

DPLUS034

## Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Project Application Form

Submit by Monday 4 August 2014

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form  
Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted in blue

### Basic Data

<b>1. Project Title</b> (max 10 words)	<b>Fassouri Marsh Restoration: a flagship wetland in the Cyprus SBAs</b>
<b>2. UK OT(s) involved</b>	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs)-(Akrotiri)
<b>3. Start Date:</b>	1 April 2015
<b>4. End Date:</b>	31 March 2017
<b>5. Duration of project (no longer than 24 months)</b>	24 months

Summary of Costs	2015/16	2016/17	Total
<b>6. Budget requested from Darwin</b>	£109,191	£138,882	£248,073
<b>7. Total value of matched funding</b>	£27,474	£29,777	£57,251
<b>8. Total Project Budget (all funders)</b>	£136,665	£168,659	£305,324
<b>9. Names of Co-funders</b>	BirdLife Cyprus (Leventis Conservation Foundation), Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (SBAA sponsored), RSPB		

<b>10. Lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)</b>	BirdLife Cyprus
<b>11. Project Leader name</b>	Dr Foteini (Claire) Papazoglou
<b>12. Email address</b>	
<b>13. Postal address</b>	PO Box 28076, 2090, Nicosia, Cyprus
<b>14. Contact details: Phone/Fax/Skype</b>	

\* Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 11

15. Type of organisation of Lead applicant. Place an x in the relevant box.									
OT GOVT	UK GOVT	UK NGO	Local NGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	International NGO	Commercial Company	Other (e.g. Academic)		

**16. Principals in project.** Please identify and provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more personnel or more than 2 project partners.

Details	Project Leader Director	Project Partner Manager	
Surname	Papazoglou	Apostolidou	
Forename(s)	Foteini (Claire)	Melpo	
Post held	Executive Director	Project Coordinator	
Institution (if different to above)			
Department	n/a	n/a	
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 1-SBA ED and EEC	Project Partner 2- RSPB	
Surname	Charilaou	Badley	
Forename(s)	Pantelis	John Graham	
Post held	Environment and Conservation Officer	Senior Manager	Sites
Institution (if different to above)			
Department	SBA's Environment Department & Environmental Education Centre	Operations - Eastern England Reserves	
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

**17. Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?** No

**18. If your answer to Q17 was No, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation.** These contacts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in this application. (If your answer to Q17 was Yes, you may delete these boxes, but please leave Q18)

Contract 1 Title	Project 'Restoration and Management of Oroklini Lake SPA, in Larnaca, Cyprus' funded by the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union <a href="http://www.orokliniproject.org">www.orokliniproject.org</a> (LIFENAT10/NAT/CY716)
Contract Value	BirdLife Cyprus' budget: €339692 (Project total budget: €797070)
Contract Duration	Three (3) years from 2012 – 2014
Role of institution in project	Project coordinator and responsible for implementing specific project actions
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and	Aim of the LIFE Oroklini project was to bring the site of Oroklini Marsh to Favourable Conservation Status. Project's objectives were to implement

outcomes of the contract.	specific conservation and awareness raising actions to manage and restore Oroklini wetland. BirdLife Cyprus, as project partner was responsible for coordinating all five partners (3 government departments, one local government, and BirdLife Cyprus) and monitoring all project implementation and for implementing specific actions of its own. Most relevant of all were the hiring of contractors to carry out water management works and landscaping in order to restore the hydrological regime at the site. Other actions included commissioning studies in order to produce the hydrological regime, an Action Plan for the site, organisation of two workshops, production of various reports, producing of communication material for the public. Finally, BirdLife Cyprus was also responsible for producing all regular reports, and collecting information and producing financial reports for the Commission. At the time of writing, project is still in progress but so far project's objectives have been met, implemented project activities appear to have already produced a positive impact on the conservation status of the Oroklini lake, as measured by the species, the lake water level and the public awareness and the project has received excellent comments for its professional and effective implementation from the European Commission who is co-funding the project by 50%.
Client reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Name: Environment Directorate-General, European Commission Email: Address: DG ENV.E.3, B-1049 Brussels. Phone number:

Contract 2 Title	Restocking of the Griffon Vulture Population of Cyprus with birds from Crete
Contract Value	Project budget: €710,369.18, BirdLife Cyprus budget €113,789. 18
Contract Duration	September 2011 to January 2014
Role of institution in project	One of the partners. Partners in Cyprus: Game and Fauna Service, BirdLife Cyprus and Forest Department, partners in Greece: Museum of Natural History of Crete, University of Crete, and Municipality of Gortyna
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	Aim of the project was to build the appropriate facilities in order to bring Griffon Vultures from Crete to Cyprus in order for them to be released. The project also included monitoring of existing population in Cyprus, marking the birds to be released, organising a marking system for vultures in Cyprus, awareness raising actions with schools and farmers associations and the organisation of an International Conference on Vultures in Cyprus and publishing the proceedings. The project aims for Crete were similar, i.e. monitoring of population in Crete, awareness raising. BirdLife Cyprus was responsible for monitoring, marking of birds, awareness raising actions, organising the international conference and publishing the proceedings, as well as the regular project management actions (reporting, financial reporting).  The project met all its aims and was considered one of the most successful of its 'batch'. Final reports have been submitted and approved now awaiting final payments.  See also note about Audit for year 2012 question 31 (Financial Controls).

Client reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)	Cross Border Cooperation Programme Greece-Cyprus 2007-2013 Fylatos Asterios/ Vaya Tsiagande Joint Technical Secretariat GR-CY Balkan Center, Building D, 3rd floor 10th km Thessaloniki-Thermi, 570 01 Thessaloniki, Greece Email: web address: <a href="http://www.greece-cyprus.eu">www.greece-cyprus.eu</a> web address: <a href="http://www.interreg.gr">www.interreg.gr</a>
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Contract 3 Title	The International Project of Ornithological Tourism in protected areas in the Mediterranean Basin, 011-1-ES1-LEO05-35897
Contract Value	Project budget: €286,497 BirdLife Cyprus budget: €36,076 EU Co-financing: 69,90%
Contract Duration	October 2011 to October 2013 (one month extension)
Role of institution in project	One of the partners in the project, project coordinated by SEO/BirdLife (BirdLife in Spain). We implemented actions in Cyprus: organised a workshop for tourism professionals focusing on promoting Cyprus as a birdwatching destination, produced a brochure, translated in Greek and adapted for Cyprus, a module for tourism professionals that want to focus on nature tourism, including birdwatching. Provided input and tested an App for birdwatching sites in Cyprus. Participated in project implementation, reporting, financial reporting etc.  Other partners in the project were: SPEA/BirdLife Portugal, HOS/BirdLife Greece and BirdLife International
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	Aim of project was to promote birdwatching tourism in protected areas across the Mediterranean, and provide the necessary materials to tourism professionals so as to practice this in a sensitive and sustainable way, with respect for the sites and species concerned.
Client reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Leonardo Da Vinci Agency Spain,  All contacts with Agency were handled by the Coordinating Partner SEO/BirdLife in Spanish.  Contacts for SEO/BirdLife Coordinator Christina Sanchez, Head of SEO/BirdLife office in Catalonia C/ Múrcia, 2-8 local 13 - 08026 Barcelona  Tel./Fax  E-mail:  Web: <a href="http://www.seo.org">www.seo.org</a>

### Project Details

**19. Project Outcome Statement:** Describe what the project aims to achieve and what will change as a result. (50 words max)

Fassouri Marsh, part of Akrotiri wetland complex in the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas, will be restored to a mosaic of habitats, similar to its state 20 years ago. This will lead to restoration of species diversity at the site as well as providing increased socio-economic opportunities for local villagers.

**20. Background:** (What is the current situation and the problem that the project will address? How will it address this problem? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address? (200 words max)

Fassouri Marsh (part of a Ramsar site) which covers an area of around 150 hectares has been unmanaged for around 20 years. The area of reedbed has expanded covering an area of 80 ha, leading to build-up of sediment and loss of bird and plant diversity (including rare plants and those useful for local handicrafts). The area available for grazing animals has also been reduced.

Through habitat modification and water management, the project will create a mosaic of habitats and increase species diversity. Opening up the reedbed will provide increased opportunities for grazing livestock, a traditional activity at the site contributing to reed management. There will also be enhanced opportunities for birdwatching tourism and handicraft production. Baseline studies, including for the native Killifish, birds and flora will provide useful indicators to monitor change.

The project will assist the SBAA in its goal to improve wetland management. It will assist the SBAA in its goal to provide increased economic opportunities for people at Akrotiri village who will benefit from the provision of additional livestock grazing opportunities, as well as the increase in materials available for local handicrafts. Increased visitation by birdwatchers is expected to bring benefits for the local village.

**21. Methodology:** Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc). Give details of any innovative techniques or methods. (500 words max)

**Project Director** will be BirdLife Cyprus' Executive Director and **Project Manager** will be the Project Coordinator of the same organisation. The Project Manager will be working full time on this project and will have the full overview of the project's implementation. A Project Steering Committee will be set up in order to facilitate exchange of information and coordination. The Committee will be made up by all three project partners. The Republic Game and Fauna Service (competent authority for birds), the Forest Department and the Republic Water Development Department (competent authority for water management) will also be invited to join, to ensure good cooperation and information exchange. The Committee will meet twice a year especially during the RSPB visits.

Each partner will nominate a leader who will be the contact person for the Project Manager. We will ensure regular communication among project partners through meetings, telephone and email communication as well as Skype when needed. A kick-off meeting will be organised at the early stages of the project to plan and coordinate actions ahead.

The finance of the project will be handled by BirdLife Cyprus' accountant and expenses will be entered into the accounting system. Partners will sign Collaboration Agreements with the project Leader and all staff working on the project will also have secondment agreements.

RSPB who has extensive experience in wetland and reed management as well as creating visitor facilities will provide advice for main activities under all outputs (please see section 27). Some of the works under Outputs 1, 2 and 3, will require external contractors, these will be chosen for best value for money through a tendering procedure, if cost is above €5000. All work will be closely overviewed. We will clear the outlet ditches and the reeds in an area of around 50ha and dredge an area around 10ha. A workshop on wetland management will also be organised in Cyprus to bring together experts to exchange best practice. Villagers from Akrotiri, and Cypriot project partners will travel abroad to a wetland to see similar work being done and benefits to the local community.

Some baseline surveys will be carried out, including for the rare Killifish, bird productivity and numbers, plant and invertebrate abundance. Key variables will be monitored. The site management plan produced and the commitment of project partners will ensure the long-term maintenance of works, monitoring and management of the site after the project ends.

The community's support is important for the project's success and we aim to enhance relations with the local (Akrotiri) community through some awareness raising activities which will link with the Environmental Education Centre, including two specific information events for the community about the

project. Dissemination material like project website, press releases, signage, ecotourism brochure will contribute towards public engagement and support the community through increased visitation to the site.

The use of Cyprus cattle for the reed management is innovative for Cyprus. The visitors' facilities are linked with modern uses of a wetland such as birdwatching and outdoor educational activities.

## 22. How does this project:

- a) Deliver against the priority issues identified in the assessment criteria
  - b) Demonstrate technical excellence in its delivery
  - c) Demonstrate a clear pathway to impact in the OT(s)
- (500 words max)

- a) The project will deliver an ecosystem-based conservation project for the Fassouri reedbeds, part of the complex of wetlands including the Akrotiri Salt Lake and Zakaki marsh which are recognised as an Important Bird Area (BirdLife International); a Ramsar site; a Special Protection Area (SPA, equivalent to the European designation); and a candidate SAC area (again, European designation equivalent) [priority 5]. The project will also employ measures against invasive species (acacia and others) at the site [priority 2], as well as including new survey and monitoring programmes and the development of a management plan for the site [priority 1].

With regard to the policy priorities on p11 of the guidance, the project has clear and measurable objectives and will contribute to the long-term objective of good management and to increase resilience of the Akrotiri Ramsar site in a time of increasing drought and a challenging water regime in Cyprus. It will contribute towards the Akrotiri Management Plan developed by the SBAA. The SBAs do not have an Environment Charter, but the project will contribute to their stated aim to “provide advice and policy on all Environmental matters within the British Sovereign Base Areas in support of British Forces Cyprus and to encourage good ecological and conservation practice”.

- b) Although the process of wetland restoration is well established around Europe, more advanced techniques have not yet been extensively used in Cyprus, or within the SBAs. Water management measures that have now been successfully applied at a wetland in the RoC (Lake Oroklini) will be refined and adapted for application at Fassouri marsh in Akrotiri. Expertise will be provided by the RSPB, who has extensive and long term experience from similar work carried out in the UK, and opportunities to gain experience from other similar European sites will also be sought through the organisation of a small workshop in Cyprus and through visiting a wetland in Europe which is subject to multiple uses and provides many benefits for local societies, like the Camargue in France.
- c) The Akrotiri wetland complex is recognised by the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance. This project will restore an important part of the site to help it realise its potential to provide habitat for birds, other wildlife and plants, as well as increasing opportunities for local villagers to benefit from living in proximity with such a site, specifically through using the site for grazing animals and for collecting material for handicrafts (basketry). This project will establish a new management regime for the site and aim to keep it in the best possible state for biodiversity and to provide livelihood and ecotourism opportunities. The SBAA and local village should then be able to maintain the site in its improved state with minimal ongoing effort, and they are committed to doing this. Additionally, BirdLife Cyprus is committed to provide support and advice after the end of the project as well as monitor the bird populations, to use as an indicator for the health of the site.

**23. Who are the stakeholders** for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them. (250 words max)

The stakeholders include the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA), the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (AEEC), which is sponsored by the SBAA, the Akrotiri village, and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus (especially the Game and Fauna Service (GFS), Water

Development Department).

BirdLife Cyprus and the AEEC are co-proposers of this project, with BirdLife Cyprus providing the overall project management and coordination. The AEEC have been involved in all stages of the development of this project and will provide the link between the project, the SBAA and the local community at Akrotiri through the Akrotiri Community Council. An important objective of the project is to provide increased economic opportunities for villagers through increased grazing access, more opportunity to produce materials for handicrafts, and promotion of the area for birdwatching and ecotourism (including links to other activities, accommodation, shopping etc in Akrotiri village). Villagers already graze livestock at Fassouri and have indicated they would be pleased to have more opportunities to do this.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) do not have a direct role in managing Fassouri, but do have an interest in managing other wetlands (e.g. Lake Oroklini where BirdLife Cyprus has been working in partnership with the GFS to restore the wetland). A Steering Committee will be created with representatives from the RoC to share experience and ensure good exchange of information. Information on the project will also be freely available from the new Environmental Education Centre at Akrotiri and project website.

**24. Institutional Capacity:** Describe the implementing organisation's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.  
(500 words max)

BirdLife Cyprus (BC) was formed in 2003 and is now one of the most active non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Cyprus, working across the RoC and the SBAs. It is the national partner of BirdLife International in Cyprus. It has nine full-time staff, and an annual turnover of around €500,000 (half a million euro). BC receives core funding support from the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation and from the RSPB. It has successfully managed projects funded by the European Commission and the MAVA Foundation with total budgets of up to €800,000 euros (3 years). BC will appoint a full-time project manager for this work, while the project will be overseen by Dr Claire Papazoglou the Director of BC. Claire has more than 20 years experience of project management and working for conservation organisations. The project manager, Melpo Apostolidou, is a biologist who has been working in conservation for more than six years, who successfully coordinated Oroklini LIFE project, for the restoration of Natura 2000 site Oroklini in Cyprus which ends in 2014. She coordinated five project partners, all from the Republic, and an overall budget of €800,000 over three years. LIFE Oroklini project is a pioneering project for Cyprus. BC has extensive experience of financial management of projects and project reporting, and employs an accountant. The BC accounts are audited by an independent auditor annually as per the founding Constitution and presented to the Annual General Meeting.

Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (AEEC) has been operating since 2004 at Akrotiri Village based on a co-operation framework between the SBAA, the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Akrotiri Village. It is part of the Cyprus Network of Environmental Education Centres and offers organised educational programs to island wide schools. Visits under environmental programs cover around 6000 pupils annually as well as 4000 other visitors. It also participates in research on a variety of conservation issues and assists students from Cyprus and the rest of Europe on degree related research. One of its main objectives is to involve the local community in conservation by providing benefits such as eco-tourism, basketry, grazing etc. It employs a full time staff of four. Thomas Hadjikyriakou, is the AEEC Manager, and is a PhD candidate on Biodiversity and Ecology with 20 years of local experience in Forestry, Conservation and Environmental Education. Thomas Hadjikyriakou is managed by Mr Pantelis Charilaou, Environment and Conservation Officer, of the SBAA who also spends part of his time working for the AEEC.

The RSPB is the UK partner of BirdLife International and is Europe's largest conservation NGO with 1.1 million members and more than 1200 full-time staff. It has a comprehensive programme of work in the Overseas Territories and internationally, and has managed many Darwin Projects and is currently managing two Darwin Plus projects, as well as numerous European projects. The RSPB has worked closely with BirdLife Cyprus for the last 12 years, especially on the issue of illegal bird trapping. During this time, the RSPB has provided BirdLife Cyprus with an annual grant.

<b>25. Expected Outputs</b>			
<i>Output (what will be achieved e.g. capacity building, action plan produced, alien species controlled)</i>	<i>Indicators of success (how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted)</i>	<i>Status before project/baseline data (what is the situation before the project starts?)</i>	<i>Source of information (where will you obtain the information to demonstrate if the indicator has been achieved?)</i>
1. Habitat modified to create mosaic with increased species diversity and opportunities for villagers	<p>Site is visibly transformed from solid reedbed to a habitat mosaic (site map)</p> <p>Open habitat created where sedge/rush can re-colonise (in the future). Reeds cleared in an area of around 50ha</p> <p>More space for grazing animals created</p> <p>Bird diversity and plant diversity increased.</p>	<p>Site is dominated by reeds with little diversity</p> <p>Sedge and rush area is reduced and reeds have expanded to open areas leaving limited space for grazing animals</p> <p>Reeds have created a solid reedbed thus taking over suitable habitat for birds and eliminating local vegetation.</p>	<p>Project reports, photographs, habitat map</p> <p>Habitat map before and after works. Counts of grazing cattle as part of site monitoring.</p> <p>Bird and plant monitoring data collected and baseline studies carried out throughout the project.</p>
2. Site management plan developed based on clear site management objectives and site values monitored	<p>Site management plan will be developed and agreed by project Steering Committee. Clear site management objectives agreed.</p> <p>Preliminary studies (topography study, grazing carrying capacity, bird productivity, study on Killifish) produced Bird productivity and population assessment study produced</p>	<p>General information available, but no defined water management regime, site management objectives or site management plan for Fassouri in place.</p> <p>Some baseline information, but scattered. Insufficient information available for monitoring. No topography study available.</p>	<p>Water management regime Finalised site management plan Monitoring reports Data collected and preliminary studies produced.</p> <p>More information available from preliminary studies and bird productivity and population assessment study.</p>
3. Birdwatching tourism infrastructure developed and promoted	<p>Visitors observation tower, walkway, information boards and car parking all installed.</p> <p>Tourism leaflet developed and available at key locations</p> <p>Public awareness increased</p>	<p>No visitor facilities, limited possibilities for nature watching, no visitor access management. Small information board at site, no parking for birdwatchers.</p> <p>Difficult to find information about site. Link to village not clear.</p> <p>Lack of awareness among the public and local community.</p>	<p>Photographs and reports of new tourism infrastructure Website</p> <p>Photographs of visitors on site. Increased accommodation bookings at Akrotiri village. Increased demand of schools for Fassouri visits.</p> <p>Number of newspaper clippings about project, likes on Facebook page, and website clicks. Number of people attending event with local community.</p>
4. Project delivered on time and within budget	Reporting deadlines met, audit passed with no issues identified	N/A	Reports to Darwin Plus, financial reports, audit.



**26. Expected Outcomes:** How will each of the outputs contribute to the overall outcome of the project? (100 words max)

Output 1 includes the changes to the physical characters of the site and when the activities under this output are completed, the site will include a mosaic of habitats leading to increased species, especially birds and plants, diversity and more opportunities for grazing and collection of handicraft materials. The management plan developed through Output 2 will lead to gaining more knowledge about the site and good future management and maintenance of project outcomes. The visitor infrastructure designed through Output 3 will contribute to local economic development and enable sharing of experiences. Output 4 supports achievement of the other three outputs.

<b>27. Main Activities</b>	
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Habitat modified to create mosaic with increased species diversity and opportunities for villagers</b>
1.1	Design of site map and agreement by Project Steering Committee
1.2	Landscaping works to clear/remove reeds and create open areas and islets, dredging
1.3	Water management by clearing existing outlet ditches, install water control structures like sluices
1.4	Manage vegetation with grazing animals – purchase of Cyprus breed Cattle and mobile electric livestock fence, livestock watering troughs
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Baseline studies and Site management scheme/plan developed and site values monitored, travelling</b>
2.1	Production of a topography survey (contours)
2.2	Key bird species productivity study and population assessment
2.3	Production of a grazing animal carrying capacity study
2.4	Production of a study on Killifish (current condition, species requirements, management options) for Fassouri marsh.
2.5	Production of a water management regime
2.6	Monitoring of key variables carried out at site (water quality, bird species present, plants present, habitat area, etc.)
2.7	Site management plan, with clear site management objectives, drafted and agreed by Project Steering Committee
2.8	Workshop on wetland restoration held in Cyprus with experts from abroad to share knowledge and experience
2.9	Networking travel to a wetland abroad for Akrotiri Village, Environment Centre and BirdLife Cyprus
2.10	Purchase of equipment optics (binoculars, telescope, tripod and cover for telescope), computer for monitoring and project management, camera, chest waders, dingy, drone and camera

<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Engaging local community and visitor infrastructure developed and promoted</b>
3.1	Design and construction of observation tower with display space
3.2	Design and construction of information signs
3.3	Design and construction of a walkway to the observation tower
3.4	Allocation and development of designated parking area and bollards to restrict accessibility to site and guide cars to parking
3.5	Hire local villagers to make screening for walkway to observation tower
3.6	Hire local villagers to harvest sedges and other material for basketry
3.7	Design and production of ecotourism brochure for Akrotiri including other activities and products (e.g. basketry, handicrafts) in Akrotiri village and the wider area
3.8	Design and production of website to highlight Fassouri and other birdwatching tourism in the area
3.9	Production of project logo, small leaflet and sticker to promote project and Fassouri wetland at the early stages of the project
3.10	Organise two awareness raising events with the local community
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Project delivered on time and within budget</b>
4.1	Recruitment of project manager
4.2	Establishment of Project Steering Committee with key stakeholders
4.3	Regular Steering Committee meetings (minimum four in total)
4.4	Regular budget monitoring
4.5	Reporting

<b>28. Risks</b>			
Description of the risk	Likelihood the event will happen (H/M/L)	Impact of the event on the project (H/M/L)	Steps the project will take to reduce or manage the risk
Suitable contractors cannot be found to carry out major works, or fail to perform	L	H	BirdLife Cyprus will use experienced staff to carry out the tender processes using systems developed for previous projects. Works will be monitored closely during and after performance.
Bad weather delays work taking place	L	M	Contracting processes will allow sufficient time to allow work to be carried out within the correct season even if delays are necessary. Budget will not be allocated all

			in one year to allow for such eventualities.
Exchange rate fluctuations affect funds available for implementation	M	M	The RSPB will provide additional co-funding for any exchange-rate shortfall up to £10,000.

**29. Sustainability:** How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project has come to a close? If the project requires ongoing maintenance or monitoring, who will do this? (200 words max)

This project has a high level of support from the SBAA (the responsible site manager) and it is anticipated that there will be high support from the local village. Ongoing site management should be possible at low future cost and will be sustained by the SBAA in close cooperation with the local village. Villagers will have a role to play in maintaining ongoing grazing management at the site, and will also be involved in hosting birdwatching tourists and providing information about the site.

The new Environment Centre run by the SBAA whose construction is expected to be complete by October 2014 will include various new programmes that will highlight the value of Fassouri both to biodiversity and to the local community and will include field trips with students there.

BirdLife Cyprus will continue monitoring the site during the key seasons and will promote as a birdwatching destination through its website and through its publications.

BirdLife Cyprus will also aim to provide ongoing support and advice related to site management to the Bases after the end of the project, in the same way that it is committed to do in Oroklini (the other marsh in whose restoration it has been involved).

**30. Monitoring & Evaluation:** How will the project be monitored and who will be responsible? Will there be any independent assessment of progress and impact? When will this take place, and by whom? (250 words max)

The project will be monitored through BirdLife Cyprus's internal systems, and by the project partners. It will be also regularly monitored through the project Steering Committee which will meet every 6 months to review progress and which includes independent stakeholders from the Republic of Cyprus government agencies, which are not involved in the implementation of the project. Checks of the technical work being carried out by contractors will be done by RSPB and BirdLife Cyprus staff who are experts in wetland restoration and management (these will take place during works and after works are complete).

Monitoring and evaluation will be underpinned by detailed work plans prepared by project partners collaboratively. This is particularly important before planning the landscaping and construction work to be carried out by contractors.

Key activities to be monitored per output will be:

Output 1. Progress with design of site map, water management works, reed clearance, installation of water control measures, and landscaping works

Output 2. Implementation of monitoring and data collection, including studies, progress with water management regime, development of management plan, workshop in Cyprus and various travels for project (in country, abroad and visits from abroad) and timely purchase of equipment

Output 3. Progress with design/construction/installation of visitor facilities (observation tower and walkway), progress with design and production of awareness raising/communication material, including signs, website, brochures, project logo, sticker and events with community.

Output 4: Reporting (activity and financial)/auditing will be carried out as required by Darwin Plus.

The project completion report is after the project is over and is linked to the final payment.

**31. Financial controls:** Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. (Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?)

BirdLife Cyprus will be managing the funds of the Darwin project. BirdLife Cyprus has been running projects funded through grants or tenders since 2003. The last five years BirdLife Cyprus has won some EU funded projects which it has implemented successfully. BirdLife Cyprus is currently completing a LIFE project for the restoration of Oroklini wetland, apart from other roles in the project BirdLife Cyprus has been responsible for producing the financial reports and for recording the financial expenditures of all partners in order to fill in the financial report. The level of the budget is €797000 for 3 years, and BirdLife Cyprus' own budget is €393,000. So far all reports both by the External Monitoring Team and the European Commission about the projects process, including financial management, have been very positive.

BirdLife Cyprus has an accountant that is responsible for keeping all expenses and entering all expenses in the accounting system. The BirdLife Cyprus Executive Director authorises all payments and the accountant ensures that invoices are properly labelled, regulations and project requirements adhered to. BirdLife Cyprus uses SAGE (an accounting system). The yearly accounts are audited by External Auditors (KPMG Cyprus) and adopted at the Annual General meeting the next year by the General Assembly of members. BirdLife Cyprus also has an Internal Audit Committee which overviews procedures and processes and reports to the Annual General Meeting every year. The two members of the Internal Audit Committee are both from the banking sector.

Additionally, BirdLife Cyprus was a partner in a project funded under the Cross Border Cooperation of Greece and Cyprus (2007-2013). The project was led by the Game and Fauna Service of Cyprus and there were two partners in Cyprus and two more in Crete, Greece. The title was 'Restocking of the Griffon Vulture Population of Cyprus with birds from Crete' the project budget was €710369,18, and the BirdLife Cyprus budget was €113789,18, with EU (ERDF fund) co financing at 80%. As part of this project BirdLife Cyprus underwent an audit requested by the funding authority and implemented by the Internal Audit Service of the Republic of Cyprus. The audit took place between 25/6/2013 and 31/7/2013 and covered all expenses of 2012 (100% audit), a total of €36,547.50. BirdLife Cyprus passed the audit with only minor comments, and no ineligible expenses. Audit report available in Greek if needed.

The annual budget of BirdLife Cyprus is around €500,000 with the LIFE project ending in 2014, the Darwin application will be entirely manageable and will keep the yearly turnover at about the same levels as the previous two three years.

**Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.**

**NB:** Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. **Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted.** Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

### **33. Value for Money**

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget. (200 words max)

The budget for this project was calculated in Euro which is the Cyprus currency and using the experience of BirdLife Cyprus in recently implementing a similar project in the Republic of Cyprus at Oroklini. There was close consultation with the SBAA and the RSPB who also have relevant experience.

Value for money will be achieved through the use of efficient purchasing procedures including tender procedures for large sums. BirdLife Cyprus has similar experience from the EU-funded Lake Oroklini project, and BirdLife Cyprus and the RSPB have experience of monitoring contractor performance.

As an NGO, BirdLife Cyprus is experienced in obtaining best value for money for its donors and members. In discussions with the SBAA during project development it was apparent that BirdLife Cyprus could obtain best value for money through purchasing services in the Republic of Cyprus.

**Assumptions:**

We have converted the Euro budget to GBP, using the Euro Exchange rate as reported in the EU Official Journal on 4 January 2014, rate of 2 January, page 2, (Vol. 57, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2014:001:TOC>), which 0.8282 GBP to the Euro. If this changes significantly during the project, the RSPB will seek to make additional co-funding available to support BirdLife Cyprus in project implementation.

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project (Q1 starting April 2015)

Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1</b>									
1.1 Site map designed and agreed	3	✓							
1.2 Landscaping works, clearing reeds and dredging	6		✓	✓			✓	✓	
1.3 Water Management Works (clearing out outlet ditches, water control structures)	6		✓	✓			✓	✓	
1.4 Managing vegetation with grazing animals	12					✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Output 2</b>									
2.1 Topography survey	9	✓	✓				✓		
2.2 Bird productivity study and population assessment	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.3 Grazing animal carrying capacity study	6						✓	✓	✓
2.4 Study on Killifish	12				✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.5 Water Management Regime	6						✓	✓	
2.6 Monitoring key variables	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.7 Site Management Plan	6						✓	✓	✓
2.8 Workshop in Cyprus	3						✓		
2.9 Networking travel to wetlands abroad	2		✓				✓		
2.10 Purchase of equipment	2	✓				✓			
<b>Output 3</b>									
3.1 Observation tower with display space	3						✓	✓	
3.2 Information signs	2						✓	✓	
3.3 Walkway	3						✓	✓	
3.4 Parking and bollards	1			✓					
3.5 Screening of walkway	2						✓		
3.6 Harvest material for basketry	2					✓			
3.7 Ecotourism brochure	2							✓	
3.8 Website	2	✓	✓						
3.9 Project logo, small leaflet, sticker	1	✓	✓						

3.10 Awareness raising events with local community	2	✓				✓			
<b>Output 4</b>									
4.1 Recruitment of project manager	1	✓							
4.2 Project Steering Committee established	1	✓							
4.3 Project Steering Committee meetings	4	✓		✓		✓		✓	
4.4 Budget monitoring	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.5 Reporting	4		✓		✓		✓		✓

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of the trustees of **BirdLife Cyprus**  
(\*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of **£248,073 (two hundred and forty eight thousand and seventy three pounds)** in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 lead institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

**I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support.  
Our most recent audited accounts and annual report are also enclosed:**

<b>Name (block capitals)</b>	Menelaos Charalambides
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Council Chairman

**Signed**



**Date:**

1 August 2014



## Application Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you <b>read the Guidance Notes</b> ?	
Have you <b>checked the Darwin Plus website</b> immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	
Have you provided <b>actual start and end dates</b> for your project?	
Have you provided your <b>budget based on UK government financial years</b> ie 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	
Have you checked that your <b>budget is complete</b> , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	
Has your application been <b>signed by a suitably authorised individual</b> ? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	
Have you included a <b>1 page CV for all the principals</b> ?	
Have you included a <b>letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner(s) organisations</b> ?	
Have you included a <b>copy of the last 2 years' annual report and accounts</b> for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT Monday 4 August 2014 to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (e.g. whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). You are not required to send a hard copy.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Darwin Plus. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Plus monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (i.e. name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra/FCO/DFID websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Governor's Offices outside the UK, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.