



EIDPS037 rev 25-3-14

Submit by Monday 3 February 2014

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 20

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)

Name: Dr. Danae K Sheehan	Address: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Lodge, Sandy, UK, SG19 2DL
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2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow (include email and telephone details where available)

<p>Dr. Samuel Temidayo OSINUBI, Flyways Officer / CMS AEMLAP WG Coordinator BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat, West Africa Sub-Regional Office c/o Ghana Wildlife Society P.O. Box 13252, Accra GHANA Email: Email 2: Mobile:</p>
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: 01.07.2014	Duration of project: 12 months	End date: 30.06.2015
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Darwin funding requested	2014/15	2015/16	Total
	£13,685	£4,700	£18,385

4. Summary of proposed Fellowship i.e. Outcome and expected outputs and impact

(Max 100 words)

Breeding populations of African-Eurasian migrant landbirds are rapidly declining. CMS COP10 called for a regional Action Plan for their conservation but with no regulatory status Range States are unlikely to commit to and co-ordinate action for plan implementation.

Samuel co-ordinates the CMS working group producing the plan. This Fellowship will enable him to support Range States to implement the plan by enhancing his advocacy capacity and his understanding of action plan implementation. He will build an expert network to advise on national priorities and regional coordination and support stakeholders to engage with CMS focal points and commit to co-ordinated implementation.

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	Sheehan	Stroud	Crockford
Forename(s)	Danaë	David	Nicola
Post held	Head of Migrants Programme	Senior Ornithological Advisor	International Species Policy Officer
Institution (if different to UK Host)		UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee	RSPB/BirdLife International
Department	International Policy and Species Recovery		International Policy and Species Recovery
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)

The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and wildlife in the UK and overseas. As the UK member of BirdLife International, the RSPB aims to prevent the extinction of bird species in the wild, to conserve and improve habitats important for birds, to conserve biodiversity and to improve the quality of people's livelihoods.

Internationally, the RSPB provides capacity-building support to partner organisations in Africa Asia, the UK Overseas Territories and in southern and eastern Europe. To date we have supported 35 BirdLife Partners.

The RSPB provides BirdLife Partnership representation with the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to assist the process of getting international species action plans agreed, monitored, reviewed and implemented.

The RSPB undertakes a significant programme of work on migratory birds, central to which is one focusing on declining species of landbird in the Africa-Eurasia flyway.

The RSPB's Annual Report is available at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/about/run/annualreview.asp>

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)

BirdLife International is a unique global partnership of 120 independent national conservation NGOs that aim to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards a sustainable use of natural resources that assists poverty-alleviation. BirdLife believes that local conservation effort, connected nationally and internationally through a global partnership, is key to sustainable conservation action.

Through its offices in Nairobi and Accra, the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat (BLAPS) supports a network of 23 organisations, with active projects in a further 16 countries. It ensures that African Partners have access to financial and technical resources, credibility and influence, and connections necessary to deliver prioritised conservation objectives.

BLAPS coordinates the involvement of African BirdLife Partners in BirdLife's Global Flyways Programme. This includes supporting their work with CMS and associated Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular the development and implementation of the Africa-Eurasia Migratory Landbird Action Plan (AEMLAP).

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)

Samuel is not linked to a Darwin project, but is eligible for this award because he is working directly on the implementation of a priority area under CMS.

The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP10, 2011) passed Resolution (10.27) on *Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region*, including through the establishment of an international working group to develop an Action Plan to address the issue

(http://www.cms.int/bodies/ScC/afr_eurasian_landbirds_wg/afr_eur_landbirds_mainpage.htm).

Samuel works as the Flyways Officer at the BLAPS Sub-Regional Office in Accra, supporting regional initiatives for migratory birds within the BirdLife Africa Partnership and has acted as coordinator of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group (AEML-WG) since its establishment after COP10. Consequently, he has worked closely with the AEML-WG, the CMS Secretariat, Governmental representatives, other experts, BirdLife and the RSPB during the process of drafting and review of the AEMLAP. He has brought an invaluable range of African experience to the task of AEMLAP development.

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)

Successful implementation of the AEMLAP requires 1) clear, verifiable objectives; 2) good communication between European/African stakeholders and 3) coordination of activities with effective CMS Secretariat support.

With Partners in many of AEMLAP's Range States, BirdLife International represents a significant number of national stakeholders and has access to established networks that will facilitate implementation. Being based in BLAPS, Samuel already has established relations with the 23 African BirdLife Partners but has not been able to engage with European Partners and has limited opportunities for capacity-building with expert AEML-WG members and the CMS Secretariat.

The long-term **aim** of the Fellowship is to secure a commitment for AEMLAP implementation from CMS AEMLAP Range States and other stakeholders. The **purpose** is to significantly enhance Samuel's capacity to support AEML-WG members and colleagues at BirdLife, RSPB and CMS in preparation for COP 11 and to facilitate successful implementation by identifying key stakeholders and coordinating, monitoring and reviewing progress against an effective implementation plan.

The Fellowship (based at RSPB) would achieve the following **objectives**:

- **Samuel established as the key coordinator of AEMLAP implementation in Africa** through training with UK experts to increase advocacy skills and understanding of action plan implementation.
- **A network of technical and scientific experts supports Samuel in co-ordinating AEMLAP implementation.** We will provide opportunities to build relations with expert UK and European networks, alongside those in Africa.
- **Stakeholders in AEMLAP Range States, including from the development sector, are engaged in the implementation of priority national actions.** Samuel will support NGOs in the Birdlife International partnership to (1) positively engage with national CMS focal points and other key national stakeholders, and (2) identify national implementation priorities.

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

(Max 300 words)

The RSPB (host organisation)

Samuel will receive guidance from Danaë Sheehan in coordinating the implementation of multidisciplinary actions within AEMLAP, across developed and developing countries, to ensure that long-term practical action is effective and sustainable. She will share her experience and knowledge, and provide guidance and advice in planning and implementing his work plan.

Samuel will receive advocacy training from staff within the International Policy and Species Recovery Department, and specifically in relation to international agreements by working alongside, and with the support of Nicola Crockford.

Additionally, Samuel will receive training in other related work areas (e.g. communications, project management and leadership) through participation in targeted RSPB training courses.

This prolonged period of face-to-face guidance and training will support Samuel in developing strong relationships with the CMS Secretariat and the European Birdlife Secretariat staff, who will in turn, support him in engaging with European BirdLife Partners and other stakeholder networks, especially those with influence on land use in Africa.

BirdLife International Headquarters and BirdLife Europe Secretariat

Samuel will have the opportunity to work with staff from the Science, Policy and Information and Conservation departments to access the latest available global information on species, sites and habitats, facilitating identification of national priorities in AEMLAP Range States. This analysis will be shared with national BirdLife Partners and other stakeholders to assist with the production of national implementation plans.

UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

David Stroud has lead responsibility within the statutory conservation agencies for co-ordination of UK advice relevant to the Ramsar Convention, ornithological aspects of CMS including AEMLAP, African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA) and Raptors MoU, as well as the EU Birds Directive. He will advise Samuel on how to catalyse the transformation of action plans into practical conservation action and how to support implementing agencies working at different scales.

9c. Where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards biodiversity conservation and, where relevant, poverty alleviation i.e. what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative.

(Max 300 words)

This Fellowship will enhance Samuel's capacity to help deliver the AEMLAP objective of improving the conservation status of African-Eurasian migratory landbirds through international coordination of actions for these species, and catalysing national actions, especially in Africa. Proposed actions directly address threats to approx 500 migratory landbird species, including 34 that are globally threatened with extinction.

The most important threats to be tackled are habitat loss and degradation, particularly in Africa, and this also threatens sustainable livelihoods of rural communities. Related conservation actions will thus contribute to poverty alleviation. For example, actions include:

- **Improving land-use decision making through use of strategic environmental assessment and development of land-use planning strategies using an ecosystem approach.** These approaches use participatory decision making and so typically deliver solutions for disputes over land tenure. In addition, by securing ecosystem function, they increase communities resilience to extreme weather events, underpinning long-term sustainable agriculture and other livelihoods. This contributes to reducing poverty through smoothing fluctuations in food supply and income generation.
- **Afforestation or re-afforestation initiatives.** To be successful these will have to be implemented in partnership with local communities, and designed to maximise benefits to both the community and birds. Community benefits typically include increased resilience to extreme weather events, reduced soil erosion, and depending on the tree species used, increased access to fruits and other forest products.
- **Reducing local dependence on wood fuel to reduce desertification.** Reducing wood fuel consumption, through the provision of fuel-efficient stoves, or alternative sustainable fuel sources has social and welfare benefits, particularly for women. It also provides health benefits in reducing levels of smoke inhalation.
- **Restoring floodplains.** As well as providing habitat for migrant birds, this will provide enhanced ecosystem service benefits, enabling local communities to expand and diversify associated livelihoods, especially those based on fisheries.

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)

A detailed strategy will be developed during the Fellowship, but we would expect that on his return to Ghana Samuel will:

- Support AEMLAP implementation more effectively, guided by an international network of scientific and technical experts, built with support of UK and European colleagues;
- Encourage national stakeholders to implement AEMLAP in accordance with an agreed plan;
- Facilitate exchange of experience in implementing AEMLAP within a network of African and Eurasian country implementers;
- Transfer skills, knowledge and experience to other BLAPS and Partner staff.

The skills and networks Samuel will build will enable him to encourage and coordinate AEMLAP implementation. Due to commonalities in the scope of actions contained within them, it will also support implementation of other CMS agreements and Action Plans (e.g. AEWA, the Raptors MoU and work addressing poisoning of migratory birds) as well as CBD (including through ensuring AEMLAP objectives are incorporated within NBSAPs) and UNCCD (where actions can contribute to achieving both UNCCD and CMS objectives).

The Fellowship will also raise the AEMLAP profile at national and international levels through regular contacts with Government and international partners, especially the development community, as well as media communications activities.

- 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)

The CMS AEMLAP is a guidance document with no regulatory status. Without this Fellowship, there is a high risk that stakeholders in Range States will fail to communicate and co-ordinate national actions and the AEMLAP will not achieve its goals. The Fellowship will enable Samuel to support Range States to deliver the AEMLAP objectives across the African-Eurasian flyway.

Samuel's increased capacity will assist BLAPS to participate in BirdLife's 'Migratory Birds and Flyways' programme which supports countries to implement the CMS and the CBD (articles 6 and 8). Specifically it supports 1) action plan implementation for threatened/declining birds, 2) protection/management of networks of critical sites for migratory flyways, 3) implementation of international mechanisms for flyway scale collaboration, 4) national/regional legislation and enforcement to address threats to migratory birds and 5) policy measures to maintain/improve habitats for migrant birds at the landscape scale.

Many AEMLAP actions will alleviate poverty. Samuel's increased understanding of this synergy will support BLAPS to implement BirdLife's Local Empowerment Programme which helps countries implement CBD Article 8 (c,e) by working with local communities to link nature conservation to improvements in people's wellbeing and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to support local livelihoods and wellbeing.

- 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 or her own country.

(max 200 words)

This proposal has been developed by Samuel and Danaë, with advice from BirdLife and RSPB colleagues and David Stroud at JNCC. Samuel and Danaë already have a strong working relationship as Danaë is a member of the CMS AEML-Steering Group (a smaller management group within the AEML-WG), was involved in discussions that gave rise to the AEMLAP and has worked with Samuel on AEMLAP development for 2 years.

The main purpose of the Fellowship is to build strong collaboration between organisations in the Range States of the AEMLAP and to secure the collaboration of technical and scientific experts in identifying and designing national priority actions. Both are essential to secure the AEMLAP's implementation

In addition, Samuel will work directly with Danaë and Nicola to encourage the establishment of other international groups and networks with interests related to the implementation of AEMLAP. For example, the Migratory Landbirds Study Group (MLSG) – a network of researchers, and the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan (FLAP) – an initiative to use social media to develop awareness of the underlying issues and build a community of supporters of AEML, as well as with members of the AEML-SG in developing a roll-out plan for the implementation strategy.

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

(max 200 words)

Most of the time Samuel will spend at the RSPB headquarters at the Lodge, Bedfordshire.

During this time the proposed Fellow will conduct:

- Regular day long visits to BirdLife International Science, Policy and Information and Conservation departments in Cambridge;
- Visits as required to JNCC to attend relevant meetings
- Two short (2 day) visits to the BirdLife Europe office (Brussels)
- Two short (2 day) visits to CMS Secretariat (Bonn)
- One short visit to the BirdLife Africa Partnership sub-regional Secretariat in Accra
- A week long visit to the CMS COP11 in Ecuador in November 2014 (all funds provided by BirdLife Partners); and
- He will also attend appropriate conservation workshops and talks, primarily in Cambridge and London.

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

Activity	Duration	2014/15									2015			
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	
Develop and finalise detailed day-to-day work plan for Fellowship		■												
Develop and finalise strategy to use, promote and disseminate Fellowship benefits on Samuel's return to Ghana												■	■	
Provide face-to-face training in species policy and advocacy by embedding Samuel in the International Policy and Species Recovery team at RSPB and by arranging focused 1:1 training opportunities in specific related work areas		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Establish relationships with UK-based biodiversity research institutions, intergovernmental agencies and NGOs			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Visit CMS secretariat in Bonn				■								■		
Visit BirdLife Europe Secretariat in Brussels				■								■		
Samuel attends the Meeting of the Council for the Africa Partnership in Accra (accommodation and subsistence funded by BirdLife)													■	
Samuel attends CMS COP 11 Ecuador (all costs funded by RSPB/ BirdLife)						■								
Prepare interim report for Darwin Initiative								■						
Prepare final report for Darwin Initiative														

15. Costs. Using UK Government Financial Years ie April 2014 – March 2015 etc), please set out your budget for the Fellowship

	Unit cost	No of months		Total	
		2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16
Fellow's Subsistence contribution					
Arrival allowance	£300	NA	NA	300	
London based	£1,200 pcm				
UK (outside London)	£1,000 pcm	9	3	9,000	3,000
Overseas	£tbc*				
Host organisation's costs					
UK	£300 pcm	9	3	2,600	0
Overseas	£tbc*				
Total Fellow and Host costs				11,900	3,000
Travel costs to Fellowship location (up to £2,000)					
Return airfare	Details: Accra Ghana to London RTN			750	750
Travel to/from airports	Details: to and from airports (x4)			200	200
Visas, insurance, medical cover etc	Details: UK Visa			85	
Additional travel costs (up to £500 local travel OR £1,500 for international travel)					
Purpose of additional travel	Details: Visiting the CMS Secretariat/ BirdLife Europe Secretariat				
Airfares/train fares	Details: 2 RTN train fares Sandy-Bonn/Brussels			200	200
Travel to/from airports/stations	Details: Travel between rail stations and offices			75	75
Subsistence costs (inc number of days and rates)*	Details: 8 days @ £100 per day			400	400
Visas etc	Details: Schengen visa			75	75
Total travel costs				1,785	1,700
Fees and training costs					
Academic fees	Details:				
English language training costs**	Details:				
Total fees				0	0
TOTAL REQUEST FROM DARWIN		£18,385		13,685	4,700

*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

RSPB will provide c. £8,450 of matched funding in the form of staff time.
 We hope that as a result of the Fellowship, Samuel will have the capacity to support the Birdlife representation at the CMS COP 11 in Ecuador in November 2014, in which case we will cover the cost of his travel and accommodation to the meeting (approximately £3,000).
 BLAPS will cover the cost of Samuel's accommodation and subsistence whilst attending the

Meeting of the Council for the Africa Partnership in Accra.

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 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*): <http://www.rspb.org.uk/about/run/annualreview.asp>

Name (block capitals)	DR DANAË SHEEHAN
Position in the organisation	Head of RSPB Migrants Programme

Signed



Date:

31 January 2014

Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship?	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
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 proposed Fellow and the UK experts listed in Section 5?	Yes
Have you provided the relevant letters of support?	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?	Yes
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	Yes

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT on **Monday 3 February 2014** to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.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.