



EIDPS033

Submit by Monday 14 January 2013



## APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 19

Please read the Guidance Notes 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 UK Host organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by email and addressed to the main UK Expert listed in Section 5)

<b>Name:</b> Mark Newman	<b>Address:</b> Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 20A Inverleith Row Edinburgh EH3 5LR Scotland
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### 2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow (include email and telephone details where available)

Mrs Phetlasy Souladeth Department of Forestry Management, Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, 7322 <a href="mailto:Phetlasy85@hotmail.com">Phetlasy85@hotmail.com</a> Tel.:
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### 3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

<b>Proposed start date: 1 Sept 2013 Duration of project: 13 months End date: 30 Sept 2014</b>			
<b>Darwin funding requested</b>	<b>2013/13</b> £8,615	<b>2014/15</b> £11,825	<b>Total</b> £20,440

### 4. Summary of proposed Fellowship ie Purpose and expected outputs and outcome

(Max 100 words) To build on the promise shown by a trainee in project 13007, making her a more valuable asset to Lao PDR in its efforts to conserve and maintain its biodiversity. By preparing a taxonomic revision of the Eriocaulaceae of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, a critical group of wetland plants, she will develop techniques already learned in project 13007 and learn valuable new techniques. Outputs and outcomes: 1. a published taxonomic revision 2. improved collections in Lao and international herbaria 3. an interactive key to the species, available through the internet 4. Improved infrastructure and systematic research resources in Lao PDR
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**5. Principals in the 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 Fellow. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than one overseas project partner.

Details	Main UK expert	Other expert	Other expert
Surname	Newman	Simpson	Meesawat
Forename(s)	Mark	David	Amornrat
Post held	Botanist	Acting Keeper	Lecturer
Institution (if different to UK Host)		Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Khon Kaen University
Department	Science – Tropical	Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives	Biology
Telephone/ Skype			
Email			

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

(max 150 words)

Founded in 1670, The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) is one of the world's leading botanic gardens and scientific institutions. We aim to explore and explain the world of plants. Our activities include:

- Science – we work on an international level to advance plant science, researching species in over 40 countries and running world-leading programmes of plant taxonomy, systematics and biodiversity science.
- Conservation – we deliver major conservation locally and globally e.g. species recovery.
- Education – we provide the most diverse education programme of any botanic garden, from outdoor learning for schools to internationally-renowned Ph.D. courses.
- Visitor Attraction - our four Gardens are important attractions for Scotland, increasing access to horticulture, science, arts and heritage.

Our achievements include the 2009 establishment of The John Hope Gateway, Scotland's National Biodiversity Interpretation Centre and the digitisation of our vast herbarium, with 100,000 specimens digitised to date.

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

(max 150 words)

The Faculty of Forestry (FOF), National University of Laos (NUOL) is among the most important organisations working in Lao PDR on biodiversity conventions and conservation to meet the needs of the country for biodiversity conservation. FOF cooperates with international institutions and agencies such as WCS and IUCN for biodiversity conservation and, together with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), implements many scientific and conservation projects. The vision of FOF includes upgrading national intellectual capacity by establishing an undergraduate course in 1996 and an MSc course, launched in 2008. Currently, FOF has too few instructors in the field of botany and needs to train more staff in biodiversity convention and conservation.

**8. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and their link to a Darwin project (If applicable), including the project reference number, his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement.**

(max 200 words)

Mrs Phetlasy Souladeth is a junior lecturer in the Department of Forestry Management where she is involved in teaching and research. When opportunities arise for training in plant taxonomy, which is her area of research, she can join projects such as Darwin Project 13007, or BIOTIK (<http://www.biotik.org/>). Phetlasy was trained during project 13007, "Taxonomic training in a neglected biodiversity hotspot in Lao PDR". Her involvement included organising and partaking in field expeditions, collecting and preparing vascular plant specimens and annotating them. Then, she was trained in identification of vascular plants which was taught by studying the specimens she had collected, as part of a class. Of this class, Phetlasy was among the best at identification. One of the primary aims of project 13007 was to increase the number of competent botanists in Laos. Since the end of the project, Phetlasy has continued to follow this career, going on to gain her MSc from Khon Kaen University in 2011. This Masters course included a taxonomic project on the Eriocaulaceae of Laos.

**9. Provide a concept note on the Darwin Fellowship. This should include:**

9a A clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship

(Max 300 words)

The main objective is to increase the capacity of a Lao researcher who excelled in Darwin project 13007 so that she can provide the Lao government with the data needed to comply with international treaties, such as the CBD, and teach future generations of biodiversity scientists at the National University of Laos. At the end of project 13007 in 2007, a checklist of the vascular plants of Lao PDR was published. The underlying data have since been uploaded to a national plant database using the BRAHMS program and Phetlasy has been trained in its use. The aim of this fellowship is to take one of the best trainees from Darwin project 13007 to a higher level of competence by revising a critical group of wetland plants. The component aims of this Darwin Fellowship can be expressed in terms of the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as follows:

An online identification system for CLV *Eriocaulon* species (GSPC target 1).

IUCN conservation assessments of all CLV *Eriocaulon* species (GSPC target 2).

Record the number of CLV *Eriocaulon* species which occur in conserved areas. Does this figure reach 75%? (GSPC target 7).

Assess the amount of international trade based on wild collecting. If it exists, does this trade endanger any CLV *Eriocaulon* species (GSPC target 11).

By training a Lao scientist, increase the number of trained people in Lao PDR towards the number needed in order to achieve the GSPC targets (GSPC target 15).

By training a Lao scientist, strengthen national institutional capacity to conserve plants in order to achieve the GSPC targets (GSPC target 16).

9b The role of the UK Host organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)

(Max 300 words)

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh has been closely involved in SE Asian botany for at least 50 years and is a recognised centre of excellence in this subject. RBGE has signed a co-publication agreement with the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris in order to accelerate the completion of the Flora of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Dr Mark Newman is a member of the editorial board of this Flora, as well as being an expert in the monocotyledonous family Zingiberaceae. He has collected widely in CLV, and has supervised one PhD student from the National University of Laos. The herbarium at RBGE houses some 3 million specimens, among them many types.

The main role of the RBGE will be to act as host to the Darwin Fellow, providing experience of an internationally renowned herbarium which could not be gained in Lao PDR. The Fellow will learn all the processes of a herbarium, from collecting to labelling, mounting, and laying away. All this being done as part of a taxonomic revision which will be published in the Flora of CLV.

As a recognised herbarium, the RBGE will be able to borrow material from other collections, such as those at Paris and RBG, Kew for study by the Fellow. There will also be opportunities for her to learn methods, such as the correct application of IUCN threat criteria, and how to present taxonomic material on the internet.

9c where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards sustainable development or sustainable livelihoods ie what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative

(Max 300 words)

Sustainable livelihoods are only possible in a fully functioning ecosystem and the quality of ecosystem function can only be judged when the species that comprise the ecosystem are known and can be measured and assessed. These goals are enumerated among the 16 targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Those which are being addressed here are

GSPC10: wetlands are often subject to new biological invasions. This project will provide baseline data against which to measure invasions.

GSCP12: some *Eriocaulon* is traded in Lao PDR as dried ornamental flowers, and as medicine (antiphlogistic). This project will provide baseline data for assessment of sustainability.

GSPC14: The proposed Fellow will be better able to teach conservation issues to upcoming generations of Lao scientists and the general public.

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

(max 200 words)

The benefits of the Fellowship will include raising the competence of Lao PDR academic staff to contribute to the aims of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Fellow will have the skills needed to continue work towards the GSPC targets.

The Fellow will promote the benefits of the Fellowship in her role as a university lecturer where she teaches the coming generation of biologists in Lao PDR.

The Fellow will disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship by producing a website for the distribution of information about CLV *Eriocaulon* species.

She will also be able to update the national plant database (BRAHMS) which is held by the Herbarium National du Laos (HNL), Biotechnology and Ecology Institute, Ministry of Science and Technology. Her ability to advise HNL will not only apply to *Eriocaulon* but much more widely concerning endangered plants in Lao PDR.

The Fellow will be in a better position to proceed to a PhD position which will strengthen her ability to maintain the legacy of project 13007 and this Fellowship. RBGE has a long-term commitment to work in CLV region and to keep collaborating with the Fellow after this Fellowship ends.

**11. How will the Fellowship assist the Fellow's organisation and/or local communities and/or home country in working towards the objectives (or implementation) of the CBD/CITES/CMS? Please refer to specific Articles or cross cutting themes as appropriate.**

(max 200 words)

This Fellowship will assist Lao PDR to work toward the objectives of the CBD by increasing the Fellow's capacity to provide technical services to government agencies and NGOs such as IUCN and WWF. This is an area where the Faculty of Forestry is already active but where it recognises a need for more skilled staff.

The Fellow will contribute to the Global Taxonomy Initiative, one of the cross-cutting themes of the CBD.

The second Lao NBSAP has been advised to include a focus on wetlands conservation (IUCN, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/la/la-nbsap-oth-en.pdf>). The Eriocaulaceae are a component of wetlands and may be useful as environmental indicators, and in compiling EIA/ESIAs, particularly those relating to hydroelectric dam proposals. The Fellowship will also help meet a number of the articles of the CBD which are highlighted in the first Lao NBSAP, such as those which concern Scientific Data and Biodiversity Knowledge Development, Human Resource Development, Public Awareness and Involvement, and Institutional and Legal Frameworks, namely

Article 7. Identification and Monitoring

Article 8. In-situ Conservation

Article 12. Research and Training

Article 16. Access to and Transfer of technology

Article 17. Exchange of Information

Article 18. Technical and Scientific Cooperation

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

(max 200 words)

The proposed Fellow and the main UK host met at the Flora of Thailand meeting, Chiang Mai, November 2011 where they discussed future collaboration in principle.

In preparing this proposal, there has been frequent e-mail and Skype communication with drafts passing frequently between the main host and proposed fellow for comment.

The proposed Fellow has also corresponded with her former MSc supervisor, who is the Thai expert on Eriocaulaceae, in order to make this proposal as effective and practical as possible.

During the Fellowship, the Fellow will work closely with the main host. There will be opportunities for the Fellow to put questions to the host at almost any time. In addition to the informal exchanges of ideas, formal progress meetings with written notes will be held once a month, when both are in the same place.

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

(max 200 words)

1-13 September 2013, the Fellow will visit the main herbaria in Vientiane and Ho Chi Minh City.

14 September, the Fellow will travel to Edinburgh and will be based in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for most of the remainder of the Fellowship.

Another short period away from Edinburgh (dates to be arranged) will be a study visit to the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew where the Fellow will be supervised by Dr David Simpson. The UK expert on Eriocaulaceae, Dr Sylvia Phillips, is an Honorary Research Fellow at Kew and is not there full-time. She has said that she would be willing to discuss the family with Phetlasy, if she is available at the time of the visit.

14. Provide a programme of work, including key milestones, through the duration of the Fellowship

Activity	Duration	2013/14									2014/2015					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Examination of Vietnamese specimens at VNM (Saigon)	Two weeks															
Examination of CLV specimens of Eriocaulaceae at E, K, P	4 months															
Delimiting species	4 months															
IUCN conservation assessments	2 months															
Writing taxonomic revision	5 months															
Compiling an online identification system for CLV Eriocaulaceae	5 months															
Attend English classes, 7.5 hours per week	6 months															

**15. Costs. Using UK Government Financial Years ie April 2013 – March 2014 etc), please set out your budget for the Fellowship**

	Unit cost	No of months		Total	
		2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Fellow's Subsistence contribution</b>					
Arrival allowance	£300	NA	NA	300	
London based	£1,200 pcm				
UK (outside London)	£1,000 pcm	3½	9	3500	9000
Overseas	£800	¼		200	0
<b>Host organisation's costs</b>					
UK	£300 pcm	3½	9	1050	2700
Overseas	£tbc*				
<b>Total Fellow and Host costs</b>					
<b>Travel costs to Fellowship location (up to £2,000)</b>					
Return airfare	Details: Return Vientiane-Edinburgh			1500	
Travel to/from airports	Details:			20	
Visas, insurance, medical cover etc	Details: UK Visa = £100			100	
<b>Additional travel costs (up to £500 local travel OR £1,500 for international travel)</b>					
Purpose of additional travel	Details: Herbarium visit to Vietnam				
Airfares/train fares	Details: Return airfare VTE- Ho Chi Minh City-VTE = £225			225	
Travel to/from airports/stations	Details: Taxi, Tan Son Nhat International Airport to hotel and back, 2 x £10			20	
Subsistence costs (inc number of days and rates)*	Details: 5 days in Ho Chi Minh City @ 40/day			200	
Visas etc	Details: None			0	
<b>Total travel costs</b>					
<b>Fees and training costs</b>					
Academic fees	Details:				
English language training costs**	Details: 7.5 hours/week for 24 weeks @ £62.50/week + £125 for IELTS exam			1500	125
<b>Total fees</b>				<b>1500</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUEST FROM DARWIN</b>				<b>£ 8615</b>	<b>11825</b>

\*for advice on rates please call the Darwin Application Unit 0131 440 5181

\*\*these costs are ringfenced and should be surrendered if not used.

**16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts**

Phetlasy Souladeth & Amornrat Meesawat have applied to the International Association of Plant Taxonomists for a Research Improvement Grant to cover the cost of field work in Lao PDR in 2013. The maximum award is US\$1,000 and the decision is expected on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. If successful, this will give more collections from Lao PDR to be included in this project.



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 Fellowship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Fellow'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 CVs for project principals and letters of support as requested in the Guidance Notes. Our most recent audited accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at *(delete as appropriate)*:

Name (block capitals)	MARK NEWMAN
Position in the organisation	TROPICAL BOTANIST

Signed

Mark Newman

Date:

14<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship?	y
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie April – 31 March? 1	y
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?	y
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	y
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? <b>(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)</b>	
Have you included a 1 page CV for the proposed Fellow and the UK experts listed in Section 5?	y
Have you provided the relevant letters of support?	y
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? <b>An electronic link to a website is acceptable.</b>	y
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	y
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	y

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT on **Monday 14 January 2014** to [Darwin-Applications@Itsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@Itsi.co.uk) using the name of the proposed Fellow as the subject of your email. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc).

**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.