs, and international NGOs. Discussions revealed that many CSOs are engaged in biodiversity conservation and livelihood development but are constrained by insufficient capacity. All three targeted CSOs in this project - Htaman Conservation Association (HCA) in Sagaing Region, KyonKaPyin-TapSeik Community Conservation Group (KTCG) in the Ayeyarwady Delta, and Maw Tin Coastal Conservation Association (MCA) on the Maw Tin coast—have faced challenges in financial management and governance, limiting their effectiveness.

Evidence of Need: Multiple assessments underscore the capacity needs of CSOs in Myanmar. A 2022 study by

the Myanmar Environmental Institute found that over 60% of rural CSOs struggle with governance and financial management, severely restricting their ability to execute large-scale conservation projects. A 2023 report by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) highlighted that many CSOs lack the technical training required for effective biodiversity monitoring and sustainable natural resource management. Without addressing these gaps, CSOs will continue to fall short in contributing meaningfully to Myanmar's conservation goals.

Value to the Country: Strengthening CSO capacity is critical for addressing both biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in Myanmar. CSOs play a key role in filling the gaps left by limited government action. By equipping CSOs like HCA, KTCG, and MCA with governance frameworks, technical expertise, and financial management skills, the project will empower these CSOs to lead long-term conservation and livelihood development initiatives. This will help protect endangered species, promote sustainable resource use, and improve economic opportunities for local communities.

Moreover, the project aligns with Myanmar's commitments under international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By enhancing CSO capacity, this project will ensure that Myanmar can better meet its national and global commitments, improving both environmental and socio-economic resilience.

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)
- ☒ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- ☒ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- ☒ 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.

The "Resilient CSOs for Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Myanmar's Evolving Challenges" project is closely aligned with both national and international policies focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood development. Nationally, the project contributes directly to Myanmar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which outlines the country's commitment to conserving its rich biodiversity while promoting sustainable development. By building the capacity of local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage in effective conservation practices and community development, the project addresses key NBSAP priorities, including the sustainable management of natural resources, the protection of endangered species, and the involvement of local communities in biodiversity conservation.

Additionally, the project supports Myanmar's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation through ecosystem-based approaches. By enhancing the capability of CSOs to implement conservation projects, the project contributes to reducing deforestation, promoting reforestation, and supporting sustainable agriculture, which are critical to Myanmar's climate goals.

Internationally, the project aligns with Myanmar's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). It contributes to key GBF targets, such as protecting 30% of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030, restoring degraded ecosystems, and promoting sustainable resource use. The project also supports livelihood development by promoting biodiversity-friendly practices in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, ensuring that conservation benefits local communities.

Furthermore, the project's focus on community involvement and gender equality aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goals 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), and 5 (Gender Equality).

By integrating these national and international policy frameworks, the project not only enhances local capacity but also strengthens Myanmar's contributions to global biodiversity and sustainability goals.

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.

1. Incorporating Lessons Learned from Past Projects

This project builds on key insights from previous initiatives in Southeast Asia, including those led by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF). Past efforts revealed that generic, short-term training often fails to yield lasting results. For instance, previous projects in Myanmar demonstrated that CSOs lacked sustained support, limiting their ability to apply newly acquired skills and expand their operations. To address this, the project will emphasize tailored training, long-term mentorship, and continuous engagement with CSOs. Furthermore, earlier initiatives showed that strong community participation leads to more effective conservation outcomes, as local buy-in improves project sustainability. Therefore, a participatory approach is central to this project's design.

2. Specific Approach and Evidence of Effectiveness

The project employs a multi-pronged approach that includes capacity building, mentorship, and community-driven initiatives. Research shows that integrated capacity-building programs, where training is complemented by practical application and follow-up, are more effective than standalone interventions.

- **Tailored Capacity Building:** CSOs will receive customized training on governance, financial management, biodiversity conservation, and community engagement. Training materials will be co-developed with local experts to ensure that they address region-specific challenges. Research confirms that context-specific training leads to greater retention and real-world application to address the specified challenges.
- **Mentorship and Continuous Support:** After training, CSOs will receive ongoing mentorship from experienced conservation professionals. Studies have shown that long-term mentorship significantly enhances capacity-building efforts by reinforcing skills and providing real-time guidance as CSOs implement projects. This approach helps embed new competencies in the organizations.
- **Community Engagement:** The project emphasizes the importance of community involvement in conservation efforts. By including local communities in the decision-making process, the project ensures that conservation

activities are aligned with local priorities, increasing the likelihood of sustained success. Similar approaches in Southeast Asia have demonstrated that projects with strong community ownership result in better conservation outcomes.

3. Activities, Materials, and Methods

The project will be implemented in key biodiversity areas, including the Htamanthi area in Sagaing Region, the Ayeyarwady Delta, and the Maw Tin Coast. Activities will be tailored to the unique challenges of each region.

- **Workshops and Training Sessions:** Workshops will cover biodiversity conservation, financial governance, project management, and community engagement. Materials, including manuals and toolkits, will be co-developed with local experts to ensure relevance. Training will incorporate gender equality and social inclusion to ensure participation by women and marginalized groups.
- **Pilot Conservation Projects:** Each CSO will implement a pilot project in their community, allowing them to apply their skills in a real-world setting. For instance, HCA will monitor Hoolock Gibbon population, while KTCG will focus on sustainable fisheries and Sarus Crane in the Ayeyarwady Delta, and MCA will work on sea turtle conservation.
- **Establishment of Community Facilities:** CSOs will establish community hubs that will serve as long-term centers for conservation activities, training, and engagement. These facilities will continue to operate beyond the project's end, ensuring sustainability.

4. Governance and Project Management

The project will be overseen by a Project Management Unit (PMU) within MBF, which will coordinate daily operations and ensure that project objectives are encountered. Strong governance structures will ensure effective project implementation.

- **Clear Roles and Responsibilities:** Each CSO will have a project leader responsible for coordinating activities in their region, while the PMU will manage overall coordination, risk management, and reporting.
- **Risk Management:** Risks such as political instability, financial mismanagement, or low community participation will be mitigated through proper financial controls, regular audits, and ongoing community consultations. A risk register will be maintained to monitor emerging risks and adjust as needed.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** A comprehensive M&E framework will track progress against key indicators. Field visits, data collection, and community feedback will provide ongoing evaluation of activities. This iterative process will allow the project to adapt and improve as challenges arise.

5. Embedding New Capabilities

The project will embed long-term capabilities within CSOs through several mechanisms:

- **Governance Frameworks:** CSOs will develop governance frameworks that promote transparency, accountability, and sustainability. These frameworks will include financial management systems and regular audits.
- **Peer Networks and Knowledge Sharing:** CSOs will join regional peer networks to share lessons learned and reinforce newly acquired skills. These networks will facilitate continued collaboration and knowledge exchange beyond the project's duration.
- **Ongoing Technical Support:** After the project ends, MBF will continue to provide technical assistance to ensure that new skills are fully embedded and CSOs can lead conservation efforts independently.

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?

Participants for this project will be identified through a transparent, collaborative process involving local stakeholders, community leaders, and partner organizations. We have selected three key CSOs: Htaman Conservation Association (HCA), KyonKaPyin-TapSeik Community Conservation Group (KTCG) and Maw Tin Coast

Area Conservation Association (MCA). These CSOs were chosen based on their significant involvement in biodiversity conservation, their relationship with local communities, and their demonstrated commitment to sustainable development practices.

While these CSOs already have a baseline level of organizational capacity—enough to be engaged as partners in the project—they still require further strengthening in key areas such as advanced governance, financial management, and technical skills. By selecting them, the project aims to build on their existing strengths and ensures they are fully capable of leading larger-scale, long-term conservation and development initiatives. This dual role as both partners and beneficiaries of capacity-building efforts is complementary, not conflicting, as it ensures the CSOs have the foundation to benefit from and apply the new skills effectively.

The selection process was based on clear criteria:

- **Organizational Capacity:** CSOs were evaluated based on their governance structures, experience in biodiversity conservation, and community engagement.
- **Relevance to Project Objectives:** CSOs were chosen for their alignment with the project's biodiversity conservation and capacity-building goals.
- **Potential for Long-Term Impact:** CSOs with a track record of sustaining and expanding conservation activities were prioritized.
- **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI):** CSOs with a commitment to empowering women and marginalized groups were selected.

The process was transparent through multi-stakeholder consultations and was fully documented to ensure accountability.

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.

Our project will operate in a setting where gender inequality and social exclusion are major challenges, especially in rural areas of Myanmar. Women and marginalized groups, such as ethnic minorities, often face obstacles that prevent them from fully participating in community development and conservation activities. These obstacles include limited access to education and economic opportunities, as well as cultural norms that favor men in leadership and decision-making roles. As a result, these groups are often left out of important decisions that affect their communities, leading to ongoing inequality and disadvantage.

To address these issues, our project is committed to promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). We understand that achieving fair outcomes and meaningful participation is crucial for the success of our conservation and development goals. To support this, MBF will continue the existing San Waddy program which empowers women through leadership training, business incubator programs, and involvement in conservation activities. By working together with local partners, we aim to challenge existing norms and create more opportunities for women and marginalized groups.

We will include several strategies and design activities that are sensitive to gender and cultural differences, ensuring that women and marginalized groups are not only included but also empowered to participate in decision making. This includes holding separate focus groups and consultations for women and other underrepresented groups, giving them a platform to voice their concerns and needs. Additionally, we will offer targeted training and capacity-building initiatives to equip these groups with the skills and knowledge they need to engage effectively in the project.

By integrating GESI throughout the project, we aim to create a more inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of gender or social background, can contribute to and benefit from the project's outcomes.

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.

This project will deliver measurable improvements in biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction by addressing the interconnected challenges faced by vulnerable communities. By focusing on ecosystems and livelihoods, it will create long-term impacts benefiting both people and nature.

Short-term Benefits (During the Project)

Approximately 200 households across 10 communities will directly benefit. These households include women, youth, and marginalized groups, ensuring an inclusive approach.

- **Biodiversity Targets:** The establishment of Community-Led Marine Areas (CLMAs) will protect 500 hectares of marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs and mangroves. This is expected to lead to a 10% increase in fish biomass within the project period. Key species like the green sea turtle will see a 10% increase in nesting success through habitat protection. Hoolock gibbons will experience a 5% increase in group density in the Htamanthi area, while Sarus Crane nests in Wakema will increase by 10%.
- **Poverty Reduction Targets:** Sustainable livelihood initiatives, including improved fisheries management, will result in a 10% income increase for participating households. At least 50% of participants will be women, receiving targeted training to ensure equal access. Additionally, 80% of households will report improved food security through diversified income sources and sustainable resource use.
- **Gender and Diversity:** The project will ensure that at least 50% of participants in capacity-building programs are women, with a 25% increase in women-led conservation initiatives. Marginalized groups, including ethnic minorities, will also be prioritized, ensuring equitable access to benefits. Youth engagement will be emphasized, with at least 100 young people receiving conservation leadership training.

Long-term Benefits (After the Project Ends)

In the long term, the project will deliver lasting outcomes through local ownership and capacity building.

- **Biodiversity Targets:** The 500 hectares of CLMAs will remain protected, leading to a 10-15% increase in fish populations over the next five years. Local leaders, trained through the project, will maintain these areas, ensuring continued biodiversity gains. Species such as the Hoolock gibbon, Sarus Crane, and sea turtles will benefit from sustained habitat protection and community conservation efforts.
- **Poverty Reduction Targets:** Diversified livelihoods will continue to benefit communities, resulting in a 30% increase in household incomes within five years post-project. Around 60% of women participants will remain engaged in sustainable livelihoods. Poverty rates in target communities are expected to decline by 20%, improving resilience to economic and environmental shocks.

Sustainability and Legacy

The long-term success of the project depends on the capacity built within communities. By training local leaders and embedding conservation skills, the project ensures outcomes will endure beyond its lifetime. Governance structures such as Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and Village Conservation Committees (VCCs) will continue managing conservation areas and livelihoods. Partnerships with CSOs and local authorities will reinforce sustainability. Monitoring and evaluation systems will allow communities to track progress and adjust

as needed.

In summary, the project will deliver sustainable changes to biodiversity and poverty reduction, with clear short-term and long-term benefits for local communities.

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 is designed to ensure that the strengthened capability and capacity of civil society organizations; HCA, KTCG and MCA are sustained long after the funding period ends. This will be achieved through a focus on creating long-lasting institutional structures, promoting local ownership, and embedding the new skills and knowledge within the organizations.

Sustaining Benefits Post-Funding:

One of the key strategies for ensuring sustainability is the development of governance frameworks within each CSO. These frameworks will promote transparency, accountability, and financial sustainability, enabling CSOs to continue managing conservation initiatives independently. Additionally, the project will help establish strong relationships between CSOs, local communities, and other key stakeholders, ensuring continued collaboration and support for biodiversity conservation.

Retaining Capability and Capacity:

To retain the new skills and capacity developed during the project, a mentorship and peer-learning network will be created among the CSOs. This network will facilitate ongoing knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices. By institutionalizing these skills through governance structures and long-term support, the CSOs will be able to maintain their effectiveness and capacity to manage conservation projects.

Potential for Renewing Capacity:

The project also includes a focus on building leadership within the CSOs, identifying and supporting future environmental leaders. By empowering young conservationists and providing them with the skills needed to manage future projects, the project will create a pipeline of capable individuals who can renew and expand the capacity of CSOs over time. This ensures that the strengthened capability does not just maintain but continues to grow, fostering ongoing conservation and sustainable development efforts in Myanmar.

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

 [Map, Photos and References](#)

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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
Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated). There is a risk that funds may not be used for their intended purposes or may be subject to fraud or corruption.	Major	Possible	Major	Implement proper financial controls and audits, receive regular financial reporting from CSOs, and provide financial management training to partners. All transactions will be monitored closely, and any discrepancies will be addressed immediately. Additionally, we will ensure transparency by involving external auditors for an independent review of financial activities.	Modrate
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. The project might inadvertently contribute to situations where beneficiaries, especially women, and children, are exposed to sexual exploitation or abuse.	Severe	Unlikely	Major	Establish clear safeguarding policies and protocols, including a zero-tolerance policy towards SEAH. All staff and partners will undergo mandatory safeguarding training. A confidential reporting mechanism will be established to allow for the safe reporting of any incidents, and a designated safeguarding officer will oversee these matters.	Minor
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. Conservation activities might unintentionally harm vulnerable communities, such as through restricted access to resources.	Major	Possible	Major	Adhere strictly to the MBF's Human Right Policy highlighting principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) when engaging with local communities. Ensure that all conservation activities are designed and implemented in a way that protects and benefits these communities. Continuous monitoring and community consultations will be conducted.	Modrate

Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model.	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Establish a clear governance structure and regular communication channels among all CSOs. Monthly coordination meetings will be held, with clear roles and responsibilities defined for each partner. A central project management office will oversee the coordination and ensure that all partners are aligned with the project's objectives.	Minor
Risk 5 Contextual Risk: Political Instability Political unrest or changes in government policy could disrupt project activities or threaten the safety of staff and beneficiaries.	Severe	Likely	Severe	Monitor the political situation closely through local and international information sources. Develop a contingency plan that includes options for scaling down, pausing, or relocating activities if the political situation deteriorates. Engage with local authorities and community leaders to maintain good relationships and seek their support in mitigating risks.	Moderate
Risk 6 Operational Risk: Difficulty of international money transfer: Difficulties and slowness of international money transfer significantly reduced effectiveness of the project. Due to scrutinization of the Central Bank of Myanmar on international fund transfers, INGOs and NGOs have faced difficulties of receiving international money transactions that also impacts on money	Moderate	Possible	Major	MBF has received money through currency swaps service of Euracific Strategies which works with companies headquartered outside and operations inside the country. MBF is utilizing services from Western Union, which provides a reliable and secure method for receiving international funds. Additionally, MBF has agreements with local financial service providers.	Major

Risk 7	Reputational Risk: Negative Public Perception. The project could face reputational damage if stakeholders or the public perceive the project as ineffective or harmful.			Maintain transparency and open communication with all stakeholders and project beneficiaries. Proactively share successes and lessons learned through regular updates, reports, and community engagement activities. Address any concerns raised by stakeholders promptly and constructively.	
	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Minor	

Q21. Project sensitivities

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

☒ Yes

Please provide brief details.

The project will operate in a highly sensitive context due to the ongoing political situation in Myanmar following the 2021 military coup. This environment has increased risks for both local communities and MBF staff. To mitigate these risks, we will adopt a comprehensive communication strategy, maintaining a low profile and limiting all external communications. Sensitive species data will be protected through secure storage and restricted access to prevent misuse. We request to review all materials prior to publication to manage political sensitivities effectively.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

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

 [Workplan of MBF Round31](#)

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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).

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be included in the project from the very beginning to ensure everything is on track and adjustments can be made as needed. The M&E consultant, with support from the Senior Management Team, will lead the M&E activities. During the first three months, we will collect baseline data, including biodiversity surveys, household income measurements, and assessments of community skills and capacity.

We will use SMART indicators (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) to track progress. This will include project achievement indicators for biodiversity conservation, capacity building, and livelihood improvements. Every three months, field surveys, community feedback, and reports will help us monitor both positive impacts and any problems, allowing us to adjust the project as necessary.

5% of the total project budget will be allocated to M&E activities. This will cover costs for consultant, tools, and data collection. The M&E consultant and community monitors will spend around 30 person-days per year on these activities.

M&E is a key part of the project, not something added on later. It will help us track all results, including both the positive and any unintended negative impacts, and make sure we adapt the project to achieve our goals for biodiversity and improving community livelihoods.

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
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	0.1. Biodiversity health score Increased by:	• 10% increase in Sarus Crane nests and population in Wakema area. (baseline: 70 nests in 2024). • 5% increase in Hoolock Gibbon group density per km2 in Htamanthi area. (baseline: 1.58 group per km2 in 2022).	• Annual Sarus Crane nest monitoring report • Annual Eastern Hoolock Gibbon monitoring report
		• 10% increase in sea turtle nests (baseline: 76 nests in 2024) and 5% hatchling rates on the Maw Tin coast. (baseline: 83% hatchling in 2024)	• Annual Sea turtle monitoring report
	Outcome Improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use in community conserved areas through strengthening community capacity and effective management practices	• 15% Expand Sea turtle tagging efforts (baseline: 21 flipper tags in 2024) • 30% increase habitat restoration (baseline: 0 seedling in 2024).	• Distribution logs for tags. • Distribution logs for seedling.
	0.2. 75% adoption rate of sustainable resource use practices by local communities	• 80% reduction in unsustainable fishing practices in community-managed fishery areas by year 2 (baseline: 20% in 2024).	• Community surveys and interviews result
	0.3. Reduction in incidents of biodiversity lost from baseline. Reduced by:	• 50% reduction in traps and illegal poaching in Htamanthi area. (baseline: 20% in 2024)	• Monitoring reports on resource use and incidents.
Output 1 Enhanced capacity of local communities to manage biodiversity effectively.	1.1. 85 % increase in community leaders' knowledge and skills.		• Pre- and post-training assessments.
	1.2. Three conservation groups formed.		• Reports from conservation groups.
	1.3 Nine training workshops conducted.		• Pre- and post- training assessment
	1.4. Three community facilities established and operational by year 2.		• Distribution logs for materials.

Output 2 Strengthened enforcement mechanisms for biodiversity protection.	2.1. Six SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) training sessions completed, with 80% of participants demonstrating competence in its use by year	• Pre- and post-SMART training assessments.
	2.2 60 patrols in biodiversity hotspots.	• Patrol logs and effectiveness report.
	2.3 At least 75% Patrol Coverage in PPF of Htamanthi area.	• Reports from community-based systems.
	2.4. Three community-based reporting system operational.	
Output 3 Enhanced community awareness and participation in biodiversity conservation activities.	3.1. 60% increase in community participation in conservation events.	• Coaching and monitoring report on community participation
	3.2. Eight rounds of educational materials distribution.	• Distribution logs for materials.
	3.3 Sixteen awareness campaigns conducted across the project sites, with a focus on gender and social inclusion (GESI) in conservation activities.	• Campaign evaluation and assessment report
Output 4 Initiated Pilot Projects for Partner CSOs.	4.1 Three pilot conservation projects funded and initiated.	• Project financial monitoring reports
	4.2 70% of projects achieving their conservation and community development goals.	• Progress and final reports from CSOs.
	4.3 Eight technical assistance sessions provided.	• Monitoring and evaluation reports

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: Conduct biodiversity management and GESI training workshops for community leaders and members.
- 1.2: Facilitate the formation of community conservation groups and provide ongoing technical support.
- 1.3: Establish Community Facilities for public awareness and environmental education

- 2.1: Conduct regular community-based monitoring and patrolling in biodiversity hotspots.
- 2.2: Develop and implement a community-based reporting system for biodiversity offenses.
- 2.3: Conduct SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) training for local communities.

- 3.1: Launch a community awareness campaign for the importance of biodiversity conservation and GESI

- 3.2: Organize community-led conservation events and activities.
- 3.3: Create and distribute educational materials on biodiversity and GESI to local communities.
- 4.1: Provide funding and technical assistance for HCA to implement wildlife monitoring and Community Based Natural Resource Management project.
- 4.2: Provide funding and technical assistance for KTCG to implement Sarus crane conservation and sustainable fisheries management project.
- 4.3: Provide funding and technical assistance for MCA to implement sea turtle conservation and community-led inshore fisheries management project.
- 4.4: Organize site visits to model conservation areas for knowledge exchange.

Important Assumptions:

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

- 1. Community Engagement: Local communities remain actively engaged and committed to the project’s conservation and livelihood initiatives.
- 2. Government Permission: Local and regional governments continue to permit the project activities.
- 3. Stable Environment: Political and social stability is maintained, allowing uninterrupted project activities.
- 4. Sufficient Resources: Adequate financial and human resources are available throughout the project duration.
- 5. Market Access: Local products and sustainable practices gain access to markets, ensuring economic benefits.
- 6. Climate Conditions: Climatic conditions remain favorable, avoiding extreme events that could disrupt project activities and outputs.

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 Enhanced capacity of local communities to manage biodiversity effectively.	100 individuals trained in sustainable agriculture and fisheries practices.	50 women, 50 men.
DI-B05: Number of people with increased participation in governance	Output indicator 3.1 / Output 3. Enhanced community awareness and participation in biodiversity conservation activities.	200 communities engaged in conservation activities.	100 women, 100 men.

DI-D07: Number of threatened species with improving conservation status	Outcome indicator 0.1 / Outcome Biodiversity health score	3 species showing population recovery	• 10% increase in Sarus Crane nests and population in Wakema. • 5% increase in Eastern Hoolock Gibbon group density per km2 in Htamanthi • 10% increase in sea turtle nests and 5% hatchling rates on the Maw Tin coast.
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
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.


[20241016 BCF Budget over 100k MASTER 01_10.24 locked](#)


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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 on MBF's extensive experience and ongoing activities in Myanmar, particularly in the Htamanthi, Ayeyarwady Delta, and Maw Tin coast. MBF is the lead implementing partner for three significant projects led by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): Blue Action Fund project, which focuses on expanding and improving marine conservation in Myanmar; AFD-funded project on livelihood and biodiversity conservation; and an Arcus Foundation project (Phase 4) focused on Hoolock Gibbon conservation and community involvement in Sagaing region, northern Myanmar.

The proposed project for the Darwin Initiative leverages the strong network of civil society organizations and established relationships with local communities that MBF has cultivated through these projects. Additionally, it incorporates capacity-building activities that are part of the ongoing San Waddy program, which has been successfully running for over two years. By building on these existing initiatives, the project aims to avoid duplication of efforts and instead create synergies that enhance biodiversity conservation and livelihood development in biodiversity strong hold areas in Myanmar. This approach ensures that the project is well-aligned with ongoing activities while addressing specific gaps and needs identified in the proposed project sites.

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.

Yes, we are aware of current works in the Htamanthi, Ayeyarwady Delta, and Maw Tin coast. Our proposed project, while operating in these same geographic areas, will primarily focus on capability and capacity development of the HCA, KTCG and MCA. This focus differentiates our project from the existing initiatives, which are more oriented towards direct conservation activities and livelihood interventions.

Our work will be additional by strengthening the capacity of local organizations and communities to manage biodiversity and sustainable resource use more effectively. By enhancing the skills and capabilities of HCA, KTCG and MCA, our project will ensure that these entities can sustain and expand the conservation and livelihood efforts already underway. We will avoid duplicating efforts by coordinating with ongoing projects, sharing best practices, and contributing to a unified approach to conservation in the proposed project sites. Through mutual collaboration, we will also facilitate the exchange of lessons learned, ensuring that all involved parties benefit from a more integrated and capable network of conservation actors.

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?

MBF is dedicated to delivering sustainable conservation and livelihood outcomes while ensuring optimal use of project funds. The project has been designed with a strong emphasis on cost-effectiveness, leveraging existing partnerships, infrastructure, and expertise to maximize impact per pound spent.

One of the keyways we achieve value for money is through our established relationships with local communities, civil society organizations, and MBF. These partnerships eliminate the need for building new networks from

scratch, reducing costs significantly. The project also benefits from access to existing infrastructure, such as office facilities and community hubs, meaning funds can be directed more effectively toward field activities and capacity building.

Every pound spent in this project will lead to measurable and sustainable outcomes. For example, investments in training to local conservation leaders and community members will enable them to continue biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood practices long after the project concludes. Similarly, by supporting the development of Community-Led Marine Areas (CLMAs), we will establish long-term marine resource management systems that protect ecosystems and improve community resilience, ensuring ongoing benefits for both nature and people.

We will also maximize the impact of this project by aligning them with matched funding from Blue Action Fund, AFD, and Arcus Foundation. This co-financing model amplifies the scope and scale of the project, allowing us to deliver more with less expenses. In summary, the project ensures strong value for money through strategic resource allocation, cost-effective interventions, sustainable, and long-term impacts.

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.

We plan to purchase capital items such as laptops, printers, mobile GPS devices, office equipment, solar power systems, and water supply equipment to support the project's implementation. These items will enhance community-based conservation initiatives by improving energy access and operational efficiency in remote areas. To ensure sustainability post-project, local CSOs (HCA, KTCG and MCA) will receive training on maintaining and operating these assets. Each CSO will allocate part of their future budgets to cover maintenance costs, ensuring long-term functionality. Additionally, a portion of the project budget will be allocated to setting up maintenance funds for critical equipment like solar systems and GPS devices. By transferring these assets to local partners, the capital items will continue supporting conservation activities, community engagement, and resource monitoring after the project ends. We do not anticipate exceeding the 10% capital cost limit but will provide detailed justification if necessary.

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.

MBF is firmly committed to safeguarding the welfare of all individuals including staff, consultants, partners, and the communities we serve. Our safeguarding approach is built on clear policies and practices that protect vulnerable groups and prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment.

In past projects, such as those funded by the Blue Action Fund and AFD, we implemented community-based safeguarding measures, including the grievance redress mechanisms and safeguarding training for local stakeholders. For example, in community-led conservation initiatives, local stakeholders were empowered to safeguard their rights and report any concerns. These experiences will guide our safeguarding approach in this project.

We will engage local communities to ensure safeguarding measures which are co-created and culturally relevant, with accessible avenues for reporting concerns. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be integrated at every project stage, ensuring transparency and local ownership. The safeguarding process will also involve collaboration with local authorities and community leaders to ensure it is effectively integrated into both conservation and community welfare activities.

MBF's Senior Management Team will play a critical role in overseeing the safeguarding process. They will review and investigate any reports of safeguarding breaches, ensuring transparency and accountability. The Senior Management Team will also be responsible for maintaining compliance with MBF's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, and Code of Conduct, rigorously applying the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and IASC Minimum Operating Standards for PSEA (MOS-PSEA).

Furthermore, MBF will work closely with project partners to ensure that they meet safeguarding standards and are trained to prevent and respond to safeguarding issues. The Senior Management Team will also monitor partners' adherence to these policies through regular evaluations, ensuring continuous improvement and protection for all involved.

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.

-  Embassy engagement
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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?
Kyaw Thinn Latt	Project Leader	12	Checked
Kyaw Moe	Deputy Project Leader for HCA	18	Checked
Naing Lin	Deputy Project Leader for KTCG	18	Checked
Thaung Htut	Deputy Project Leader for MCA	18	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Khin Myo Myo	Deputy Project Leader for SanWaddy	12	Checked
Dr. Naw May Lay Thant	Project Supervision	12	Checked
To be identified	M & E Consultant	50	Checked
Thu Rein	Project Staff for MCA	18	Checked
Nang Myo Myo Thant	Project Staff for HCA	18	Checked
Annie Chit @ San San Htay	Chief Operating Officer	10	Checked
Nwe Ni Win	Chief Finance Officer	10	Checked
Myat Thura Khaing	Human Resource Manager/ safeguarding focal point	10	Checked

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

 0_CV 15 persons and JD of M&E

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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:	Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF)
Website address:	https://myanmarbiodiversityfund.org
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value do they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	MBF will be a lead Organization for this project as long as its robust foundation, experienced team, and innovative structure to fill up financial gaps in biodiversity conservation. It is Myanmar's first independent Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) established in 2019 by WCS under a UNDP-GEF project. MBF operates as a not-for-profit entity registered with Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). MBF has absorbed 35 experienced staff from the former WCS Myanmar Program which has worked for 30 years in Myanmar, bringing extensive expertise in managing both large multilateral and smaller philanthropic projects. Their skills encompass terrestrial and marine biodiversity assessment, wildlife conservation, protected area management, community fisheries management, and women's small and medium business development. MBF was designed by integrating best practices and lessons learned from over 100 CTFs globally. Through consultations with international and national experts, MBF has been structured to attract donor funding and manage resources efficiently. Moreover, MBF has established deep-rooted partnerships with local CSOs, playing a crucial role in implementing conservation and livelihood initiatives, providing subawards, and enhancing organizational capacity. With its proven track record, strategic partnerships, and comprehensive expertise, MBF is well-positioned to lead and deliver outcomes for this project.
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:	Htaman Conservation Association (HCA)
Website address:	[REDACTED]
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	HCA brings invaluable local expertise and community engagement to the project, making it a key partner in achieving sustainable conservation outcomes. Located in the Sagaing Region of Myanmar, HCA is deeply rooted in the Homalin District and is dedicated to conserving the Low Elevation Evergreen Subtropical Rainforest Ecosystem of the Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary and its surrounding areas. The association's focus on promoting sustainable land use, protecting endangered species, and establishing community forests aligns directly with the project's objectives. HCA's structured leadership team is well-versed in implementing biodiversity monitoring, environmental education, and sustainable livelihood training programs. This experience ensures that the project will be informed by local knowledge and practices, increasing the likelihood of long-term success. Additionally, HCA's efforts to raise environmental awareness and encourage community participation are critical for fostering local ownership and ensuring the sustainability of conservation activities. By collaborating with communities and key stakeholders, HCA also brings strong networking capabilities to the project, facilitating the integration of conservation initiatives with broader regional development goals. With its commitment to ecological stability and community development, HCA is a vital partner, contributing to both the strategic planning and on-the-ground implementation of the project.
International/In-country Partner	☒ In-country
Allocated budget:	[REDACTED]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☒ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☒ Yes

2. Partner Name:	KyonKaPyin-TapSeik Community Conservation Group (KTCG)
Website address:	[REDACTED]

What value does this Partner bring to the project?	KTCG is a crucial partner for this project, bringing extensive local knowledge, community engagement, and a focused approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Ayeyarwady Region. Established in 2018, KTCG is dedicated to protecting the unique wetland ecosystems of the KyonKaPyin and TapSeik areas, which support a diverse range of species, including globally threatened birds such as the Sarus Crane, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Jerdon's Babbler and Golden Weaver. Their work in promoting sustainable fishery and agricultural practices plays a key role in reducing poverty in rural communities.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	KTCG's involvement is particularly important in addressing challenges such as habitat conversion, unsustainable development, and poaching in the region. Their deep-rooted connections with local communities allow them to shift perspectives toward conservation. Through capacity building and empowerment, KTCG ensures that local residents—especially youth, women, fishermen, and farmers are well-equipped with the skills necessary for sustainable practices. Additionally, their initiatives in community-based management schemes, fishery zonation, and the development of sustainable regulations further strengthen the project's overall impact. KTCG's structured leadership and cooperative approach with local stakeholders contribute to the long-term ecological health of wetland ecosystems and the economic resilience of local communities.
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:	Maw Tin Coast Conservation Association (MCA)
Website address:	

	MCA brings significant value to the project through its specialized focus on the conservation of the Maw Tin coastal region in Myanmar. Located in the Ngapudaw Township of the Ayeyarwady Region, MCA is deeply committed to protecting and conserving diverse marine and coastal ecosystems, including the conservation of sea turtles. This expertise is crucial for the project's success, as it ensures that conservation efforts are tailored to the unique ecological characteristics of the Maw Tin coast.
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	MCA's dedication to promoting sustainable development practices within local communities is another critical asset. By integrating conservation efforts with community livelihood enhancement, MCA helps to ensure that environmental conservation is both socially and economically viable. This approach not only protects biodiversity but also supports the well-being and resilience of local populations. Furthermore, MCA's strong relationships with local stakeholders and government agencies enable effective implementation of conservation programs, environmental awareness campaigns, and sustainable resource management initiatives. Their collaborative approach ensures that the project benefits from local insights and that conservation measures are supported by the broader community. MCA's expertise, community integration, and strategic partnerships make it an invaluable partner in achieving the project's long-term conservation goals.
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
4. Partner Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Website address:	https://www.wcs.org/

	The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), after over 30 years of leading conservation efforts in Myanmar, closed its operations in December 2022 due to political challenges. However, its legacy remains strong through the seamless transition of its staff to the Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF). This transition has enabled MBF to adopt WCS's proven conservation programs and financial management systems, ensuring the continuity of vital biodiversity protection efforts.
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	To further strengthen this project, MBF will leverage the expertise of three key consultants: the Regional Marine Director, the Regional Grants & Program Manager, and the M&E Officer. The Regional Marine Director will play a crucial role in establishing Community-Led Marine Areas (CLMAs), contributing deep expertise in marine habitat restoration and conservation. The Regional Grants & Program Manager will provide strategic oversight of financial operations, ensuring efficient use of both BCF and matched funding. The M&E Officer will guide monitoring and evaluation, ensuring biodiversity outcomes are rigorously tracked and that adaptive management is applied where necessary. This collaboration between MBF and WCS staff ensures the project benefits from WCS's legacy of technical excellence, combined with MBF's local expertise and robust financial governance, delivering high-impact and sustainable conservation outcomes in Myanmar.
International/In-country Partner	☒ International
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☒ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☒ Yes

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

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:	<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:	<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

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.

 [Letter of support WCS-HCA-KTCG-MCA](#)
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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 2019
What is the legal status of your organisation?	☒ Other (if selected, please explain below)
Other explained	MBF was registered as the company limited by guarantee (not-for-profit) at the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration to serve as a conservation trust fund.
How is your organisation currently funded?	MBF primarily serves as the lead implementing partner for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Myanmar, managing projects funded by multilateral donors (e.g., Blue Action Fund), bilateral donors (e.g., AFD), and private foundations (e.g., Arcus Foundation, Mandai Nature). For this Darwin Initiative proposal, however, MBF is applying independently to advance its mission of biodiversity conservation. It also collaborates with individual philanthropic donors, such as Andy Sabin and Panaphil. To ensure long-term sustainability, MBF is actively seeking seed and endowment funds to support sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation in Myanmar.

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

Aims	MBF aims to conserve Myanmar's rich biodiversity by empowering local communities, indigenous people, and civil society organizations. It fosters sustainable natural resource management and strengthens the connection between people, businesses, and biodiversity. MBF focuses on building local capacity to ensure long-term conservation and the integrity of ecosystems for future generations.
Activities	MBF activities include developing site-based sustainable financing mechanisms, implementing conservation projects for terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems, and promoting sustainable natural resource management. MBF also focuses on creating community-led conservation initiatives that ensure long-term biodiversity protection and livelihood development in Myanmar's critical landscapes.
Achievements	MBF has conserved 1,500 km ² of community-protected forests and 700 km of inshore fisheries, safeguarding 15 terrestrial and 12 marine species. It has also protected 300 km ² of wetlands, supporting species like the Sarus Crane and promoting sustainable livelihoods for local communities, contributing to long-term biodiversity conservation in Myanmar.

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	Blue Action Fund-BAF's "Expanding and improving marine conservation in Myanmar"
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	2 years 8 months
Role of organisation in project	Lead implementing partner of WCS for project focusing on community-led marine protected areas development and management
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The BAF project aims to conserve marine biodiversity and enhance the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities through the establishment of Community-Led Marine Areas (CLMAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Myanmar. By empowering local communities, the project focuses on building capacity for sustainable marine resource management, promoting community participation, and securing user rights. The creation of CLMAs is central to protecting critical marine ecosystems and ensuring long-term sustainability. Additionally, the project emphasizes the inclusion of women and marginalized groups in decision-making processes, fostering both social and economic empowerment.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Nuri Steinmann (BAF), [REDACTED] Colin Poole (WCS), [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 2 Title	The Agence Française de Développement-AFD's "Livelihood and biodiversity conservation in Myanmar"
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	2.5 years
Role of organisation in project	MBF is the lead implementing partner of WCS for the project in Myanmar.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The project aims to conserve Myanmar's natural ecosystems by involving local communities in sustainable resource management and supporting legal and institutional reforms. It focuses on conserving Irrawaddy biodiversity, implementing marine spatial planning in the Tanintharyi region, and enhancing institutional capacity in northern Sagaing region. The project seeks to improve biodiversity, increase community involvement, and establish sustainable practices and financing mechanisms. Key outcomes include better biodiversity management, strengthened legal frameworks, and the creation of community-protected areas, all aimed at ensuring long-term environmental and economic benefits for local populations and the nation.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Alexia Hofmann (AFD), [REDACTED] Colin Poole (WCS), [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 3 Title	Arcus Foundation's "Hoolock gibbon and community conservation in northern Myanmar (Phase-5)"
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	\$ [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	3 years
Role of organisation in project	Lead implementing partner of WCS to strengthen community participation in conservation of Hoolock gibbons and community conservation in northern Myanmar.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The project aims to stabilize Hoolock gibbon populations by strengthening community-based conservation efforts. The project will monitor gibbon populations using auditory triangulation, protect habitats through the establishment of community forests, and enhance community-led patrols using the SMART tool. Additionally, it will support livelihoods by developing women-led microenterprises, empowering communities to manage resources sustainably. The expected outcomes include increased gibbon population density, reduced illegal activities, improved community forest governance, and enhanced local capacity to lead conservation efforts, contributing to both biodiversity conservation and community resilience.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Alison White (ARCUS). [REDACTED] Colin Poole (WCS) [REDACTED]

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

Myanmar Biodiversity Fund (MBF)

I apply for a grant of

£200,000.00

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	Kyaw Thinn Latt
Position in the organisation	Deputy CEO
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Screenshot 2024-10-11 at 12.13.32 PM  11/10/2024  06:44:39  png 233.99 KB
Date	18 October 2024

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

 5. MBF Audit Report-2023-2024  11/10/2024  06:45:41  pdf 8.82 MB	 4. MBF Audit report 2022-2023  11/10/2024  06:45:27  pdf 3.62 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.

 [MBF HR+Safeguard+CoC Policy Combined Aug 2023](#)

 11/10/2024

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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:	
• 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).