



DARWIN INITIATIVE

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2005

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). Whilst this form is to be submitted by the host institution the proposed Scholar should be fully involved in development of the proposal.

Submit by 18 March 2005

1. Contact Details

<i>Ref. (Defra/ECTF only):</i>
Name and address of UK applicant organisation Paul Buckley, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, UK, SG19 2DL

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

Name and official address of proposed Darwin Scholar Mike Anthony Kiragu Mwangi Conservation Officer, Nature Kenya, PO Box 44486, Museum Hill, Nairobi, Kenya
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3. Project summary (no more than 100 words)

Anthony Kiragu works as Conservation Officer with the leading NGO Nature Kenya. He is working to ensure the legacy of Darwin project 162/11/003 on Important Bird Area monitoring and management. The scholarship would last for one year from September 2005 and will enable him to complete the MSc in Applied Ecology and Conservation at University of East Anglia. He will gain additional experience through supervision of scientists at RSPB and BirdLife International, including placements, workshops and four months undertaking thesis work on an RSPB reserve. On his return to Kenya he will be equipped with skills in particular to ensure development and implementation of management plans using data from the Darwin programme.
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4. Principals in Project. Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisations (and other institutions if relevant) 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	Sutherland	Bell	Ausden	Bennun
Forename(s)	William	Diana	Malcolm	Leon
Post held	Senior Lecturer	Course Director	Reserves Ecologist	Director of Science and Policy
Institution (if different to above)	Department of Biological Sciences University of East Anglia, Norwich	Department of Biological Sciences University of East Anglia, Norwich	RSPB	Birdlife International Secretariat
Department	Biological Sciences	Biological Sciences	Conservation Management	Science and Policy
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)

Aims

The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and other wildlife, both in the UK and overseas. It is the UK partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of national conservation organisations that share common objectives and work together in advocating and carrying out priority conservation actions. The aims of this partnership are as follows:· to prevent the extinction of any bird species in the wild,· to maintain and where possible improve the conservation status of all bird species,· to conserve and where appropriate improve and enlarge sites and habitats important for birds,· to help, through birds, to conserve biodiversity and to improve the quality of people's lives· to integrate bird conservation into sustaining people's livelihoods.

Activities

Internationally, the RSPB provides capacity-building support to partner organisations in Africa and Asia, the UK Overseas Territories and more than 20 countries in southern and eastern Europe. Together with our partners and a wide range of other local stakeholders, we work to:· protect endangered species of birds;· identify and conserve the most important sites for birds;· influence international, national and local policies affecting birds and other wildlife;· learn more about the problems facing birds and possible solutions to these problems;· teach children and adults about the importance of the environment. Capacity building underpins all of the work with our partners and our ultimate aim is to help them become fully self sufficient. In addition to providing technical and some financial support, RSPB also runs a training programme called Building on Experience, which aims to improve the effectiveness and long-term viability of BirdLife (NGO) organisations; it is being delivered to the 100+ partners over a 5-year period.

Achievements

Over the past 20 years, the RSPB has provided direct support to 32 BirdLife partners. Many of these have become the foremost conservation organisations in their countries, with active programmes of conservation, public awareness, education and advocacy and close working relationships with government. We have made a major contribution to the conservation of many endangered birds – for example, the aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), the Seychelles magpie-robin (*Copsychus sechellarum*) and the northern bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*). In addition, we have helped our partners to identify and document several thousand key sites for birds – known as Important Bird Areas – and to formulate conservation strategies for many of these sites. As one of the largest conservation NGOs in the world, we have been able to exert a significant influence on the development and implementation of several key international treaties and directives, and in discussions on world trade, energy use, marine conservation and other topics of global importance. We have carried out vital research on numerous endangered species and on issues such as agricultural intensification, the palm oil industry, climate change and introduced predators. Together with partners, we have implemented highly successful large-scale environmental education programmes with Governments for schools in Ghana, Sierra Leone and South Africa, and will shortly be initiating additional programmes in India and Kenya.

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)

Nature Kenya (NK) - the East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS), is the oldest scientific society in Africa, established in 1909 with the aim of promoting the study of nature and natural history. NK is also the BirdLife International Partner in Kenya being part of a global partnership of 105 organisations - BirdLife International. NK is a membership society currently with more than 1,000 members supporting conservation by participating in the 13 taxonomic and issue based committees that create a niche and opportunity to explore nature more closely. NK also implements conservation projects across sixty sites in Kenya referred to as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). These sites were identified using a scientifically defensible and objective methodology developed by BirdLife International. The sites are habitats for globally and regionally threatened species as well as congregatory species like Flamingos. These sites have also been identified as important for other taxa such as amphibians and indigenous trees, which are also facing critical threats due to habitat loss.

NK is closely involved with Kenyan Government efforts to implement the CBD and their Executive Director has been on the Government delegation in the last two meetings of parties to the CBD. NK has been working with other conservation organisations in Kenya to develop site specific projects that address the needs of communities living at the IBAs. NK, together with BirdLife partners like RSPB and with support from the Global Environment Facility and Darwin Initiative, build the capacity of Government officers and community members to implement simple but robust monitoring systems to track changes in biodiversity within IBAs. NK endeavors to work with Government agencies like Kenya Wildlife Service, Forest Department, National Environment Authority and NGOs in Kenya like IUCN, WWF, Kenya Forest Working Group, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, African Conservation Centre. At site level, community groups focused to conserve their sites are very strong partners to the process of sustainable biodiversity conservation.

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

A Conservation Programme Officer for a BirdLife partner in Kenya - Nature Kenya.

Roles and Responsibilities:-

Provide supervision and technical support, as requested by the Conservation Programme Manager, to other conservation programme staff and volunteers-- Assist the development and implementation of Nature Kenya's conservation programme according to the strategic plan-

Work with the Conservation Programme Manager to develop a programme of conservation education, awareness and action at a key set of Important Biodiversity Areas

Assist in developing, sourcing funds and co-ordinating fieldwork for surveys at little-known IBAs-

Help to develop and implement the monitoring programme for IBAs in Kenya-

Assist, through technical support and co-ordination, work to broaden the taxonomic scope of Nature Kenya's priority-setting. Help to develop and deliver site-focused conservation education programmes-

Help to organise, and provide technical input to, short training courses for volunteers, site-support groups and Government-representatives.

Help prepare, implement and update an advocacy strategy for Nature Kenya-

Support the operations of Nature Kenya's Policy and Legislation Working Group, and help to develop Nature Kenya's position and relevant policy issues, especially in accordance with articles of the CBD

Assist to establish, maintain, enhance and involve an active network of Nature Kenya members, conservation groups, Government and non-Government institutions (including District Development Committees and local authorities) around IBAs-

Assist in producing material for the media to publicise Nature Kenya's Conservation Programmes;-represent Nature Kenya when required at national and international meetings and conservation forums, and advocate Nature Kenya's conservation concerns

Support the Executive Director and Conservation Programme Manager to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of Nature Kenya's projects and programmes, and ensure donor requirements for reporting and accounting are met.

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

The aim of the scholarship is to improve Anthony Kiragu's ability to implement conservation programmes of Nature Kenya the BirdLife partner in Kenya. In a short career he has made huge strides and now plays a very significant role in the delivery of a number of key programmes. He has especially impressed people with his sound judgement, commitment to completing tasks properly and his excellent diplomatic and team working skills when working with and on behalf of colleagues in an advocacy role in local communities. We believe he has a bright future in Kenyan conservation and in his current role is working with one of the most respected NGOs in the country who are leading on some of the most innovative conservation programmes in Africa. His background with human development agencies places him in a strong position to ensure that Nature Kenya's programmes succeed in enhancing livelihoods while conserving biodiversity. In particular we look to him to bring key skills back to the long term programme to monitor and managing IBAs in Kenya. We foresee him contributing more to the task of integrating monitoring data into larger numbers of better implemented more ecologically sound management plans and making better judgements on conservation priorities and investment strategies.

We believe that to fulfill this potential Anthony needs to improve his technical knowledge and also to widen the international network of conservationists he can draw upon for support. These are the main objectives of the scholarship. In the main, we feel that this will be delivered through the successful completion of an MSc course. The course chosen, Applied Ecology and Conservation at UEA enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence and has hosted students from all over the world. This one-year full-time course provides a thorough understanding of global conservation issues, training in research planning and transferable skills. There are two special features in this course. Firstly, it puts great emphasis on practical training; this is achieved through a combination of practical courses and a research project which will include a placement, probably at an RSPB regional office. Secondly, while ecologists from two large Schools (Biological Sciences and Environmental Sciences) are responsible for most of the teaching, the School of Development Studies also contributes to the teaching programme and to the supervision of research projects, adding expertise in resource conservation in developing countries.

The course structure is modular which allows for maximum flexibility and choice and, during the first two semesters, students are required to take 90 credits of taught modules. They then undertake a research project and write a dissertation which contributes to the final 90 credits. Each module entails between 3-5 hours per week of lectures and practicals and/or seminars. It is estimated that students will attend an average of 12-17 hours per week of lectures or practicals during the Autumn and first half of the Spring semesters. The period of research and preparation of the thesis extends from May through to September.

Work done under this MSc will include (i) the contribution of monitoring initiatives to national and global biodiversity indicators and (ii) how such data can be used to inform resource managers and influence management decisions. On his return to Kenya Anthony will disseminate knowledge learned to colleagues in Nature Kenya, community based site support groups and other agencies through the National IBA Liaison Committee.

Beyond the MSc course itself, and acknowledging the time constraints inherent in completing a full time course, RSPB are committed to ensuring that during Anthony's one year stay in UK, we do all we can to ensure his maximum exposure to new ideas and contacts. This will include supervision of his placement, and establishing supervision of an appropriate thesis as part of the course. We will also endeavour to facilitate his attendance at any key events such as RSPB professional development courses, the Cambridge student science conference and key meetings arising from or relevant to the Darwin project 162/11/003 on IBA monitoring and management. He will be well placed to help secure the legacy and follow up to Darwin project 162/11/003 on IBA monitoring and management. In particular we envisage him

- improving the links between science and application, especially in relation to the sound science basis of management plans and ensuring their more effective integration
- improving information management, making it more accessible and understandable
- improving the ability to analyse data and turn into usable information
- inputting to the sound ecological management of NatureKenya's first ever nature reserve on the Kinangop Grasslands

The primary costs involved are those relating to the costs of fees and living expenses for the MSc. A Darwin scholarship will provide the bulk of the finances needed to cover these costs. RSPB, UEA and Nature Kenya have secured the rest of the funds needed and RSPB will contribute towards the costs of placements, research programmes and travel costs.

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?

Initially, we expect that Anthony will operate more effectively in his current role in Kenya - in particular, his priority will be to assist in securing the follow up and legacy to Darwin project 162/11/003 on IBA monitoring and management which ends in March 2005 but which all stakeholders are determined to continue. Then, Anthony is expected to take more of the lead role in Nature Kenya's work with Community based Site Support groups. These Site Support Groups are a globally recognised innovation which has proved successful both in relation to enhancing the protection of some of Kenya's most threatened sites - thus implementing aspects of the CBD (esp Article 8) - and also enhancing the sustainability and quality of the livelihoods of the rural poor. Opportunities for taking on additional responsibilities are anticipated to arise in due course.

The experience gained at UEA and RSPB will help especially in developing some skills that are considered to be currently limiting in NatureKenya's work since neither Anthony nor his colleagues have much experience in them. In particular we believe he will help in:

- Improving the links between science and application, especially in relation to the sound science basis of management plans and ensuring their more effective integration
- Improving information management, making it more accessible and understandable
- Improving the ability to analyse data and turn into usable information
- Inputting to the sound ecological management of NatureKenya's first ever nature reserve on the Kinangop Grasslands
- Making better judgements on the costs and benefits of different conservation approaches and evaluating the success of past projects carried out by NatureKenya and other agencies.

The primary costs involved are those relating to the costs of fees and living expenses for the MSc. A Darwin scholarship will provide the bulk of the finances needed to cover these costs. RSPB, UEA and Nature Kenya are committed to securing the rest of the funds needed and RSPB will contribute towards the costs of placements, research programmes and local travel costs.

RSPB will work with Anthony towards the end of his period in the UK to develop a plan for optimising the use of his new skills in meeting conservation objectives in Kenya. This will include implementation of his work and a strategy to ensure effective dissemination of the new skills learned. We are confident that Anthony is an excellent trainer and will pass on the skills that he has learned. In particular, this will include seminars for Nature Kenya staff, for local community volunteers through network meetings of site support groups, and to other Government and NGO staff through meetings of the IBA National Liaison Committee. RSPB has a programme of support to Nature Kenya that we expect to continue beyond September 2005. Paul Buckley, the RSPB's Country Programme Manager, will continue to visit Kenya at least twice a year and oversee implementation of this strategy and to encourage the future continuing professional development of Anthony and his colleagues. We will seek publicity for Anthony Kiragu's work before he leaves Kenya and on his return, using the individual to provide a focus on key conservation issues and acknowledging Darwin support.

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.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which Kenya ratified on 26 July 1994, has three objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity.
- the sustainable use of its components.
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The work of Anthony Kiragu and Nature Kenya will support the first two CBD objectives by identifying and setting up the necessary mechanisms for effective conservation of important biodiversity sites and sustainable utilisation of their natural resources. Prioritisation of conservation programmes is in accordance with CBD article 7 and Annex I citing globally threatened species and habitats. Article 7a requests Contracting Parties to 'identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use having regard to the indicative list of categories set down in Annex I'. Article 7b requests Contracting Parties to monitor, through sampling and other techniques, the components of biological diversity identified pursuant to paragraph a above, paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use.

¹ Refer to the Guidance Notes for Applicants for further information

The project will help to ensure the long-term survival of important sites and therefore supports the implementation of CBD Articles 8c, 8d, 8i and 8k. Article 8: 'Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate ...c) Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity either within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use... d) Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings...i) Endeavor to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components...k) Develop or maintain necessary legislation and / or other regulatory provisions or the protection of threatened species and populations. Anthony and Nature Kenya's work has made great advances in promoting site conservation which involves local communities and promotes equitable sharing of benefits through different sectors of society.

Training and capacity building at the NGO, government and community levels is at the heart of this project. This contributes to achievement of CBD Article 12, which states: 'The Contracting Parties, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, shall...a) establish and maintain programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components and provides support for such education and training or the specific needs of developing countries.

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.

Anthony Kiragu developed the original concept for this programme because of his interest in furthering his work with Nature Kenya, through his discussions during a visit to the UK (funded by RSPB as part of Darwin project 162/11/003 in August 2003) and his subsequent approval for entry to the MSc course at UEA entitled 'Applied Ecology and Conservation'. Following the earlier rejection of the application we discussed resubmission by e mail and then prepared this application during Paul Buckley's visit to Kenya from 8 to 15 March 2005.

The course allows multi-disciplinary approaches and flexible tuition, suited to the scholar's own interests and aspirations. All project partners are committed to providing as much support as possible and to responding to the consultations undertaken with the scholar during his time in the UK. We have agreed in principle that his thesis should involve the development of a management plan on an RSPB reserve. This will help with preparation for similar work in Kenya which is an essential output indicating a successful conclusion to and legacy of Darwin project 162/11/003

The scholar also discussed this proposal briefly with Alex Forbes of ECTF during his evaluation visit to Kenya in March 2004.

The proposal has been discussed within Nature Kenya and within the Nature Kenya/NMK project implementation team. They have agreed that Anthony's work (within the confines of the MSc course) should focus on translating monitoring and information into conservation intervention and management. Should funding be confirmed, then more detailed discussions would ensue, prior to his departure for the UK, both in relation to covering his work during his absence and to ensure effective reintegration and use of his new skills upon his return..

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.

Project Title: Kenya's Important Biodiversity Areas: Improving monitoring, management and conservation action. Ref 162/11/003

The project Purpose is "Improved monitoring, management and conservation is taking place in Kenya's Important Biodiversity Areas (IBA)". Purpose level indicators state: All 60 IBAs in Kenya have baseline monitoring systems established and functioning. Six sites demonstrably benefit from enhanced conservation measures as a result of information from monitoring.

Project Outputs include :

- Project systems in place.
- National site monitoring system established and covering all IBAs.
- Detailed monitoring carried out at key IBAs feeds into improved management planning.
- Effective feedback loops established between monitoring and national conservation action and reporting.
- Conservation interventions made as a result of threats or opportunities identified by monitoring.
- Mechanisms identified and capacity built to sustain the collection and use of practical monitoring information in the longer term.

Terms of Reference for Anthony Kiragu in the project:

1. Participate in monitoring training, refresher courses and ensure reports are produce promptly and any emerging issues are responded to appropriately
2. Work with the Project Co-ordinator to plan for training and follow-up visit to the detailed monitoring sites as appropriate
3. Liaise with other team members to prepare materials for publicity and information including articles to media house
4. Work with Important Bird Areas (IBA) Research Fellows (RF) in setting up, populating/updating and marinating detailed monitoring sites databases
5. Assist RFs in organising logistics during training and follow-up visits as appropriate
6. Act as the link between the Darwin Monitoring Team and Site Support Groups with regards to turning data into conservation action
7. Act as the equipment issuance and control focal points
8. Work with the RFs to ensure adequate feedback given to Site Support Groups after monitoring (develop feedback tools).
9. Take lead in follow-up institutional focal points- NLC Monitoring Sub-committee including convening regular meetings
10. Carry out any other appropriate tasks (contributing to monitoring) and be an active member of the monitoring team

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

12 months starting 20th September 2005 to September 2006

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

The majority of the scholar's stay will be at University of East Anglia, whilst attending the MSc course. However within this there are a number of field visits and placements available and a prolonged period for the project thesis. We anticipate that these will be spent with RSPB. At this stage we anticipate the placement in October/November 2005 taking place at one of the RSPB's Regional Offices in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Field visits will be undertaken to a number of sites within and outside of East Anglia.

The thesis, undertaken between May and September 2006 would be based partly at the Lodge, Sandy, Beds but mainly at a selected reserve where he would participate in the process of developing a site management plan.

15. Financial Aspects.

Scholar payment			
London: £1200/month	Number of months	2005/6 £	2006/7 £
UK (outside London): £1000/month	Number of months 12	£	£
Overseas location £ /month*	Number of months	£	£
Host Organisations' costs			
UK: £200/month	Number of months 12	2005/6 £	2006/7 £
Overseas location: £ /month*	Number of months		£

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

A. Total Scholar & Host Organisation Costs	£7200	£7200
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Actual travel costs		
Return airfare. <i>Details</i>	2005/6 £	2006/7 £
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i>	£	£
Visas etc. <i>Details</i>	£	£
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

We estimate that the total costs of the programme with fees is some £20,000 including fees and costs of thesis travel and preparation. UEA have secured an ISF scholarship that will cover half of the costs of the fees. Anthony will cover the remaining fees from the scholarship, while RSPB will pay travel costs and some of the costs involved in providing accomodation for the thesis and placements. So a Scholarship award will allow the programme to go ahead in Autumn 2005

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

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.

Name (block capitals)	PAUL BUCKLEY
Position in the organisation	Head, Global Country Programmes Unit and Darwin Project Leader 162/11/003

Signed

Date:

App Scho 582

Please return completed form to The Edinburgh Centre for Tropical Forests (ECTF) by 18 March 2005 by email to darwin-applications@ectf-ed.org.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 Applications Unit, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, Edinburgh EH26 OPH.