

Applicant: **Tokubek uulu, Bakytbek**
Organisation: **TRAFFIC International**
Funding Sought: **£199,955.00**

DIR31CC\1851

Conservation capacities in wild species trade in Central Asia

Central Asia is home for many threatened CITES-listed species, affected by international trade, but has limited representation in CITES processes. The CITES Conference of the Parties in Uzbekistan (2025) offers an opportunity to enhance the region's involvement in wildlife trade interventions. This project strengthens the capacity of national agencies and NGOs to improve wildlife trade regulation and sustainable use. By doing so, stakeholders can better influence biodiversity and community outcomes, reduce poverty through sustainable use, and promote regional collaboration.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title

Conservation capacities in wild species trade in Central Asia

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

-  [CoverLetter TRAFFIC C&C Central Asia](#)
-  21/10/2024
-  18:28:55
-  pdf 168.22 KB

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

☒ No

Q5. Summary of project

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

Central Asia is home for many threatened CITES-listed species, affected by international trade, but has limited representation in CITES processes. The CITES Conference of the Parties in Uzbekistan (2025) offers an opportunity to enhance the region's involvement in wildlife trade interventions. This project strengthens the capacity of national agencies and NGOs to improve wildlife trade regulation and sustainable use. By doing so, stakeholders can better influence biodiversity and community outcomes, reduce poverty through sustainable use, and promote regional collaboration.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Kyrgyzstan	Country 2	Uzbekistan
Country 3	Kazakhstan	Country 4	Tajikistan

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) £	£88,875.00	£111,080.00	£199,955.00

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?

Match funds (about █████ are from a project (running to September 2025) funded by the United States Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, focussing on complimentary activities improving the understanding of the pet trade in Central Asia, as well as fostering the sharing of expertise and practices that support the region's efforts to tackle the illegal trade. Details are provided in the budget. There is also in-kind funding from the partner Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic.

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.

Central Asia is home to a wide range of species listed in CITES, many of which are traded internationally. These include Saker falcons, Central Asian tortoises, Saiga antelopes, medicinal plants *Cistanche deserticola* and spring Adonis[2]. Unsustainable and illegal trade in these species threatens the survival of species and their fragile ecosystems, and endanger the livelihoods of people that rely on use and trade for their livelihoods. Despite this rich biodiversity, Central Asia's representation in CITES decision-making processes and expertise on CITES-related issues remains limited[1].

In the first-of-its-kind 2024 report[1], TRAFFIC established the baseline of wildlife trade in Central Asia, emphasizing how fundamental this issue is for conservation and poverty alleviation. The gaps to implement effective responses to unsustainable use and trade challenges were also assessed – most critical were capacities of national stakeholders – to develop and enforce appropriate responses to wildlife trade and trafficking, confirmed at the recent Central Asia wildlife trade workshop at the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum[6].

An upcoming milestone for the region is the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP20), scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan, December 2025. It presents a critical opportunity to strengthen Central Asia's capacity to engage in global wildlife trade discussions. By building expertise in wildlife trade regulation and sustainable use, stakeholders in the region will be better equipped to contribute meaningfully to these discussions and influence outcomes affecting biodiversity and local communities.

Kyrgyzstan faces distinct challenges as a major transit hub for wildlife trade. Poaching of species like snow leopards and domestic demand for wild fauna and flora in traditional medicine threaten biodiversity. Compared to neighbouring countries, Kyrgyzstan's limited monitoring and cross-border smuggling create unique conservation issues[2].

Over 40% of the Central Asian population lives below the poverty line, and sustainable wildlife use, when properly managed, has the potential to alleviate poverty. However, concerns have been raised about selective harvesting practices, such as a reported decline in the size of Argali sheep trophies in Kyrgyzstan. Addressing this requires better understanding and transparency in developing NDFs and CITES permit approval.

TRAFFIC, developed a 9-step NDF Guidance [5], adopted by CITES Parties at CoP19. An NDF workshop for CITES authorities was held in Kenya last year, however, no representatives from Central Asia attended. The guidance is currently being updated and finalized, offering an opportunity for Central Asia to strengthen its expertise on NDFs and to connect to communities developing a harvesting permit.

This project aims to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of national CITES authorities of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, civil society organisations (CSOs), media and academia in Kyrgyzstan, and TRAFFIC in Central Asia to implement effective wildlife trade interventions and promote sustainable use. Local community engagement will be supported, building on recommendations from the Chankurchak Declaration from the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Conference in Central Asia[4], and the long-term goal is to achieve significant conservation outcomes through the empowerment of local communities and poverty alleviation.

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.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): especially Targets 5 and 9, on the legal, sustainable and safe harvest, use and trade of wild species, and benefits to local communities occurring from sustainable use. Project supports national stakeholders to contribute to the updates and reporting under National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

CITES: enhance national and regional Central Asia capacity to monitor wildlife trade, ensure that NDFs are based on sound science, and streamline the permitting process for CITES species. This project will also foster regional cooperation, which is vital for controlling cross-border wildlife trade and harmonizing enforcement measures.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Many Central Asian species that are protected under CITES are also covered under CMS, and wildlife-trade-related capacity and capability development at national and regional levels will contribute to CMS national commitments of ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species.

UNFCCC: Protecting biodiversity from overexploitation plays a crucial role in ecosystem resilience and climate adaptation, in particular in sensitive ecosystems in Central Asia, including through national stakeholders capabilities to contribution to NDCs and NAPs, via the link to conserving species and sustainable wildlife management

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 15 (Life on Land): support halting biodiversity loss and preventing the extinction of threatened species. SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): contribute to reducing illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, promoting more sustainable consumption of natural resources. SDG 13 (Climate Action): contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Strengthened capacities and capabilities of national and local government and civil society stakeholders in Central Asia will provide contributions to a range of relevant regional initiatives, including the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), Green Central Asia Initiative (climate and environmental cooperation), and the Saiga Conservation Alliance.

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.

The project will deliver the Outcome through a set of linked activities under three outputs.

Output 1 focusses on strengthened knowledge and capacity of Central Asian CITES Scientific and Management Authorities (SA and MA) to regulate trade in wild species and contribute to alleviating poverty of local communities.

We will focus on the capacity of four Central Asian CITES SA and MA, to develop strategies for implementing the CITES, with focus on the sustainable use of species listed in Appendix II. TRAFFIC will conduct a three-day workshop in Kyrgyzstan (co-ordinated with project partner, Kyrgyz CITES MA), with identified representatives from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. This workshop will help prepare national agencies to engage in CITES CoP20 in Uzbekistan, focusing on how to navigate the CoP, key agenda items, and develop evidence-based recommendations.

The workshop will cover CITES permitting processes, including non-detriment findings (NDFs), determining permit validity, and compliance with CITES reporting requirements. We will involve local community representatives in the workshop, to improve NDF requirements understanding before applying for a harvesting permit. The participants will be guided on how to correctly complete permit applications.

Training materials will be identified and developed (adapting to country-needs), translated into Russian, supporting regional knowledge sharing and collaboration. The materials will be tested to ensure their suitability and effectiveness. Addressing the likely staff turn-over, we will focus on ensuring the continuity of the capacity-building by making materials available in the long-term and seeking government agencies' commitments to future trainings.

The project will host a side event at CITES CoP20 in Uzbekistan, to raise awareness about wildlife trade priorities in the region, putting national and local stakeholders to the fore-front, and fostering collaboration. It will serve as a venue to showcase the positive impacts on communities and Central Asian species from legal and sustainable trade, including the representation from local community members. We will reach out to CITES agencies, and donors, to co-host the event.

Post-CITES CoP, TRAFFIC will draft and engage with stakeholders regionally to collate lessons learnt and recommendations report to focus on regional follow-up actions and priorities to implement the Decisions.

Output 2 will contribute to the increased capacities in managing wildlife use and trade and knowledge sharing among civil society organisations, researchers and media in Kyrgyzstan, and regionally.

TRAFFIC will coordinate two workshops with NGOs, journalists and academics, to discuss sustainable use issues relevant to Kyrgyzstan. Firstly, a two-day workshop to develop strategy and assess the needs, followed by a three-day tailored training workshop based on feedback and recommendations. Anticipating that resourcing of activities is an obstacle, the project will seek expert advice on funding and donor priorities on wildlife trade issues, feeding findings into the second workshop.

These interactions will create a platform focused on knowledge sharing and capacity of stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan, on wildlife trade, conservation, and sustainable use. The Partnership Platform will involve NGOs working on wildlife protection and community empowerment issues, such as Bugu Ene Zoopark, Fauna & Flora, Camp Ala-Too, Ilbirs Foundation and the Kyrgyzstan Association of Protecting Wildlife, academic representatives and journalists. This platform will have continuous exchange (via agreed communication channel), rotation of hosted meetings and webinars. The platform will include at least 50% of women.

Utilizing the presently not operational IUCN SULi Central Asia group, we will expand and activate the mailing list to foster exchanges between relevant stakeholders across the region.

Under Output 3, TRAFFIC in Central Asia will be supported as a capable wildlife trade and CITES resource in Central Asia.

TRAFFIC has a project team in Central Asia with expertise in wildlife trade and CITES matters. Under this project, our team capacity will be strengthened, and we assess potential hosting or similar arrangements for a more permanent presence to support biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation in this crucial region and have a strategy for long-term resourcing.

In order to provide ongoing support to the CITES Authorities in the region, we will organize meetings in four target countries after CoP20 to discuss country-specific wildlife trade issues and to support project countries in the run up to the 2026 Standing Committee meeting (SC80). TRAFFIC will attend SC80 to provide on the ground support to project countries and to assist all Central Asia CITES Authorities (e.g. including Turkmenistan).

TRAFFIC will also produce the bi-annual CITES Newsletter in Russian and English[6], highlighting news related to CITES in Central Asia and on CITES-listed Central Asian species abroad, to raise awareness and provide on-going knowledge-sharing to stakeholders and public about wildlife trade issues

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?

TRAFFIC will build on existing relationships with government agencies in target countries to confirm participants at the implementor level to attend trainings. Where some countries have multiple MAs or SAs, we will collaborate with the project countries to identify the most relevant staff. The focal points are:

Kazakhstan: Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources (MA), Ministry of Education and Science (SA:animals-not fish) and Ministry of Education and Science of (SA:plants). While Kazakhstan is an Upper Middle-Income Country, it is essential to include due to regional overlap in crucial CITES and biodiversity conservation interventions.

Kyrgyzstan: Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MA and project partner, see Letter of Support), Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences (SA).

Tajikistan: Committee of Environmental Protection (MA), National Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety (SA).

Uzbekistan: Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change (MA), Institute of Zoology under Academy of Sciences (SA).

We will engage our the network of existing contacts – including IUCN SULi – to identify local community representatives to join trainings and CoP20.

Target CSOs in Kyrgyzstan are those committed to collaboration and supporting biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, and have wildlife use and trade issues within their organisational mandate. Workshop and Partnership Platform participants will be active decision-makers in their organizations, ensuring they can implement changes and provide training to enhance learning and capacity within their organisations. These are likely to include Bugu Ene Zoopark, Fauna & Flora, Camp Ala-Too, Ilbirs Foundation and the Kyrgyzstan

Association of Protecting Wildlife. We will approach a broad range of media and academia representatives to join the capacity-building events and the Partnership Platform.

GESI considerations will be incorporated in all stages from identification of workshop participants to providing ongoing support.

Q17. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

In TRAFFIC's 2030 Strategy and policies, gender and social inclusion plays a crucial role in how TRAFFIC conceptualizes, implements and monitors its activities. TRAFFIC will engage in gender situational awareness mapping for select activities and further research, including gender and social dimensions. These will inform activity development, the robustness and granularity of tools, platforms and reporting functions, and MEL framework with indicators disaggregated by gender. TRAFFIC will ensure that these aspects are consistent and standard across all project partners.

Recognizing that across our target countries many of the projects target sectors are historically male dominated, TRAFFIC will, where possible, prioritise female participation at meetings, training workshops and other project-related activities to ensure that women have a voice in influencing project outcomes. The selection criteria for participants will ensure there is appropriate representation and will be completed in partnership with the relevant authorities.

TRAFFIC respects diversity and adheres to the IUCN Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics which provide guidance about the standards of ethical conduct. Principles include Equality, inclusiveness and respect for the diversity of people. Beyond the disaggregation of gendered data and efforts to facilitate the participation of women in the project's research activities, efforts shall be made to explore the specific relevance of gender in biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. Women are often responsible for particular roles both in legal and illegal wildlife trade. This gendered dimension of IWT, and efforts to combat the crime, is often ignored and under-researched, leading to imperfect interventions which fall short of delivering holistic impact. A gender-sensitive approach will be taken in designing research, and content of training and support materials. Where feasible, we will include gender-disaggregated data in the assessment of project results.

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.

Our theory of change is as follows: If we empower Central Asian national CITES Scientific Authorities to create scientifically robust Non-Detriment Findings, and equip CITES Management Authorities to issue legally sound permits; enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing among CITES Authorities, CSOs, media and research organisations on CITES-related issues and biodiversity conservation; and ensure TRAFFIC in Central Asia as a capable resource on CITES and wildlife trade issues to foster ongoing collaboration and learning beyond the

project's life; then we can promote biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation by enabling the sustainable and legal trade of Central Asian CITES-listed species.

In the short term:

- Project empower at least two Central Asian CITES Authorities per country to have a stronger voice in the CITES arena, at CITES CoP20. By strengthening the expertise of at least two CITES Authorities from each project country (Management Authority and Scientific Authority), with a goal of 50% gender balance—we aim to enhance their capacity to engage in global wildlife trade discussions. This will help regional stakeholders contribute more effectively to shaping outcomes that benefit both biodiversity and local communities.
- The Partnership Platform will engage and empower at least 12 representatives from at least 10 key Kyrgyz CSOs, media and academia, to support biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, aiming for 50% gender balance. This platform will create a new space for civil society organisations in Kyrgyzstan to discuss issues related to wildlife trade and find areas of commonality for future collaboration and fundraising efforts.
- The funding opportunities review and support resources to local organisations in Kyrgyzstan, and through the IUCN SULi Central Asia sub-group (re-engaged by the project) will lead to increased visibility and resources to deliver interventions addressing trade and use priorities in the region.
- The CITES Newsletter, published in Russian and English languages, will continue to raise awareness among stakeholders and the public and provide on-going education on legality of CITES-listed species in Central Asia to reduce instances of illegal trade.
- After CoP20, TRAFFIC staff will meet with Central Asian Authorities to address country-specific wildlife trade issues, provide on-the-ground support, and build lasting relationships with regional CITES Authorities.
- The project training materials tailored for national CITES agencies and CSOs/media/academia will be made available beyond the project end.

In the long term

- The issue of wildlife trade and use of wild species is widely recognised as a priority for action and funding in Central Asian region, with national and local stakeholders capable of developing and delivering effective interventions.
- By following up in meeting recommendations from the SULi conference in Central Asia, this project will achieve conservation through community empowerment and poverty alleviation by documenting wildlife practices, building capacity for government and local organizations, and supporting stakeholder dialogue. This includes promoting sustainable livelihoods based on wild resource use, ensuring communities benefit from conservation efforts while protecting biodiversity and strengthening local resilience.

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?

Our objective is to empower CITES Authorities and CSOs to enhance their capabilities for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation through strengthening their CITES implementation and CITES meeting participation.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, regional engagement will be prioritized throughout the project and materials will be accessible in local languages. A key challenge currently is the exclusion of Central Asian stakeholders from global conservation dialogues, and the lack of focus on biodiversity in national agendas, which hinders awareness and participation. To address these gaps, TRAFFIC will coordinate efforts to engage local stakeholders by organizing pre- and post-CITES CoP meetings and workshops, ensuring they are well-informed about CITES processes and decision-making. Additionally, translating CITES tools and documents into Russian will facilitate greater understanding among key government and CSO representatives, enabling their continued involvement in conservation efforts even after the project's initial funding ends. TRAFFIC staff's own capacity will be built through the project and strategic missions to visit government stakeholders in the project countries built into the project planning, to promote collaboration and sustained dialog.

As part of Activity 2.2, we will foster networking among CSOs in Kyrgyzstan by establishing a Partnership Platform, designed to create a sustainable peer-to-peer support mechanism that extends beyond the project's lifespan. By facilitating new connections and relationships across the sector, we expect long-term impact through continuous collaborations, offering CSOs opportunities to grow by working together. This Platform will serve as a bridge for ongoing strategic peer networks, enabling participant CSOs to support each other sustainably into the future.

Our local TRAFFIC staff will maintain close connections with and provide ongoing guidance to the CSOs and CITES Authorities and will search for funding to continue to publish the bi-annual CITES Newsletter beyond the lifespan of the project.

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

 [Additional Supporting Evidence TRAFFIC Central Asia C&C](#)

 21/10/2024

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 pdf 178.79 KB

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). Misappropriation of funds by lead organization	Moderate	Rare	Minor	TRAFFIC has excellent record of management of funds, including large government grants and nearly 50 years of experience in supporting travel and logistics to workshop and training participants.	Minor

Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. TRAFFIC staff or project partners causing intentional or unintentional harm to workshop participants.	High	Rare	Minor	TRAFFIC and project staff/partners will be made aware of, and adhered to, TRAFFIC's safeguarding policy, which ensures that immediate action will be taken in the case of inappropriate action by project staff.	Minor
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. Project's delivery could lead to unintended impacts on people – e.g. through policies, including local communities involved in wildlife trade.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	TRAFFIC will follow policies to prevent gender-based and other inequities, ensuring marginalized communities have equal access, participation, and benefits in conservation projects. Promoting people-centered conservation approaches will help address elite capture and promote fairness.	Minor
Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model. Delivery chain issues caused by increasing regional or international conflict may affect the project and disrupt the in-person implementation of training workshops.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	While in-person meetings and workshops will facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing, TRAFFIC's experience with adaptive management during the COVID-19 pandemic will be applied to support online knowledge sharing and collaboration activities.	Minor
Risk 5 Due to project location, staff and project stakeholders may travel long distances over often mountainous roads to reach workshop locations, increasing chance of collisions.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Access daily weather conditions and plan workshops and in-person events during seasons with high chance of fair weather to decrease risk of high snow/ice on mountain passes.	Minor

Risk 6	Political instability in project countries decreases governmental interest in project outcomes and heighten security risks for project staff.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	In-person meetings and workshops will foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, but TRAFFIC will also draw on its adaptive management experience from the COVID-19 pandemic to support online collaboration and knowledge exchange. Additionally, if civil unrest prevents the delivery of in-person trainings, the training locations may be relocated.	Moderate
Risk 7	CSOs in the region facing challenges around their ability to function due to new regulations.	High	Possible	High	The project includes Partnership Platform to facilitate learning and knowledge exchange among CSOs also to help navigate regulatory and policy landscapes. It also engages separately government agencies, and facilitate multistakeholder dialogues on wildlife trade issues.	Moderate

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.

We recognize that CSOs in the project countries and throughout Central Asia are facing significant challenges, specifically in Kyrgyzstan, with new laws and regulations affecting their capacity to function. Our project includes a CSO Partnership Platform designed to facilitate learning and knowledge exchange among CSOs navigating this complex landscape. Given the increased scrutiny on CSOs, it is essential that any information or news about their activities does not imply or suggest they are opposing government interests, as this could endanger their operational status.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

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

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).

A project management team comprised of TRAFFIC Europe and Central Asia staff will oversee the project's monitoring and evaluation process. The team will maintain regular communication via electronic means, hold monthly meetings to review progress and address challenges, and conduct quarterly internal evaluations based on monthly reports from the Project Lead and the M&E Project Officer. It will also develop plans to adjust the project's direction and implementation as necessary.

Project staff will continuously engage in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to ensure the project remains on track to meet its indicators, assess both positive and negative impacts, and make any necessary adjustments as needed. The Project Officer, under the supervision of the Project Lead, will hold bi-weekly calls with the Project Lead to share updates on recent progress and challenges.

To assess progress toward the overarching project objective, we will evaluate whether project stakeholders are effectively applying their newly acquired skills to improve their performance and impact. This evaluation will include follow-up questionnaires or interviews with course participants six months after the training concludes. Additionally, when feasible, we will interview employers, such as civil society organisations' directors and Directors of the CITES Authorities, to gain their perspective on the training's impact.

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 Collaboration and strengthened capacities among CITES Authorities and civil society organisations in Central Asia enhance wildlife trade management, aiding poverty alleviation and promoting sustainable livelihoods and long-term conservation efforts.	0.1 Eight CITES Authorities in Central Asia with enhanced capacity and capability to implement CITES permitting and reporting requirements (DI-A03)	0.1 Pre- and post-workshop capacity self-assessments; CITES annual reports from target countries; interventions and side-event contributions to CITES CoP20 and CITES SC80
	0.2 At least ten Kyrgyz organizations with enhanced capabilities to implement wildlife use and trade interventions towards biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation	0.2 Project technical report and participants testimonials; locally-led funding proposals for wildlife trade interventions; media articles
	0.3 At least 30 people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6 (or more) months after workshops/trainings (DI-A04)	0.3 Project participant follow-up surveys, results disaggregated by sex, age group, nationality location and type of knowledge/skills
Output 1 Strengthened knowledge and capacity of Central Asian CITES Scientific and Management Authorities to regulate trade in wild species and contribute to alleviating poverty of local communities.	1.1 By CITES CoP20 in 2025, at least eight national government agencies representatives (two from each target country in Central Asia) are trained to fully participate in CITES CoP proceedings	1.1 Report on workshop, including: dates; location; participant list; agenda; materials presented; pre- and post-training capacity assessments
	1.2 By March 2027, at least two representatives from CITES Authorities in each target country develop NDFs and valid CITES permits	1.2 Two new non-detriment findings and two valid CITES permits verified per country by the end of the project
	1.3 By March 2026, one high-level side event will showcase Central Asia stakeholders and key regional wildlife use and trade needs	1.3 Participant sign in sheet and side event agenda; communication PR

Output 2 Increased capacities in managing wildlife use and trade and knowledge sharing among civil society organisations, researchers and media in Kyrgyzstan, and regionally.	2.1 By March 2027, at least 20 people from key Kyrgyz civil society organisations, media and academia are trained on CITES implementation, wildlife trade and use.	2.1 Report on workshops, including: dates; location; participant list; agenda; materials presented; identified needs for follow-up training; pre- and post-training capacity assessments
	2.2 By January 2026, at least four key Kyrgyz CSOs have joined TRAFFIC in a Partnership Platform for ongoing information exchange and collaboration	2.2 Partnership Platform partners list and contact information
	2.3 By March 2027, at least three funding application on wildlife-trade related interventions are submitted by local NGOs, informed by the project resources.	2.3 Project technical report; participants testimonials
Output 3 TRAFFIC in Central Asia supported as a capable wildlife trade and CITES resource in Central Asia	3.1 By March 2027, capacities of TRAFFIC staff in Central Asia on CITES and wider wildlife trade issues increased	3.1 Self-reporting; technical report; training evidence
	3.2 By September 2026, two successful meetings held with CITES Authorities in each project country with documented follow-up actions	3.2 Meeting notes, travel documents, and follow-up actions
	3.3 By March 2027, TRAFFIC publishes three bi-annual Central Asia's CITES Newsletter about ongoing CITES legislation and enforcement in Central Asia	3.3 Three published newsletters and distribution lists
Output 4 No Response	No Response	No Response

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

1.1 Confirm national-level CITES stakeholders in four target countries

1.2 Identify documents and training materials, develop additional appropriate ones, and make available in Russian and English, on www.traffic.org and other regional platforms.

1.3 Organise workshop for CITES Authorities and stakeholders on CITES permitting, NDFs, preparation for CoP20, including recommendations and interventions.

1.4 Support knowledge management and regional information sharing/collaboration between CITES Authorities.

1.5 Coordinate side event at CITES CoP20 to showcase project and bring together stakeholders.

1.6 Develop summary lessons learnt and recommendations CITES CoP report for sharing and follow-up by national stakeholders.

2.1 Organise two-day workshop to develop capacity and knowledge development strategy and assess the needs of the attending organizations (NGOs, media, academia)

2.2 Undertake the review of funding and donor cooperation opportunities for wild species use and trade activities in Central Asia

2.3 Carry-out three-day training based on feedback and recommendations from the workshop in 2.1, including on funding opportunities (2.2)

2.4 Establish a 'Partnership Platform' to continue collaboration of CSOs in Kyrgyzstan on wildlife trade, conservation, and poverty alleviation.

2.5 Engage the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group Central Asia sub-group (current not functioning), update the network contacts, and re-start the mailing list with updates and exchanges between experts in the region

3.1: Assess opportunities for more permanent – hosted or similar - presence of TRAFFIC in Central Asia, and identify funding sources.

3.2: Organise meetings in target countries with national agencies and NGOs (as appropriate) to follow-up CoP20 country-specific issues and support preparation for CITES meetings in 2026 (Standing, Animal and Plant Committees).

3.3: Attend CITES SC80 meeting to support project countries and connect with other Central Asian CITES Authorities.

3.4: Produce three Bi-annual CITES Newsletters

Important Assumptions:

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

Capacity building materials will be made available to new staff in instances of staff turnover

CITES Authority representation in workshops will be at the implementer level

Organisations in target countries continue to express a strong interest in enhancing their capabilities in biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation

CITES agencies and stakeholders are making staff and staff time available for active participation in CITES CoP20 preparation and training activities

CITES Authorities express an interest in ongoing collaboration activities with TRAFFIC Central Asia staff beyond CoP20

Central Asia expands in being a focus for development and conservation funding

Q24b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
e.g. DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3	e.g. 60	e.g. 30 non-indigenous women; 30 non-indigenous men
DI-A03: Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity	Output indicators 1.1 and 1.2/Output 1 ; Output indicator 2.1/Output 2	18 Organisations	One CITES Scientific Authority and one Management Authority from each of four target countries and 10 civil society organizations, media and academia in Kyrgyzstan
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output indicators 1.1 and 1.2/Output 1 ; Output indicator 2.1/Output 2	at least 30	At least two people each from a CITES Scientific Authority and a Management Authority from each of four target countries; at least 10 from civil society organizations, media and academia in Kyrgyzstan; and at least five TRAFFIC staff
DI-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output indicator 3.1/Output 3	7 knowledge products	At least three CITES Newsletters available in Russian and English; set of training materials for national CITES agencies; set of training materials for CSOs, media and academia; funding opportunities report; CITES CoP20 lessons learnt and recommendations report
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.

 [TRAFFIC budget_C&C Central Asia](#)

 21/10/2024

 19:24:41

 xlsx 93.43 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:

This project is new, with some activities aligned to TRAFFIC's ongoing projects, which will match funding, including the continuation of the regional CITES Newsletter, which started under the US government INL funded project. In our work to date, including through the Fauna & Flora-led Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund project (IWT089), we have established strong network of contacts with government agencies in the target countries, and civil society organisations, and will build on these in the proposed work.

In Kyrgyzstan, the Ilbirs Foundation had been delivering capacity building trainings, but mostly to individual hunters, and this proposed activity will focus on different stakeholder groups. Fauna & Flora has been an important partner of TRAFFIC in Central Asia to date, and implements projects, including on conservation

capacities and capabilities in Tajikistan. We will continue collaborating on the proposed focused wildlife trade and sustainable use capacity development, including through the Partnership Platform.

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

☒ Yes

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

A number of non-governmental organisations in the Central Asia region deliver essential conservation work, which is not disconnected from the proposed activities. For example, the Ilbirs Foundation and Fauna & Flora implement an active project, focussed significantly on the empowerment of local communities in the region. Our proposed project focuses on capacity and capability of the national-level agencies responsible for regulating and implementing/enforcing wildlife trade measures – connected at the regional Central Asia level. We also support wildlife trade and sustainable use capacities and knowledge exchange between civil society organisations, media and academia in Kyrgyzstan. To our knowledge no similar or duplicating work is taking place.

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?

This project will bring value for money by centralizing CITES Authorities for pre-COP training, followed by leveraging the COP itself for networking and collaboration. Regional trainings have proven to be more impactful and cost-effective. To further minimize expenses, follow-up activities between TRAFFIC and CITES Authorities will involve a single TRAFFIC staff member traveling to the project countries for additional training and partner meetings. This approach allows for broader capacity building while reducing travel and workshop costs for multiple participants.

Additionally, establishing a Partnership Platform will enhance the project by bringing together CSOs with a shared mission. While two workshops will be organized, the Platform will become a self-sustaining resource through listservs and informal meetings.

Through creating resources on funding opportunities for wildlife trade and use interventions, local organisations will be supported to apply to varied donor opportunities, creating longer-term sustainable financing for activities.

The bi-annual newsletter will further amplify the project's impact by reaching a wider audience, raising awareness of biodiversity conservation and CITES regulations.

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.

Our request for capital items is less than 10% of the project budget, and will include the purchase of laptop and minor office furniture for new project staff, both will remain in use by local team following project end.

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.

TRAFFIC strives to ensure that our activities do not disadvantage poor, vulnerable, or marginalized women and men who depend on natural resources. Wherever possible, we aim to conserve biodiversity in ways that enhance human well-being and promote social equity. We are committed to respecting human rights, advocating for their protection, and integrating them into our conservation programs while supporting governance systems that safeguard these rights. To uphold this commitment, TRAFFIC has developed a set of policies and procedures on core values and ethical conduct, covering safeguarding, anti-harassment, whistleblowing, SEAH and other areas, outlined in our employee handbook and published on our website. These policies are passed on to consultants and partners as contractual obligations in subgrant and consultancy agreements. All staff and partners are required to sign and adhere to the Code of Conduct to ensure they understand what constitutes a violation of TRAFFIC's values and policies.

TRAFFIC supports the IASC core principles on SEAH, applying CHS commitments in our field and TRAFFIC has met with Abida Peters, Safeguarding Manager at NIRAS. This advice and support on our policies have been invaluable to ensuring that best practice is being followed.

TRAFFIC maintains an external complaints mechanism available to stakeholders and members of the public and encourages all to report in good faith suspicion of fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, or other suspected violations of professional conduct. TRAFFIC is committed to addressing any legitimate complaints in a timely and effective way.

Anyone concerned about possible misconduct can contact TRAFFIC's Accountability Officer through confidential reporting channels. The Accountability Officer treats reported concerns with the utmost confidentiality, protecting the identity of whistle-blowers, conducting investigations into reported misconduct, reporting, and providing advice senior management.

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.

-  [UK Embassy Kyrgyzstan TRAFFIC exchange \(1\)](#)
-  21/10/2024
-  19:33:09
-  pdf 1.22 MB

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?
Bakytbek Tokubek uulu	Project Leader	63	Checked
Sanjar Kurmanov	Project support officer, MEL	63	Checked
Dersu Akparaliev	Liaison and capacity-building national-level agencies Kyrgyzstan	5	Checked
Louisa Musing	Project oversight, safeguarding focal point and risk champion	22	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
tbc	Communications and capacity-building officer	75	Checked
Stephanie Von Meibom	Global policy link, fundraising engagement	5	Checked

No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked

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

 CVs and TOR combined

 21/10/2024

 19:37:14

 pdf 467.64 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: TRAFFIC International

Website address: www.traffic.org

Role: TRAFFIC leads on project implementation, administration, management, M&E.

TRAFFIC team in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan will lead on the delivery of activities with regional, national and local stakeholders and partner. TRAFFIC in Kyrgyzstan will coordinate targeted stakeholder meetings and workshops, tailor capacity-building materials (including in Russian) available beyond project end, develop a Partnership Platform for NGOs working on wildlife use and trade issues, and support to develop onwards funding proposals to implement priority conservation and poverty-alleviation interventions.

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

Capacity: TRAFFIC is a leading NGO, with around 200 staff, working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Staff have extensive experience in CITES, CMS, and CBD implementation.

TRAFFIC has been implementing a range of reviews on wildlife trade and capacity-building of government agencies in Central Asia over past two decades, including contributing to the Central Asia IUCN SULi conference, providing support in CITES and CMS fora, delivering e.g. wild liquorice root management work in Kazakhstan. Since 2022, the project office in Bishkek was set up, leading the implementation of a programme of work focussed on wildlife trade in the region.

As lead organisation, TRAFFIC has coordinated proposal development and established partnerships.

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:

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic

Website address:

<https://mnr.gov.kg/en>

	(Max 200 words) 68
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic is national CITES Management Authority, and CBD focal point.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	They endorsed the proposed project, in particularly highlighting the importance of training CITES material and other documents availability in Russian, and the unique opportunity of CITES CoP20 in Uzbekistan in 2025.
	The role of the Ministry will be to coordinate the capacity-building of national-level agencies Kyrgyzstan.
International/In-country Partner	☒ In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☒ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☒ Yes

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

3. Partner Name:	No Response
-------------------------	-------------

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

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

5. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner

☐ International
☐ In-country

Allocated budget:

No Response

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)

☐ Yes
☐ No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?

☐ Yes
☐ No

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.

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

☒ Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DAREX012	Anastasiya Timoshyna	Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade
DARINV013	Cara Flowers	Trialling Wild Harvest Improvement Projects for sustainable wild plant trade
IWTEV016	David Newton	Enhancing knowledge to tackle illegal trade of Madagascar's medicinal plants
IWTEV009	Simone Louw	Gathering evidence to address illegal trade in African fish maw
IWT108	Ling Xu	Demand reduction and behaviour change along China's parrot supply chains
28-026	Anastasiya Timoshyna	Himalayan plants for people: sustainable trade for biodiversity and development

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

Trustees

of

I apply for a grant of

£199,955.00

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 Richard Scobey**Position in the organisation** Executive Director

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [Certification - signed](#)
 21/10/2024
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 pdf 103.95 KB

Date 21 October 2024

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

 [TRAFFIC FY23 Annual Accounts and report](#)
 21/10/2024
 19:56:06
 pdf 3.39 MB

 [TRAFFIC FY22 Annual Accounts and report](#)
 21/10/2024
 19:55:47
 pdf 934.16 KB

Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF. Optionally you can also upload your Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan here.

 [Whistleblowing Policy.](#)
 21/10/2024
 20:00:08
 pdf 568.78 KB

 [Safeguarding Policy.](#)
 21/10/2024
 20:00:01
 pdf 528.74 KB

 [Sexual Harassment Policy - Aug 2024](#)
 21/10/2024
 19:58:39
 pdf 449.33 KB

 [Code of Conduct October 2024](#)
 21/10/2024
 19:57:30
 pdf 673.36 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Ensure you submit this application on	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance Guidance”.	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided the budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to the application:	Checked
• a cover letter from the Lead Organisation.	Checked
• a budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• a completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan (Question 29)	Unchecked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 32, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
The additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all the responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

Ensure you submit this application on Flexi-Grant.

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our regular newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, project leader, location, and total grant value).