



DARWIN INITIATIVE

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2003

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Please note the additional information requirements (CVs and letters of support as detailed in the Guidance for Applicants)

Submit by 22 April 2003

1. Contact Details

<i>Ref. (Defra/ECTF only):</i>
Name and address of UK applicant organisation The Department of Biology, University of Leicester, LEICESTER LE1 7RH, UK (abbreviated to UofL) Applicant: Dr David Harper, Senior Lecturer in Ecology (abbreviated to DMH)

2. Darwin Scholar. A one page CV must be enclosed.

Name and official address of proposed Darwin Scholar Mr William K. Kimosop, Warden Lake Bogoria National Reserve and Senior Reserves Warden Baringo/Koibatek County Council, P.O. Box 64, Marigat, KENYA (abbreviated to WKK and LBNR)

3. Project summary (no more than 100 words)

The scholarship will enable Kimosop to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attend the UofL's training programmes for new postgraduate students, particularly the elements of communication and presentation skills to enhance his future conservation role.2. Attend additional UofL Continuing Professional Development courses in Business Enterprise and visit sustainable marketing organisations in UK to enhance both his management of ecotourism (centred on LBNR) and enable him to enhance sustainable livelihood development based upon this tourist trade.3. Meet key global players in Protected Area (IUCN), Wetland (Ramsar Convention Secretariat), Biodiversity (WWF, WWT) and Ecotourism (FSC) management and evaluate his future business plans for these elements with them. (abbreviations: IUCN is the International Conservation Union; WWF Worldwide Fund for Nature, WWT Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, FSC Field Studies Council)
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4. Principals in Project. Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisations who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Scholar. A 1 page CV on each must be enclosed.

Details	Main UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert	Other UK expert
Surname	Harper			
Forename(s)	David M.			
Post held	Senior Lecturer			
Institution (if different to above)	the above			
Department	Biology			
Telephone				
Fax				
Email				

5. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the UK applicant organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

The University of Leicester is ranked among the top 20 UK universities. Its Distance Learning programmes are the largest outside the Open University with nearly 5,000 students from over 115 countries reading for higher degrees. The Department of Biology carries out undergraduate & postgraduate teaching, postgraduate research supervision and research in its subject area. In the last Teaching Quality Assessment it was awarded 'excellent' and in the last Research Assessment Exercise it was graded 5. DMH is jointly responsible for ecology teaching and solely responsible for freshwater ecology research. He has been carrying out research in the Kenya Rift Valley lakes since 1982 and in Lake Bogoria since 2000. His funding from the Earthwatch Institute has been annual since 1987 and the output of his research team is over 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers on these lakes.

The Institute for Life Long Learning (LILL) was established out of the Adult Education Department in August 2000 to encourage and facilitate departments and centres to develop their own programmes of lifelong learning, delivering their research and expertise to the wider community. It is also developing and expanding its own programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and part-time degrees. DMH was full-time staff member of Adult Education between 1979-85 and a part-time member thereafter. He has developed new Distance Learning courses in ecology and biodiversity in partnership with the Earthwatch Institute over the past two years.

The University's 2001-2 Annual Report and its Official Record are available on-line at <http://www.le.ac.uk/press/annualreport/>

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Darwin Scholar's organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

Lake Bogoria National Reserve is one of a network of protected areas in Kenya which are managed by local communities ('Reserves') rather than the national agent for the CBD, Kenya Wildlife Services ('National Parks'). LBNR is managed by the two County Councils within whose area it falls – Koibatek and Baringo – within the Baringo District and the Rift Valley Province. Bogoria is one of four major soda lakes in the Rift in Kenya (others are lakes Magadi, Nakuru and Elmenteita), two of which are protected areas and Ramsar sites (LBNR and Lake Nakuru National Park). The two County Councils are proactive in the development of ecotourism and sustainable living and have in the last three years declared four more protected areas which WKK has been given responsibility for (see his CV). The area of the Rift Valley which the councils manage is semi-arid Acacia-Commiphora scrubland and the rural community grindingly-poor, with subsistence goat-herding and honey-gathering the main activity; cultivation is limited to small spring-fed and riparian areas. The income from LBNR is a major component of the councils' income and its ecotourism development thus critically important to sustainable development.

7. Describe briefly the proposed Darwin Scholar's current role within their organisation.

WKK has been the Warden of LBNR for over ten years and thus provides a stability to the region which has been recognised by the creation of a new Department and his promotion to direct it – Head of the National Reserves Department – by the county councils. He is now actively involved in plans to develop a 'northern tourist circuit' in Kenya as a member of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (website <http://www.laikipia.org/>) which would encompass the Greater Samburu Ecosystem, the Laikipia plateau, and the lakes & forests of the Rift Valley (<http://www.awf.org/heartlands/samburu/>). He also manages a WWF-funded Community Programme at LBNR and has, for example, recently promoted the establishment of a village womens' co-operative sustainably utilising papyrus, selling table mats and other items to tourists at the LBNR entrance village.

8. Provide a concept note on the Darwin Scholarship. This should include:

- a clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Scholarship
- the programme of work, including key milestones through the duration of the Scholarship and their timing
- the role of the UK applicant organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)
- where appropriate, how the Scholarships will contribute towards sustainable development or sustainable livelihoods

LBNR provides the major form of foreign exchange in the locality. Associated with it are the ad-hoc roadside sales of tourist souvenirs, honey and papyrus. WKK is the major host-country partner in the Darwin Initiative Project "Flamingo Conservation and Ramsar Site Management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya", 2003-6. As part of this project, he will undertake a UofL Masters Degree in Continuing Professional Development, combining elements of Biodiversity Conservation, Protected Area Management & Risk Evaluation by part-time study. His thesis will be the development of the LBNR Ramsar management Plan, using the scientific output from the Darwin Initiative Project led by DMH. This degree will provide him with enhanced managerial skills in his core area of biodiversity & conservation site management.

This scholarship will provide him with additional, wider managerial skills of direct relevance to the community within which he works.

Its objectives are:-

1. To further improve his training & communication skills through attendance on start-of-year courses run by the Teaching & Learning Unit of the Educational Development & Support Centre of the UofL, to enable him to function more effectively as a conservation leader in the Baringo District. (September-October, 2003)
2. To increase the quality of his postgraduate training through attendance on start-of-year study skills courses run by the Faculties of Science and Medicine & Biological Sciences of UofL (literature access, data & numerical analyses, computing and writing skills). (September-November, 2003)
3. To develop new skills in Business Enterprise through attendance on courses run by the CPD so that he can
 - a. Write a business plan for the expansion of sales of natural resources (honey, papyrus products, wood carvings and other sustainable items) through local village co-operatives as part of the promotion of ecotourism in the District (December 2003-February 2004)
 - b. To develop and refine this plan through consultation with UK organisations experienced in the marketing of natural products (e.g. Oxfam, Traidcraft) so that it is a realistic plan to increase income from local marketing to tourists and it is also a development plan for the sustainable export of honey from Baringo District to Nairobi and to the UK. (January-February 2004).
4. To develop his skills in biodiversity research, monitoring and management through meetings with key players in international organisations concerned with these issues – WWF, Ramsar & IUCN in Switzerland; WWT & WCMC in UK; Earthwatch Institute in UK & Boston USA.

The measurable milestones of this work will be:

- a) itemised course attendance
- b) course tutor evaluations
- c) scholar's written outputs from the courses
- d) scholar's meeting schedule calendar
- e) scholar's meeting reports
- f) Final scholarship report, business plans and ecotourism development strategy.

The role of the UofL is:

- a) as the main trainer
- b) as the focus for skills transfer

The other organisations are global leaders in their particular field.

The scholarship will improve the economic base of the LBNR biodiversity conservation and ecotourism operation. The business development part of the scholarship will directly contribute to the development of sustainable livelihoods in the wider radius of Baringo District in northern Kenya.

9. Legacy. Provide information on how the Darwin Scholar will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Scholarship on return to his/her home country. Will a strategy be developed during the Scholarship to ensure this is achieved?

The Final Report of the Scholarship will be the strategy for promoting a) the biodiversity plan and b) the sustainable business plan. Both of these will have timescales of 3-5 years for their implementation.

The training given to the scholar will ensure that he is effectively transfers the necessary skills downwards within his organisations over that timescale.

The contacts established during the scholarship will ensure his strategies can be honed to the local and future circumstances with the best advice to optimise success.

10. How will the Scholarship assist the Scholar's organisation and/or local communities and/or home country in working towards the objectives (or implementation) of the Convention on Biological Diversity? References to the Convention should be specific, for example, by referring to articles, cross-cutting or thematic issues¹.

All parts of the scholarship will directly promote the convention in the everyday life of Baringo District.

COP 6 of the CBD specifically linked the Convention with Biological diversity of inland waters (Decision VI/2) and with Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (Decision VI/4). COP 6 Decision VI/13 recognised the importance of the sustainable use of biological diversity, the cross-cutting of ecosystems and themes and the role of women. Decision VI/14 on Biological diversity and tourism, acknowledged the role of ecotourism development in biodiversity conservation. COP 6 recognised that communication, education and public awareness are essential elements for the successful and effective implementation of the Convention

11. What collaboration has there been with the Darwin Scholar to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Scholarship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Scholar within his/her own country.

DMH spent a day with the scholar at LBNR in early April when on a mission to prepare partners for the start-up of the Darwin Initiative Project on July 1st 2003. The scholar will be based at the UofL in the office/laboratory of DMH, who will also accompany him to most meetings outside UofL. Hence during the scholarship collaboration will be daily.

DMH is the Director of the Earthwatch Institute-sponsored research project at LBNR, which for the next 3 years will form the basis for the Darwin Initiative Project. Hence collaboration will occur 3-4 times a year with WKK following his return; for 2.5 years under Darwin and an indeterminate time after that subject to continued Earthwatch support for research.

¹ Refer to the Guidance Notes for Applicants for sources of further information

12. Provide details of the Darwin Initiative project that the proposed Scholar was involved in, including his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement.

The main objectives of the project entitled "Flamingo Conservation, and Ramsar Site Management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya" which has been approved to start on 1st July 2003 are:-

To identify the essential lake ecosystem properties of Lake Bogoria that sustain populations of flamingos and other waterbird species, and collect the baseline data needed to understand the birds' response to changes in these properties. Vitality, it will hope to explain the reasons for their mass movements to and from this lake and neighbouring lakes by concurrent monthly monitoring of the three lakes and by satellite tracking of seven individual flamingos. It will also explain the irregular events of mass mortality in recent years by building up a flamingo health database. The project will play a central role in the process of developing an effective and well-informed management plan for Lake Bogoria, a critical site for the lesser flamingo, in three key areas, by;

(1) Investigating the effects of changes in environmental factors on the abundance, species composition and distribution of phytoplankton with particular reference to the health of *Spirulina platensis*, their only food source, in the lakes

(2) Investigating changes in the number, distribution and status of cape teal and black-necked grebes in relation to flamingo numbers, limnological factors and the life history changes in density/abundance of benthic chironomids.

(3) Establishing a health-monitoring programme for the lesser flamingo by recording morphological details, blood sampling, and leg banding.

This project complements, and expands upon, an Earthwatch project which supports three field research teams each year at Lake Bogoria. These Earthwatch teams will continue to play a central role in the Darwin-funded project, which will also involve more regular monthly monitoring at three lakes in the Rift Valley - Lakes Bogoria, Nakuru and Elementeita, which are important feeding sites for the lesser flamingo (*P. minor*).

13. Duration of the Scholarship: what is the intended start and finish date.

1st September 2003 - 28th February 2004

14. Where will the Darwin Scholar be based? Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location).

He will be based at the Department of Biology, University of Leicester

15. Financial Aspects.

Scholar payment		
London: £1200/month	Number of months	Total £
UK (outside London): £1000/month	Number of months	Total £
Overseas location £ /month*	Number of months	Total £
Host Organisations' costs		
UK: £200/month	Number of months	Total £
Overseas location: £ /month*	Number of months	Total £
A. Total Scholar & Host Organisation Costs		£

Actual travel costs	
Return airfare. <i>Details</i> a. 2 return tickets Nairobi-Birmingham UK (allows Christmas break for scholar) b. return ticket UK-Boston to visit Earthwatch Institute HQ	£
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> train and bus fares	£
Visas etc. <i>Details</i> Internal travel to Nairobi; fee	£
B. Total Scholarship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2000 will be paid)	£

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP COSTS (A + B)	£
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16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts

UoFL and other organisations' salaries of participant teachers/consultees:
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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 Scholarship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Scholar's home country

Field Code Changed

CERTIFICATION

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.

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

* Figures available from Darwin at darwin@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Name (block capitals)	DAVID M. HARPER
Position in the organisation	Senior Lecturer in Ecology

Signed

David Harper

Date:

April 20th 2003

Please return completed form to The Edinburgh Centre for Tropical Forests (ECTF) by 22 April 2003 by e-mail to stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk

Where it is not possible to send the full application in electronic form (for example if signed references are not available electronically), a hard copy of the full application should also be sent to ECTF, Darwin Monitoring & Evaluation Project, Stefanie Halfmann, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd, Edinburgh EH9 3JK.