



EIDPO035



DARWIN200

Submit by Monday 1 December 2008

DARWIN INITIATIVE: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 16: POST PROJECT

Please read the Guidance Notes for both Main Round and Post Project applications before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

1. Name and address of organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by post)

Name: RSPB	Address: The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL
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2. Post-Project details

Project Title (max 10 words): Tracking the Sociable Lapwing: conservation beyond the breeding grounds				
Proposed start and end dates: 1 st April 2009 – 31 st March 2011			Duration of project: 2 years	
Darwin funding requested	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
	£65,250	£75,750	£	£141,000

3. Original Project Title and Defra reference number (eg 162/-/--- or 10-065)

Conserving a flagship steppe species: the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing (15-032)

4. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. Letters of support must also be provided from the host country partner(s) endorsing the partnership and value of the Post Project funding. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide more than one overseas project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
Surname	Sheldon		Koshkin
Forename (s)	Robert David		Maxim
Post held	Head of Reserves Ecology, Scotland		Sociable Lapwing project officer
Institution (if different to above)	RSPB (as above)		Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK)
Department	Species and land management		
Telephone			
Email			

5. Define the purpose of the Post Project (extracted from logframe) and explain how it is linked to the objectives of the original Darwin project? (Max 200 words)

This project aims to extend and develop local capacity to better understand and improve the conservation status of the Sociable Lapwing in all key countries on its migration routes and wintering areas. The population of this species has declined by 90%; intensive study on the breeding grounds in Kazakhstan suggests that research and conservation efforts now need to focus on the poorly-understood migration routes and wintering areas, where hunting is a likely cause of population decline. Targeted effort is required to understand the species' non-breeding distribution and threats it faces. Satellite telemetry will be used to guide field surveys by project partners in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The method was successfully trialled in the original Darwin project and some important staging posts have already been identified along the western flyway, though the eastern flyway remains unknown. This will lead to the development of national Action Plans in key non-breeding range states and will update the AEWA International Species Action Plan. The project will also contribute to the development of conservation capacity in a number of countries and will thus build on the original Darwin project's aim by further enhancing international conservation collaboration across the species' entire range.

6. What have been the main outcomes (achievements) of the original project to date? (max 300 words)

The intensive research component of the original Darwin project has revealed a great deal about the species' ecology, distribution, breeding success and habitat use on the breeding grounds in Kazakhstan. Breeding success, though variable, is generally high, suggesting that the causes of decline may lie on the migration routes or wintering grounds and that conservation work outside the breeding grounds is now required. Hunting may be important in some range states (a threat that was underestimated by the original AEWA International Species Action Plan).

We have demonstrated that using satellite tracking technology and colour ringing, individuals can be tracked to identify migration routes and wintering grounds. One of the key migration routes has been partly identified, and the identification of wintering grounds in Sudan is critical for targeting target future conservation effort.

The original Darwin project using the Sociable Lapwing as a flagship steppe species has played a substantial role in developing local conservation capacity with the project partner in Kazakhstan and raised awareness of the need for conservation effort in the Central Asian steppe ecosystem – one of the least protected ecosystems in the world.

Research capacity within Kazakhstan has been increased through the training of the local Sociable Lapwing Project Officer and 12+ biology students. Experiential training and intensive workshops delivered by UK conservation experts has greatly contributed to increasing the capacity of ACBK to undertake high quality applied research and conservation work.

A coalition of collaborating conservation NGOs across the species' range including new partners not included in the original Darwin project such as in Syria, Sudan and Iraq has developed. A further outcome of the original project has been the greatly improved communication and collaboration between the project partners, which the Post Project will build on.

7. What steps have been taken to ensure that project purpose and outputs of the original project will be achieved within the original project term? (max 200 words)

The original project aimed to develop effective mechanisms and capacity to improve the conservation status of Sociable Lapwing. This has certainly been achieved and virtually all the key elements will have been completed within the timeframe originally envisaged. The breeding season work was completed on schedule, the migration studies have made very significant advances and, in the latter part of the original project, we have been supported by new project partners in a number of range states, including Sudan and Iraq. The work to build research and conservation in Kazakhstan has made very significant progress, with the training of key staff, all of whom will be retained on the project in the forthcoming years.

The Sociable Lapwing project website has become a valuable tool and will be maintained once the original project has been completed. The existing International Species Action Plan (Output 7) will be reviewed and a draft revised plan will be produced in Spring 2009.

Some additional funding support will be provided by RSPB and Swarovski Optik, which will significantly enhance long-term conservation prospects for the species, but the current application is crucial to deliver this work on the international scale necessary across all range states.

8. Please list the UK/collaborative (where there are partners in addition to the applicant organisation) and host country partners that will be involved in the Post Project, and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project and in the original project (if applicable). Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including Post Project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of host country partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

Partner Name:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):
Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK)	ACBK will lead on co-ordinating all activities in Kazakhstan and this will build on their crucial contribution to the original Darwin project. Maxim Koshkin, Sociable Lapwing project officer for ACBK, will maintain the project website and also the sightings database which were developed from the original Darwin project. ACBK will jointly be responsible for the publication of the national Species Action Plan in Kazakhstan and the completion of the revised International Species Action Plan. Through the involvement of 2 Darwin projects "Conserving a flagship steppe species: conserving the critically endangered sociable lapwing" and "Important Bird Area conservation and capacity building in Central Asia", and through the large-scale Altyn Dala conservation Initiative, ACBK are strongly placed to assist in delivery of the Post-Project. ACBK have been involved in the development of this Post-Project proposal.

Partner Name:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):
Doğa Derneği (DD)	DD are the Birdlife partner in Turkey and have been crucial in discovering significant flocks of Sociable Lapwing and identifying a key stopover site in that country. DD will continue to undertake survey work in Turkey, both reactively (through satellite tracking locations) and through proactively targeting known staging areas in the east of Turkey. The development of local language information materials and awareness raising initiatives will be led by DD. DD will lead on the development of a new national species action plan for Sociable Lapwing.

<p>Partner Name:</p> <p>Syrian Society for Conservation and Wildlife (SSCW)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>SSCW are the Birdlife partner in Syria and have been involved in Sociable Lapwing survey work in recent years. Although not an official partner in the original Darwin project, they have worked closely with the Sociable Lapwing team and co-ordinated survey efforts in response to information from the satellite tracking work. SSCW are currently involved in the development of local language information materials and will develop these further as part of the follow-up project. Hunting of Sociable Lapwing has been reported in parts of Syria and SSCW will continue survey efforts and where appropriate develop links with local and national law enforcement agencies to enhance protection of the species. SSCW will lead on the development of a new national species action plan for Sociable Lapwing.</p>
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<p>Partner Name:</p> <p>Russian Bird Conservation Union (RBCU)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>RBCU are the Birdlife partner in Russia and have been closely involved in the original Darwin project through survey work on the breeding grounds in Russia (the only other country where Sociable Lapwing breeds). Sociable Lapwings also migrate through south-western Russia and RBCU will develop survey projects in these areas to identify key stop over sites. RBCU will lead on the development of a new national species action plan for Sociable Lapwing.</p>
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<p>Partner Name:</p> <p>Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>BNHS are the Birdlife partner in India and have been involved in the original Darwin project through supporting survey work in the winter of 2008/09. The migration routes and wintering grounds in this flyway are poorly known and BNHS's involvement will be crucial in identifying these areas in India. BNHS will lead on the development of a new national species action plan for Sociable Lapwing.</p>
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<p>Partner Name:</p> <p>Sudanese Wildlife Society (SWS)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>SWS have been liaising with the original Darwin project team since 2007 when satellite tracking revealed Sudan to be a wintering area for Sociable Lapwings. SWS undertook survey work at short notice using satellite locations provided by the Sociable Lapwing team. SWS will continue to undertake survey work in Sudan and will be in a position to expand their input to surveys with increased funding. Birdlife Africa will work closely with SWS to help increase their conservation capacity (see letter of support). SWS will lead on the development of a new national species action plan for Sociable Lapwing.</p>
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Partner Name: Nature Iraq (NI)	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): NI have been liaising with the Sociable Lapwing project team since 2008 when there were reports of a significant flock of Sociable Lapwing reported in Iraq. Hunting of Sociable Lapwing is known to take place in Iraq. NI will co-ordinate and undertake survey efforts within Iraq where feasible. NI are currently helping with the development of local language information material to alert locals not to hunt Sociable Lapwings. Additional materials will be produced as part of the follow up project. NI will lead on the development of a new national species action plan for Sociable Lapwing.
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Partner Name: The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): AEWA is an intergovernmental treaty covering 117 Range States in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. It is an agreement of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The Sociable Lapwing is a high priority species for AEWA, which oversaw the production of an international Species Action Plan (SAP) for the species in 2002. AEWA will be instrumental in revising the draft SAP in spring 2009 as an output of the original Darwin project. AEWA will jointly lead on developing a fully revised International Species Action Plan in spring 2011 once there is greater knowledge of the species' migration routes and wintering grounds, and is a key output of the follow up project. AEWA will work closely with the project team and partners to implement current and future conservation actions outlined in SAPs.
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9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

The Birdlife International Secretariat have been contacted and the project discussed with staff at the UK headquarters, and the Middle East and African offices. The role of Birdlife offices will be to assist the project leader in supporting collaborative organisations in their respective regions. Letters of support are attached. Swarovski Optik and RSPB became Sociable Lapwing Species Champions in August 2008 under the BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme (PEP). Swarovski Optik endorses this RSPB application and has pledged to continue to help fund the work to conserve this species throughout its range. This Post Project application includes substantial co-funding from Swarovski Optik.

9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

As the project develops, we will consult the relevant statutory agencies in the countries of each of the collaborating partners. We may need to identify additional stakeholders if new range states are identified during the course of the follow-up project. Our close liaison with AEWA and the Birdlife regional offices will enhance our ability to develop future partnerships where necessary.

9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated? Yes No
If yes, please give details:

ACBK consult regularly with the relevant government agencies in Kazakhstan and will continue to do so. The Committee of Forestry and Hunting have been very supportive of the original Darwin project and have provided a letter of support for this application (attached).

AEWA work closely with Contracting Parties and government agencies in the countries identified in this project proposal. As part of the full revision of the international SAP, AEWA will co-ordinate necessary governmental involvement across the range states.

9d. Is liaison proposed with the CBD/CMS/CITES focal point in the host country? Yes No
If yes, please give details:

All BirdLife project partners are in regular contact with their CMS and CBD focal points and will ensure that data generated by the project are fed into CMS and CBD reporting, via their national focal points.

POST PROJECT DETAILS

10. Please provide a Concept Note (max 1,000 words). Describe the problem to be addressed, explain why it is a priority for the host country and how its resolution will improve host country ability to meet it's obligations under CBD/CMS/CITES. The proposed strategy and its intended outcomes should be described adequately, including justification for and brief details of the contribution of each UK and host country partner.

The Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* was classified as Critically Endangered by Birdlife International/IUCN in 2002, due to a decline of 90% in two decades for which the causes were poorly understood. An International Species Action Plan published by AEWA in 2004 highlighted the need for detailed scientific research to understand the cause of this decline. In response, a pilot study was initiated in 2004 and preliminary findings were published that suggested that the decline was due to low breeding success as a result of trampling of nests by domestic livestock. In 2005, RSPB and ACBK initiated collaborative autecological research on the Sociable Lapwing under the auspices of the Birdlife partnership. From 2006, this was funded by the Darwin Initiative. The original Darwin project supported the most detailed and comprehensive study ever undertaken on a bird of the central Asian steppes, and has generated vast amounts of information on the species' breeding ecology, distribution and habitat use. Critically, this research does not support an earlier hypothesis that the population decline results from poor breeding success. Breeding success recorded by comprehensive studies in 2005-08 was generally high. The relatively high breeding success coupled with low return rates of colour ringed birds suggest that the problems are more likely to be associated with factors operating on the migration routes and/or wintering grounds. A review of historical records helped to identify the key range states where survey work was required. In addition to this, in autumn 2006 new lightweight satellite tags became available that could be used to track the Sociable Lapwing from its breeding grounds in Kazakhstan to unknown wintering grounds. In the summer of 2007, the Sociable Lapwing became the smallest bird ever to be fitted with a satellite tag and two birds were successfully tracked through the Middle East into previously unknown wintering grounds in Sudan. We now have a clear understanding of breeding performance and habitat requirements on the breeding grounds in Kazakhstan, but urgently need a greater understanding of migration routes, stopover sites and wintering grounds. This information will enable conservationists to build on the outstanding achievements of the initial Darwin project and develop new conservation measures targeted across the species' key range states and important sites.

Under the Darwin Post-Project, we propose to build upon the original project's achievements and trap further adult birds to fit with satellite tags and colour rings. Locations of these birds will be downloaded every few days and their coordinates sent to project partners in Russia, Turkey, Syria, Sudan, Pakistan and India, who will use these coordinates to intercept birds in the field, collect information on flock size, habitat use and threats and look for colour-ringed birds. As Sociable Lapwings migrate in large flocks, tracking a single bird can lead to the finding of large flocks, some of which might contain over 20% of the total world population (as shown during the original Darwin project). This method of remote guiding of field teams was responsible for the discovery of important passage stopover sites in Turkey and Syria.

All the countries involved (with the exception of Iraq) are signatories both to the CMS and the CBD and this project will enable them to fulfil their commitments under these conventions (including under AEWA), through support for the conservation of a Critically Endangered migratory bird species across all of its range states. Sociable Lapwings from the central part of Kazakhstan are believed to migrate west along the northern part of the Caspian Sea and then down into the Middle East. To date we have tagged three birds that have undertaken this route. To build on these preliminary findings, we need to satellite tag birds in the eastern part of Kazakhstan and identify which breeding populations are migrating down into India. Survey work undertaken as part of the original project located populations in the east and one bird was tagged in 2008. Unfortunately, this tag failed in August. A key aim of the Post-Project will be to continue the satellite tagging programme in 2009 in addition to colour-ringing a large sample of both chicks and adults in Kazakhstan and to use local survey teams to intercept migrating flocks along their flyways. To date we have located colour-ringed birds in southwest Russia and Turkey, which has further aided our understanding of the migration routes. This combination of satellite tagging, colour-marking and targeted field surveys will give us sufficient knowledge to develop effective conservation mechanisms throughout the known range of the Sociable Lapwing.

To enable us to gain a thorough understanding of the migration routes, targeted survey and monitoring work will be required from both existing and new project partners. Low-level survey work has already been undertaken at newly identified key sites in southwest Russia (Manych wetlands) and Turkey (Ceylan Pinar region). This follow-up project will allow more intensive surveys in these areas and the introduction of targeted survey effort in Syria, Sudan, Iraq and India. In the last 18 months, hunting has been identified (in Syria and Iraq) as a possible contributing factor explaining the population decline in Sociable Lapwings. Project partners will develop local information materials and develop advocacy work to address the issue of hunting. The development of an Arabic anti-hunting poster aimed at falconers in Syria and Iraq is currently being planned. However, further work is required in both these countries and across the species' range for this issue to be more fully addressed.

The project will assist with the development of national Action Plans for the species throughout all the key range states. It will also continue the invaluable capacity building and training work initiated by the earlier Darwin project and extend this to other countries in the species migration and wintering areas and support efforts to secure longer-term funding for the conservation of this species. Swarovski Optik and RSPB have both committed funds to help support the conservation of this bird, as Species Champions under the BirdLife International Preventing Extinctions Programme.

11. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/Darwin Initiative projects carrying out similar work? Yes No

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have/will been made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:

The Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI) is a partnership project between the Government of Kazakhstan, ACBK, RSPB & Frankfurt Zoological Society. The project aims to establish a large protected area for the conservation of Saiga Antelope that will benefit a suite of steppe species such as Sociable Lapwing. The original Darwin project team have established strong working relationships with the ADCI project team and ranger staff. Maxim Koshkin, Sociable Lapwing project officer, undertook ornithological surveys with the ADCI ranger team in 2008. Saiga Antelope are the natural wild herbivore of the central Asian steppe and are thought to have co-evolved with Sociable Lapwing. One aspect of the future ADCI research programme is to undertake grazing studies of Saiga Antelope to understand the relationships between the natural graziers and associated biodiversity. The ultimate aim of the ADCI is to restore a natural steppe ecosystem with its full complement of associated wildlife, of which Sociable Lapwing is a key species. No other research or conservation work is addressing the needs of this species.

12. Please indicate which of the following biodiversity conventions your project will contribute to:

At least one must be selected.

- Only indicate the conventions that your project is directly contributing to.

- No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one convention

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Yes No

CITES Yes No

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Yes No

What problem is this project addressing and how was it identified? (150 words)

The problem being addressed is the recent 90% decline in the population of the Sociable Lapwing, which resulted in its IUCN status being uplisted to Critically Endangered and the preparation of an AEWA International Species Action Plan. The original Darwin project undertook an intensive research programme on the breeding grounds, which showed breeding success to be generally high, suggesting that the factors driving the declines are likely to operate on the migration routes or wintering grounds. However, these remain very poorly known, preventing conservation action that is likely to improve the species' status. Further work is also needed to clarify some aspects of the routes and areas involved. This knowledge is fundamental to understanding the causes of the population decline and ultimately to reversing that trend. As such, it will build on the significant advances made in the original Darwin project.

What will change as a result of this project? (150 words)

The identification of key migration routes, stopover sites and wintering grounds and the threats faced by Sociable Lapwings in each will allow conservation measures to be drawn up to protect the species throughout its entire range. This improved understanding will guide the development or revision of international and national Species Action Plans. As a result of these actions, it is hoped that the species' conservation status will eventually improve. Furthermore, project partners in countries that currently undertake little research work will benefit from increased research capacity. Existing networks will be strengthened and the innovative scientific methods used will inform conservation science more widely. The original and Post-Projects together will result in a body of work that will be an exemplar of state-of-the-art bird research and conservation in the region.

Why is the project important for the conservation of biodiversity? (150 words)

Sociable Lapwing is listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered, placing it among the 190 bird species worldwide most likely to become extinct in the near future. The species is therefore a global conservation priority. The Sociable Lapwing has served as a flagship species for Central Asian steppe, one of the least protected habitats in the world. This Post-Project builds on the enormous success of the original project and will use the species as a flagship for developing conservation across the species' migratory flyway. The lessons learned and capacity created will therefore be of conservation significance beyond the protection of a single species.

How does this relate to one or more of the biodiversity conventions? (150 words)

All breeding, passage and wintering range states of the Sociable Lapwing, with the exception of Iraq, have ratified the **CBD** and all are Signatories or Parties to the CMS with the exceptions of Turkey and Iraq. This project will help all these range states to meet their international obligations to the CBD by contributing towards thematic programmes *Agricultural Biodiversity* and *Dry and Humid Lands Biodiversity*. The project addresses a number of CBD articles, particularly 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 18. Sociable Lapwing is listed on Appendix I of the **CMS**. One of the CMS Agreements, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), produced the first action plan for the Sociable Lapwing and is a project partner. The CMS also launched in 2008 an action plan for the Central Asian Flyway, along which route the Sociable Lapwing migrates and is the most threatened species.

13. Explain how gains from the Post-project work will be distinct and additional to those of the existing project. Show where possible how these gains require limited resources and could not be achieved without the funding. (max 200 words)

The original project aimed to develop effective mechanisms and capacity to improve the conservation status of the Sociable Lapwing. Intensive research on the breeding grounds has disproved hypotheses that the species had declined because of poor breeding success. Limited work on the migration routes suggests instead that illegal hunting might be an important factor. Whilst undertaking a small amount of research work in the core area in Kazakhstan to enable the continuation of colour-marking and satellite tagging, the focus will now switch to locating birds on their migration routes and wintering grounds. The original project clearly demonstrated the potential to work with existing partners in non-breeding range states using minimal resources to gain substantial knowledge. This Post-Project will build on this, both within existing partner countries, and in new countries such as Iraq and Sudan. Using the financial resources provided by this Post-Project will enhance further fundraising opportunities in countries where conservation resources are low. Identifying key stopover sites, migration routes and wintering areas is crucial to developing an appropriate package of measures to achieve the higher level aims of the original project to improve the conservation status of this species.

14. What will be the long term benefits of the project in the host country or region and how will these help to strengthen the impact and legacy of your original Darwin project? Have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits? (max 250 words)

The project will build on the legacy already apparent in our main partner in the original Darwin project, ACBK in Kazakhstan. This Post-Project will leave a lasting legacy in generating the knowledge necessary to protect the Sociable Lapwing and building NGO capacity within key range states across the migration routes and wintering grounds. Thus, the combined legacy of both the original project and Post-Project will be conservation measures developed and implemented across the species' entire range. New project partners, particularly in Iraq and Sudan, will gain substantial benefits from collaborating with the international conservation community. It is envisaged that this project will help both project partners to work towards full membership of the Birdlife Partnership and so benefit in perpetuity from the support that Birdlife International gives to its partners. The original project and Post-Project will form the definitive study of a threatened breeding species of the Central Asian steppe and its migratory flyway and will add greatly to the limited scientific literature on the steppe ecosystem. We expect the project to be an exemplar of applying sound science to conservation and advocacy actions across the range of a migratory species through the development of a strong network of NGO partners.

15. State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave? (Max 200 words)

Upon completion of the Post-Project we will have researched all the key stages in the Sociable Lapwing's life cycle and have a clear understanding of the threats facing it on the breeding, migration and wintering grounds. All the knowledge gained through both the original Darwin project and the Post-Project will feed into appropriate and achievable conservation measures through the both international and national SAPs for Sociable Lapwing. Upon completion of the Post-Project, Birdlife Partner organisations will have enhanced their capacity to undertake targeted conservation efforts aimed at conserving the Sociable Lapwing. The Birdlife Partnership will continue its institutional support to project partner organisations, ensuring that the capacity gained will not be lost to conservation. The Sociable Lapwing, as a Critically Endangered species, also forms part of the new Preventing Extinctions Programme of BirdLife International, providing the structure for a safety net of potential funding and expertise that will last until the species' conservation status improves. Corporate sponsorship from Swarovski Optik has already been guaranteed to continue some support for this species with the migration studies, and further sponsors will need to be found to support the national Action Plans in other range states.

16. How will the results of the project be disseminated; how will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways will the Darwin name and logo be used? (max 200 words)

We will continue to promote the Sociable Lapwing project through the popular and scientific press. The original Darwin project has already featured in popular articles for RSPB's *Birds* magazine (almost 2 million readers), *Der Falke* (popular German language magazine) and Air Astana's in-flight magazine in Kazak, Russian and English (c2.5 million passengers per year). It also featured in BBC Radio 4's *World on the Move*. All these articles and programmes have reached international audiences and the Darwin Initiative has been credited. Scientific papers will be also submitted for peer review in respected conservation journals (two papers have already been submitted and two more are in preparation). International conferences will be attended where possible and presentations given on all aspects of the research. We will continue to maintain the Sociable Lapwing website as the main dissemination tool during the life of the project and beyond. In addition, we will continue to write Press Releases highlighting key findings as the project develops; the original project reached international audiences with press releases in UK, Kazakhstan, Sudan and Turkey. All information materials and publicity undertaken as part of the current Darwin project have included the Darwin logo and this will continue.

17. If your project includes training and development, please indicate how you will assess the training needs in relation to the overall purpose of the project. Who are the target groups? How will the training be delivered? What skills and knowledge do you expect the beneficiaries to obtain. How will you measure training effectiveness. (max 300 words)

Training and development formed an integral part of the original Darwin project and we aim to build on the successes to date. The focus in Kazakhstan will move from UK-led workshops and direct support of researchers in the field to supporting the delivery of local training run by the staff of the original project. Training and development of new and existing research staff will be undertaken by project staff in Kazakhstan with limited input from the Project Leader. This greater role for staff in Kazakhstan forms part of their own personal development and upon completion of the post project, we expect them to be leading additional conservation projects within the host country. Additionally, more students will receive hands-on experiential training within Kazakhstan. We will continue the model developed by the original project of training promising undergraduates at formal workshops, then employing the best of them on the project subsequently to receive experiential training. A number of gifted young Kazakh researchers who have come through this training school are now employed by ACBK on this and other projects. The Project Leader will provide further training in advanced trapping techniques and attaching satellite tags, as well as providing further mentoring of Kazakh researchers. A UK expert in the use of cannon netting will form part of the project team in June 2008, we think this is the first time cannon netting will have been used in Kazakhstan and will provide an excellent opportunity to train local staff in different trapping techniques. In host countries across the species' range, RSPB will provide training in survey techniques through the use of experienced sabbatical staff on the ground and through remote responsive support.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

18. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex 3 of the Guidance Note for Main applications.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Sub-Goal: The conservation status of the sociable lapwing is improved throughout its range</p>	<p>Species' conservation status is down-listed from Critically Endangered</p>	<p>BirdLife/IUCN reports</p>	
<p>Purpose To extend and develop local capacity to better understand and improve the conservation status of the Sociable Lapwing in all key countries along its migration routes and in its wintering areas</p>	<p>Distribution and threats in passage and wintering range states documented Targets and conservation measures agreed in key range states by end of project. Actions initiated to protect key passage sites in Turkey and Syria</p>	<p>Scientific papers International Species Action Plan fully revised and ratified National Species Action Plans produced across all key range states</p>	

<p>Outputs (add or delete rows as necessary)</p> <p>0. Project management structures established and implemented</p>	<p>Project steering group incorporating all key project partners guides project throughout</p>	<p>Steering group members identified on project web-site</p> <p>Regular newsletter published by steering group</p>	
<p>1. Satellite tag attachment and colour-ringing of birds on breeding grounds continues</p>	<p>At least 4 satellite tags fitted to birds in at least 2 regions of Kazakhstan and 250 birds fitted with individual colour ring combinations</p>	<p>Ringling logs</p> <p>Two scientific papers, press releases, web site</p>	
<p>2. Migration routes and stop-over areas are identified across the species' world range</p>	<p>Satellite tracking and observation of colour-ringed birds demonstrate migration routes and wintering areas of eastern and western populations</p>	<p>Scientific paper on Sociable Lapwing flyways.</p> <p>Migration map produced and published</p>	
<p>3. Location, extent and habitat of the Sociable Lapwing's wintering areas clarified</p>	<p>Project partners locate Sociable Lapwings in the field in winter</p> <p>Predictive models of winter distribution produced using data collected in field by project partners</p>	<p>Maps of Sociable Lapwing distribution in the key wintering countries, Sudan and India</p> <p>Scientific paper and press releases, web- site updated</p>	
<p>4. Causes and degree of threats at key passage and wintering sites assessed</p>	<p>Causes of mortality of individual birds identified</p> <p>Estimates of land cover change at key passage and wintering sites quantified</p>	<p>Scientific papers</p> <p>Web-site updated</p> <p>Species Action Plans</p>	
<p>5. Public awareness raised in all key migration and wintering areas on the importance of Sociable Lapwing and the degree and nature of threats that it faces</p>	<p>Local people become involved in monitoring and protection by end of project</p>	<p>Information material and project reports</p> <p>Website</p> <p>Press releases</p>	
<p>6. International and national Species Action Plans developed and agreed within each of the key range states</p>	<p>End of project International SAP revision workshop held</p> <p>National SAP meetings held and plans published</p>	<p>Completed revised International SAP</p> <p>National SAPs</p> <p>Published on project web-site</p>	

Activities (details in workplan)

- 1.1 Locate breeding colonies in Kazakhstan and attach colour rings and satellite tags
- 1.2 Undertake surveys of post-breeding flocks to look for tagged/ringed birds
- 1.3 Canon netting expedition by UK expert to catch adult birds in post-breeding flocks
- 2.1 Undertake survey work at Manych Wetland and other sites in Caucasus, southwest Russia
- 2.2 Undertake survey work in Ceylanpinnar and other areas in eastern Turkey
- 2.3 Undertake survey work in northern Syria
- 2.4 Undertake survey work in Iraq
- 2.5 Track satellite tagged birds and provide weekly updates to partner countries
- 2.6 Undertake survey work in additional countries as dictated by 2.5
- 3.1 Undertake survey work in India
- 3.2 Undertake survey work in Sudan
- 3.3 Undertake survey work in additional countries as dictated by 2.5
- 4.1 Undertake questionnaire surveys of local people during survey work in all range states
- 4.2 Undertake prolonged observations of migrating/wintering flocks to assess causes of mortality
- 4.3 Undertake analysis of land cover data at key sites to assess long-term change
- 5.1 Production of information materials (India)
- 5.2 Production of information materials (Arabic)
- 5.3 Production of information materials (Turkish)
- 5.4 Production of information materials (Russian/Kazakh)
- 5.5 Update Sociable Lapwing website
- 6.1 Plan International SAP workshop
- 6.2 Hold International SAP workshop
- 6.3 Publish International Species Action Plan
- 6.4 Publish National Species Action Plans

Monitoring activities:

Indicator 1 Steering group meetings held, reports produced

Indicator 2 Satellite tags and specialist equipment ordered and purchased

Indicator 3 Develop and circulate survey protocol

Indicator 4

19. 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 Post Project.

Activity	Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.1 Locate breeding colonies in Kazakhstan and attach colour rings and satellite tags	6	■	■			■	■						
1.2 Undertake surveys of post-breeding flocks to look for tagged/ringed birds	2		■				■						
1.3 Canon netting expedition by UK expert to catch adult birds in post-breeding flocks	1		■										
2.1 Undertake survey work at Manych Wetland and other sites in Caucasus, southwest Russia	2			■				■					
2.2 Undertake survey work in Ceylanpinnar and other areas in eastern Turkey	4			■	■			■	■				
2.3 Undertake survey work in northern Syria	4			■	■			■	■				
2.4 Undertake survey work in Iraq	4			■	■			■	■				
2.5 Track satellite tagged birds and provide weekly updates to partner countries	20		■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
2.6 Undertake survey work in additional countries as dictated by 2.5	4		■	■	■			■	■				
3.1 Undertake survey work in India	4			■	■			■	■				
3.2 Undertake survey work in Sudan	4			■	■			■	■				
3.3 Undertake survey work in additional countries as dictated by 2.5	4			■	■			■	■				
4.1 Undertake questionnaire surveys of local people during survey work in all range states	4			■	■			■	■				
4.2 Undertake prolonged observations of migrating/wintering flocks to assess causes of mortality	4			■	■			■	■				
4.3 Undertake analysis of land cover data at key sites to assess long-term change								■	■				
5.1 Production of information materials for India	1		■										
5.2 Production of information materials for Syria, Iraq & Sudan (in Arabic)	1		■										
5.3 Production of information materials for Turkey	1		■										

5.4	Production of information materials for Kazakhstan and Russia (bilingual)	1												
5.5	Update the Sociable Lapwing project website	8												
6.1	Plan International SAP workshop	4												
6.2	Hold International SAP workshop	0.25												
6.3	Completion and publication of International Species Action Plan	1												
6.4	Completion and publication of National Species Action Plans	1												

20. Please indicate which of the following Standard Measures you are likely to report against. You will not necessarily plan to cover all these Standard Measures in your project.

Standard Measure No	Description	Tick if Relevant
1A	Number of people to submit thesis for PhD qualification (in host country)	
1B	Number of people to attain PhD qualification (in host country)	
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc)	
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications (ie. Not outputs 1 or 2 above)	
4A	Number of undergraduate students to receive training	✓
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	✓
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	✓
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	✓
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	✓
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	✓
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	✓
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	✓
12A	Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to host country	✓
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country	✓
13A	Number of species reference collections to be established and handed over to host country(ies)	
13B	Number of species reference collections to be enhanced and handed over to host country(ies)	
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	✓
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	✓
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	✓
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	✓
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	✓
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	✓
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	✓
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	✓
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	
18D	Number of local TV programmes/features in UK	
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	✓
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	✓
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	✓
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	✓
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	✓

PROJECT BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

21. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring and evaluation of the project will be an important component of the work of the UK Project Leader, overseen by the steering group established at the start of the project. Regular telephone conferencing and email communication between the project partners will ensure that the project delivers its objectives in terms of the indicators in the Logical Framework and the standard measures listed above. We will also ask AEWA to evaluate the progress of the project in relation to the objectives laid out in their existing Species Action Plan. Regular reports will be produced throughout the project and widely circulated to scientific colleagues for peer review. Host country partners will submit survey reports for inclusion on the project website.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which will provide the Budget information for this application. Some of the questions below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (April to March). Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative will not be able to agree increases in grants to cover inflation on UK costs once grants are awarded.

22. How is your organisation currently funded? (max 100 words)

In 2007/8, the RSPB had a total gross income of £103.9million. This was made up as follows:

Membership subscriptions:	£26.3 million	25%
Legacies:	£27.0 million	26%
Grants:	£21.7 million	21%
Mail order and shop income:	£13.0 million	13%
Donations and reserve entry fees:	£3.2 million	3%
Appeals:	£3.9 million	4%
Media Advertising:	£1.2 million	1%
Land and farming income:	£1.6 million	2%
Other Income:	£5.9 million	6%

23. Provide details of all confirmed funding sources identified in the Budget that will be put towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity. Please include any additional unconfirmed funding the project will attract to carry out addition work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.

Confirmed:

Funding through Swarovski Optik has already been guaranteed to continue support for this species through activities on the migration routes and wintering grounds.

In-kind contributions of RSPB staff time comes through RSPB core funding as outlined above. Project co-ordinators in each host country will also provide contributions through their organisations own core funding.

Unconfirmed:

We are currently in discussions with the natural cosmetics company, LUSH, who have approached RSPB about supporting Sociable Lapwing conservation work. These discussions are ongoing and the outcome is expected in the early 2009.

24. Please give details of any further funding resources (confirmed or unconfirmed) sought from the host country partner (s) or others for this project that are not already detailed in the Budget or Question 22. This will include donations in kind or un-costed support eg accommodation. (max 50 words per box)

Financial resources:

Funding in kind:

25. What was the amount of funding for the original Darwin Project?

	Total Project Costs £
Amount of original Darwin Initiative project funding	£185,863
+ Funding/Income from other sources	£71,909
= Total original project cost	£257,764

FCO NOTIFICATION

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise details of the Darwin Post-project and the resultant work in the UK or in the host country.

CERTIFICATION 2009/10

On behalf of the trustees* of **RSPB**

I apply for a grant of £65,250 in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 2010 on the activities 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 UK institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

I enclose a copy of the organisation's most recent audited accounts and annual report, CVs for project principals and letters of support.

Name (block capitals)	Dr David Gibbons
Position in the organisation	Head of Conservation Science, RSPB

Signed



Date:

1/12/2008

Post Project Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Yes
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	Yes
Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	Yes
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	Yes
Is the logframe no longer than 2 pages?	Yes
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	Yes
Have you included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader, any other UK staff working >50% on this project, and for a main individual in each overseas partner organisation?	Yes
Have you included a letter of support from the main overseas partner organisations?	Yes
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Yes
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	Yes
Have you read the Guidance Notes for both Main projects and Post Projects ?	Yes

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on **Monday 1 December 2008** to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the first few words of the project title as the subject of your email. However, 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 (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). In addition, a hard copy of the application and any supporting documents not available electronically should be submitted to the Darwin Applications Management Unit, c/o ECTF, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL postmarked **not later than Tuesday 2 December 2008**.

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 the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative 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 (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra 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 Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, 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.