
DIR30S2\1043

Socially and ecologically coherent freshwater protection in the Northern Philippines

Freshwater biodiversity in the Pared River Catchment (PRC) is threatened by land-use change, abstraction, exploitation, pollution, climate change, and invasive species. ZSL will work with communities and government to establish a coherent network of 13 community-managed Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) across the PRC. We will build capacity of communities and government to mitigate threats and better manage riverine resources. We will link FS with Community-managed Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCAs) and livelihood diversification to build both ecological and financial resilience.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary


Q3. Title:


Socially and ecologically coherent freshwater protection in the Northern Philippines

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What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR29S1\1123

DIR30S1_1197

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Intensive land-use systems

Biome 2

Freshwater Realm (Rivers and streams)

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land / Water Management

Conservation Action2

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Conservation Action 3

Education & Training

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 3

Pollution (domestic, commercial, agricultural)

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

Freshwater biodiversity in the Pared River Catchment (PRC) is threatened by land-use change, abstraction, exploitation, pollution, climate change, and invasive species. ZSL will work with communities and government to establish a coherent network of 13 community-managed Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) across the PRC. We will build capacity of communities and government to mitigate threats and better manage riverine resources. We will link FS with Community-managed Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCAs) and livelihood diversification to build both ecological and financial resilience.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Philippines	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2024	31 March 2027	three years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Amount:	£234,558.00	£184,319.00	£178,907.00	£
				597,784.00

Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q10. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A

Q11. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with multi-dimensional poverty.

IPBES (1) states that globally, freshwater habitats and associated biodiversity are impacted by unsustainable use, construction, land conversion, pollution, and invasive species. Freshwater systems have exhibited species' population declines of 83% between 1970 and 2018 which are the worst seen in any biome (2). Globally, water demand is expected to increase between 20-30% by 2050 (3) with countries like the Philippines facing the coupled impacts of population growth and climate change. The Philippines NBSAP states that "inland water/wetlands become a congregating point for human settlements. They are the most accessed but receive the least conservation attention" (4).

Sustaining freshwater ecosystems is foundational for flourishing society and, in the Philippines, they urgently require conservation attention (5). Freshwater conservation is often poorly represented and under resourced (6) and on the Darwin Initiative website, 'Inland waters' and 'Wetlands' represent 75 of 937 projects. As such, we believe that interventions in freshwater systems that can be replicated are urgently needed, particularly where communities live close to and rely upon these natural resources. While it is important to understand the status of species in these systems, and identify those that are threatened, we are also in a situation where freshwater biomes must be recognised for their biodiversity and ecosystem services more broadly.

ZSL has worked in PRC, a tributary of the Cagayan River in Region 2, the largest in the Philippines, (see map) for over six years implementing two DI-funded projects (21-020, 24-106). Our previous work carried out baseline biological and socio-economic surveys to understand the status of freshwater systems and the communities in our focal areas. We used participatory approaches to assess drivers and impacts of identified threats - for the PRC land-use change, abstraction, unmanaged exploitation, and invasive species were the major hazards. Additionally, natural disasters have occurred increasingly in the region during the period we have been working there with 2-3 typhoons making landfall in the past year. A key factor in the situation is that communities relied on corn monoculture that caused pollution and erosion in terrestrial and freshwater systems, as well as impacting native plants. This, in addition to the illegal farm encroachment, has made these areas more vulnerable to natural disaster. It also meant that communities were not financially resilient in the face of crop failure and/or natural disaster. Our interventions aimed to protect freshwater and riparian habitats, build capacity, and diversify livelihoods in focal communities, and improve policy to ensure longevity of these measures. The Pared River Basin is under a watershed management plan due to anthropogenic threats, inorganic agricultural activities and erosion of riverbanks.

The proposed project focuses on the PRC as a model freshwater system in order to sustainably manage this increasingly threatened biome. The project will increase socio-economic capacity and resilience in reliant communities and establish robust governance and management systems to implement sustainable

interventions. Creating a sustainable FS model, and network that protects the PRC will act as a showcase for community-based integrated riverine management in the global South.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

The Philippines NBSAP identified freshwater as ‘the most accessed...but least conserved habitat’ and states “...by 2028, there will be a 20% increase in total area, from 2015 levels, of terrestrial (including inland wetlands) PAs (7)”. Further, a key objective in the NBSAP is to ‘Establish baseline data and conduct biophysical and sociocultural including gender assessment and monitoring of freshwater wetlands...’ a key driver of the work that ZSL has implemented in the region. The Water Code of the Philippines (P.D. 1067) is being implemented nationally by DENR as a basis for their river recovery programme. In line with this, DENR Region 2 have developed and implemented the Pared River Basin Management Plan which this project will support in delivering.

In July 2019, BFAR released Fisheries Office Order (FOO) 199: Guidelines in the implementation of Balik Sigla ang Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) Program which includes guidelines focussed on improving freshwater systems. The present project will support delivery of the aims of the BASIL Program. BMB has designated the PRC as a ‘critical’ river basin, as a major tributary of the Cagayan River and municipal water source. This project will work to address issues such as flooding, monoculture, farm encroachment and soil erosion in the PRC that impact both biodiversity and local communities.

A coherent network of FS that protects species and habitat, and benefits associated communities addresses Goals 1,3 and 4 of the 4th Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, as well as SDG targets (SDGt) 1.5, 6.6, 12.2, 12.8, 15.1, 15.5 and 15.9, and CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets (KMGBFT) 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13 (CBD, 2022).

FS establishment addresses poor land management practices (SDGt 2.3, 6.3 and 15.2; KMGBFT 2, 3 and 10); increases resilience to changing climate and/or natural disasters; (SDGt 2.4, 11.5 and 13.1; KMGBFT 8; and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement); reduces invasive species impacts (SDGt 15.8; KMGBFT 6) and protects threatened and/or endemic species (KMGBFT 4).

Building community capacity (SDGt 17.9; KMGBFT 20) in resource management (SDGt 6.8 and 16.7) through education, communication and/or training programmes (SDGt 4.7) will ensure the project’s legacy to support

efforts to achieve global targets.

The establishment of FS-associated CoMSCAs will offer otherwise unavailable financial services (SDGt 1.4, 8.10 and 9.3), increasing economic security (SDGt 3.8 and 5.4), alleviating poverty (SDGt 1.2) and facilitating livelihood diversification (SDGt 8.3). It aligns with the country's long-term development plan for creating a prosperous society resilient to natural disasters (8).

We have a proven record of leveraging municipal and national funding to support environmental stewardship (SDGt 12.1; KMGBFT 19) through our previous project. Established COMSCAs in the region have consisted of ~70% females and are an effective tool in ensuring gender equality (SDGt 5.5 and 5.7; KMGBFT 23).

While the eels in the PRC are not CITES-listed, there has been a move to a genus-level examination of trade. As such, our engagement with fisheries of these species will help to inform these discussions, which ZSL is actively engaged in.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- how you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

There are many examples globally of freshwater systems being 'protected' simply through inclusion in terrestrial PAs. This does not provide effective protection for habitats and species and can be detrimental for local communities (9). Our previous project's aim was not to encourage wholesale replication of FS but to ensure the model was fit for purpose prior to that. We believe we have reached a point where FS yield benefits through bankside restoration and reduced catch, and associated CoMSCAs and livelihoods offer increased financial resilience.

To scale and diversify, the work carried out during DI24-016 this project will create 10 new FS- these include a no-take zone (≥ 1 ha) and gear limited sustainable-use buffer zones on each side of this. Through capacity building and government engagement a more socio-ecologically coherent network will be developed at the catchment scale. We will train local champions already involved in establishing and managing FS to develop them with new communities, thus utilising existing capacity and knowledge to create a more sustainable model. Further we will establish a management framework that provides greater coherence across the PRC and integrates existing governance structures from the municipal, provincial, and national level.

Our previous projects learning indicated that there is both a need and appetite for livelihood diversification – including native species farming and silviculture, which can be used for consumption/sale and riparian restoration respectively. This project will carry out participatory livelihood assessment and identify opportunities to support diversification linked with the CoMSCAs. These have been shown to be supported by the increased financial resilience afforded by CoMSCAs.

O1 - PRC assessment

We will perform habitat surveys of the PRC using drone-mounted cameras in collaboration with DENR. This will inform participatory land-use and threat assessments and identify areas for FS establishment. In parallel, community meetings and surveys will aid understanding stakeholder needs and willingness to engage in FS establishment. These combined data will identify 10 communities as key sites within the three LGUs. Walkover habitat surveys will characterise each potential FS before they are decided with communities and LGUs. These participatory activities will provide opportunity to assess concerns and feedback from local communities and share information on the project theory of change.

O2 - FS network establishment

Experienced actors from existing PRC FS will be engaged to support the delineation and establishment of the new FS (≥ 10 ha) through legal ordinances, and support capacity-building within communities. Governance structures and associated management plans will be amended and/or developed such that new FS strengthen existing protection. A new network of stakeholders – PRC FS Network Management Board (PRCFSNMB) - will be developed to facilitate knowledge sharing and skills development across the whole catchment, expanding the previous model. This will provide more coherence across FS management an opportunity to share learnings and expertise. The existing three FS have secured LGU funds, and the PRCFSNMB will work with GOs to access resources and develop a sustainable funding mechanism for the integrated network.

O3 - FS network effectiveness monitoring

Previous tagging studies and fish monitoring helped understand species residency and highlighted increases in abundance within individual FS. Mark-recapture studies and fish surveys will be used to characterise changes in native species abundance across multiple FS. Experienced existing Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) in the PRC will support establishment and monitoring in new FS and train new members in biodiversity surveys and data collection. These data will set biodiversity baselines from FS establishment and inform Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) analysis to monitor change and facilitate adaptive management. The PRCFSNMB will carry out regular stakeholder perception questionnaires in order to address feedback and issues effectively.

O4 - Sustainable threat mitigation

By aligning with existing policy, FS will provide the framework to deliver interventions to mitigate against identified and emerging threats. River wardens will be trained to enforce local FS ordinances. CMG monitoring and habitat surveys will identify damaging agricultural practices and invasive species to inform sustainable livelihood diversification interventions to combat these, and support restoration efforts. From successful trials in previous projects, interventions will be linked to CoMSCAs to engage and support stakeholder-led activities, while increasing the financial resilience of its members and supporting livelihood diversification. CoMSCAs will include Environment Funds to create a resource for members to put into activities which benefit local natural resources e.g., FS management, logistics for enforcement. (10) Previous projects identified threats, such habitat degradation, from which appropriate community-based solutions were developed. Through the creation of silviculture nurseries, the seedlings of which were used for bankside restoration, a sustainable circular economy was established.

Q15. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

Core to the project is building capacity at the community level within the PRC in order to increase their stewardship of freshwater resources, in collaboration with LGUs and regional GOs. This also works towards the

project aims focussed on poverty alleviation. Socio-economic surveys will identify key beneficiaries and allow us to tailor elements of the capacity building programme to meet their needs.

Technical skills training will be delivered – enforcement and paralegal training for river wardens; climate smart agriculture and riparian restoration (including invasive species removal) for farmers; and protected area management and assessment training for those supporting the FS. Additionally, we will develop skills to allow livelihood diversification based on our experience in previous projects - ZSL delivered a small Darwin grant related to COVID (CV19RR16) in this region that was specifically focussed on this. Training in native seedling silviculture will be carried out in collaboration with DENR who has permanent presence in the region and by gaining access to identified markets we will ensure the programme is economically viable and has legacy beyond the project. This will meet the need of riparian restoration activities in the project and creates a circular economy.

CoMSCAs provide economic security through a programme of saving. This women-led method has been used by ZSL in several projects in the Philippines with great success, and the inclusion of the Village Agent (VA) model ensures that CoMSCAs can proliferate in a self-sustaining way and do not require the intervention of ZSL beyond the life of the project. The CoMSCA Environment Fund offers the opportunity to invest in infrastructure and projects that will increase the resilience of freshwater systems and the associated communities. These have been used to secure on-going matched funding with LGUs and regional GOs which has increased financial inputs to local resources.

Q16. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

ZSL recognises the importance of gender mainstreaming to achieve fair societal outcomes and acknowledges the objectives set out by the UK International Development (Gender Equality) Act and the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5. ZSL will ensure Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles are integrated into project design, planning, and monitoring and evaluation of activities to ensure they are equitable. ZSL uses a range of tools, including gender sensitive stakeholder analyses, consultations and engagement plans to ensure women's and other minority audiences voices, opinions and needs inform project design and implementation.

Within the context of this project, ZSL will implement GESI principles across project delivery using the FAIRER conservation framework (our approach to implementing Environmental and Social Safeguards). A range of tools will be used to understand barriers to participation in freshwater management. Co-developed GESI-responsive engagement plans will facilitate inclusive participation. We encourage the inclusion of diverse views and interests to ensure activities support equality and feature specific issues, so the voices of women and other minority backgrounds are meaningfully incorporated and influence the development of future project activities. We will advocate to equitably include women by allocating them >40% participation in relevant fora and support them to adopt decision-making roles that are usually male dominated. Where possible, we will implement gender responsive enterprises to empower women to become natural resource managers.

CoMSCA membership is well-documented to be female-dominated – in project 24-016, it averaged 70%. Women see direct benefit from the increased economic resilience and access to financial services afforded by CoMSCAs. This also allows women to become VAs, catalysing CoMSCA replication, developing skills and creating livelihoods.

Throughout the project we will measure programmatic effect in terms of equality by collecting and analysing

disaggregated data at baseline and subsequent evaluation points to allow for detailed monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction, and links between them, that this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who exactly will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail - number of households should be the largest unit used.

In the short-term establishing this network of 13 FS over a relatively small geographical scale will benefit both the freshwater and riparian biodiversity and set a baseline for improved monitoring of the PRC, which has been lacking to date (O1). The increased capacity of 100 people through training and strengthened organisation will ensure FS network effectiveness and enforcement and facilitate peer-support of stakeholders across the 13 sites (O2/O3/O4). This will ensure that communities and government are better able to adaptively manage the FS (O3). Established FS will offer a template for development and present opportunities to catalyse knowledge-sharing. Communities associated with new FS will benefit from those already experienced in management, and key 'FS champions' will co-ordinate engagement across the sites.

Establishing CoMSCAs will increase financial resilience, and in turn, locally defined well-being indicators, in at least 200 households through membership of as many individuals. At least 70% of the membership of the established CoMSCAs will be women, who will in turn benefit from linked initiatives (O4). For example, these groups will be the basis of sustainable livelihood diversification. Livelihood diversification will focus on establishing native species nurseries/farms for either sale to support restoration efforts of the government or consumption (O4). This will result in increased income to communities and offer further opportunity for planting with DENR and LGUs. These interventions will also benefit riverine biodiversity through a reduction in the impact of livelihoods e.g., agriculture, and by providing financial resources to develop community-lead activities via CoMSCA Environment Funds. By the end of the project, we believe we will have a model for coherent, community-based freshwater management that could be replicated in similar systems. At present this does not exist.

As such, in the longer-term, the PRC FS network will become a model for how integrated protected areas can benefit riverine biodiversity and associated communities. The "spill-over" effect of freshwater fish species these well-managed, well-protected FS bring will result in increased catch among community fishers. This social network will also initiate the formalisation of a structure that will ensure the FS network can exist beyond the length of the project, underpinned by a strengthened stakeholder network, and complemented by the integration of relevant government agencies from municipal to national level. This will ensure skills and resources are being fed into the FS network and associated communities. By using the VA model, CoMSCAs can be replicated in the absence of ZSL staff and once established can self-perpetuate - it is estimated that 89% of groups continue to operate longer than five years after receiving training.

As previously described, the FS will also support existing government initiatives and by working with relevant agencies at the municipal, regional, and national level, we will support the evolution of freshwater policy and practices. For example, the development of FOO 199 promotes riverine conservation, however, stocking of invasive tilapia is still occurring. We hope to encourage a more coherent approach to freshwater conservation not just within the PRC but over a wider geographical scale.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

The overall project outcome is to develop social, governance and ecological networks that are supported by improved integration of human and financial resources to benefit both communities and biodiversity within the PRC.

The Outputs address four elements of creating these networks – biological, social and governance assessment; establishment of FS and community networks; testing network effectiveness; and developing interventions linked to the FS that address threats, and benefit both communities and riverine biodiversity.

Built into these outputs are mechanisms to ensure sustainability beyond the project's life which will be essential to achieve the Outcome. These include ensuring GO resources are built into the establishment of FS and the network and creating FS champions identified from within communities to co-ordinate knowledge sharing and peer support.

We have already seen interest in replicating FS outside of the project area which indicates the development of a more structured approach to freshwater conservation will serve our Impact statement.

By developing the PRC as a case study for progressing how riverine resources are managed and conserved, and by working with multi-level GOs, we aim to embed this work in regional and national structures. These learnings can inform any proposed replication elsewhere in the Philippines.

Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q19a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

ZSL has a proven history of co-developing projects in the Philippines including methods and approaches that are adopted beyond their life. For example, 95% of CoMSCAs are operational after five years, and the Village Agent model ensures this intervention has an extended legacy. The CoMSCA Environmental Fund supports FS management and enforcement and LGU project partners who are already supporting activities in the PRC ensure the Network will be financially and operationally resilient.

Data and learning will inform management and conservation through improved stakeholder co-ordination.

Social marketing will ensure stakeholders have a good understanding of the importance of biodiversity protection. All relevant data will be shared with government partners, in line with national laws.





By aligning this work to existing policy, and working with national, regional and municipal government partners, we will ensure that the project legacy is adopted within natural resource management structures and continue beyond ZSL's engagement.

Q19b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

The fundamental project aim is to scale the FS model in a socially and ecologically coherent way, thus meeting a nationally identified need for improved freshwater protection. By establishing the first network within a catchment of the Cagayan River Basin (CRB) – across which there are nine other existing FS as a legacy of DI21-020 and could act as seeds for future networks – we will leave a model replicable across the aquascape. This would rely on the buy-in of local communities and governments but by including these as project partners, we

would aim to begin share these learnings across the CRB. By including Region 2 government bodies (DENR and BFAR) – the administrative area within which the majority of the CRB exists – as project partners we will maximise the opportunity for replication, thus increasing both protection across a larger geographical area and capacity within associated communities.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

-  [Philippines Additional Attachment](#)
-  27/11/2023
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-  pdf 187.19 KB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Misuse of funds by partners	major	unlikely	major	ZSL has stringent financial protocols in place and works with a wide range of partners. A grant agreement is set up with clear outline of financial responsibilities by each partner. Additionally, ZSL has worked with the project partners on previous grants and has strong financial reporting systems already in place	minor
Safeguarding Harassment, abuse or sexual exploitation of project stakeholders or participants during their interactions with the project, resulting in harm caused to individuals	major	unlikely	major	ZSL has rigorous in-house protocols and policies for safeguarding which all partners adhere to. ZSL has training for all project staff on safeguarding, GDPR and the Global Code of Conduct. This is implemented through locally relevant grievance and feedback mechanisms which are open to all project participants, partners and stakeholders.	minor

Delivery Chain	Project partners fail to deliver measurable outputs through the timely implementation of activities due to lack of communication.	major	unlikely	major	ZSL has proven track record working with the project partners. It has an MoU with the DENR, BFAR and LGUs, allowing ZSL to establish FS. ZSL signs a binding legal contract with its implementing partners and has a robust M&E framework to ensure activities are implemented and adapted accordingly.	minor
Risk 4	The project works with vulnerable community members and causes harm or deepens gender or other inequity by not involving members of the community, not informing them appropriately or leaving out groups' voices from the consultations.	moderate	unlikely	moderate	GESI is mainstreamed into the ZSL Philippines approach, ensuring the inclusion of marginalised groups. This includes the implementation of participatory stakeholder engagement and Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The project also includes grievance mechanisms and beneficiary feedback and collects disaggregated data. Regular checks ensure guidelines and processes are adhered to.	minor
Risk 5	Increased risks from natural disasters such as flooding and landslides	moderate	possible	major	H&S assessment at project inception phase, with regular review and updates, to guide site selection for project activities and data collection sites. Close collaboration with local authorities to progress activities in safe conditions. Close monitoring of relevant meteorological and safety information sources to ensure preparedness.	moderate
Risk 6	COVID-19 causes disruption to project activities.	moderate	unlikely	moderate	Staff and project partners will take H&S precautions to avoid the spread of COVID in line with national policy. Virtual tools are available as a way to continue regular stakeholder meetings, community engagement, and advocacy if social distancing is necessary	Minor

Q21. Project sensitivities


Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).


No


Section 8 - Workplan


Q22. Workplan

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

 [Philippines - Implementation Timetable - Latest](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q23. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E.

ZSL has a strong reputation for managing conservation projects worldwide based on sound science and recognises that the real challenge has been finding a mechanism to ensure that community-based management is well implemented and sustained. We have pioneered a suite of techniques and approaches in designing and implementing the monitoring and evaluation of community-led conservation initiatives. These have been integral to developing standardised approaches and indicators to enable rigorous project management, shared learnings and impact evaluation contributing directly to ZSL's mission.

To ensure targets are met on-time and on-budget, the project team will produce annual M&E and work plans, and attend monthly meetings, from which progress reports will be submitted to the Project Leader. The Technical Advisor and M+E Specialist will visit the Philippines annually for in-person project planning and evaluation, as well to conduct site visits and training, and meet with staff and communities. Outside of these formalised management and evaluation meetings, there will be regular communication between team members in the Philippines and UK, and with partners via email, Microsoft Teams, and WhatsApp. This will enable adaptive management of the project, informing adjustment of workplans and logframe, as required, to ensure they are 'living' documents. Progress in project activities and completion of key milestones will be monitored through monthly reports submitted to ZSL HQ by project staff and partners ensuring alignment with the overarching ZSL impact framework (which is in development) and well-being matrix, which are measured across all programmes. This established ZSL project management tool ensures timely completion of activities, and quickly flags up any issues for attention. Monthly reports provide the basis for writing a half-year and annual progress report that are submitted to all project partners and donors, according to the required format.

Indicators will be monitored periodically by the Project Leader and Technical Advisor through a range of tools

across relevant themes to ensure that the project is meeting targets and to measure impact. These include FS management effectiveness (FS MEAT, annually), biophysical/riverine health monitoring (annually), CoMSCAs (quarterly), livelihoods (quarterly), well-being improvements (start and end-of-project), and behavioural/attitudinal changes (knowledge-attitudes-practices [KAP], start and end of project). Social and economic effects will be evaluated through surveys and focus groups which will be designed at project inception in order to define context-specific metrics (e.g., well-being measures not only changes in income but also empowerment and security dimensions). Behavioural changes towards freshwater conservation will be measured through attitudinal surveys, designed at project inception and administered pre- and post-intervention.

Data collection will be gender disaggregated and largely undertaken by experienced project staff, though communities will be engaged in a simpler scale of monitoring to inform decision making and participatory management. All data will be stored centrally. Working in rural communities, in countries that lack the capacity and funds to facilitate such extensive data collection, this project contributes to the challenges of data deficiency and actively monitoring targets that influence policy implementation at local, national and international levels.

Total project budget for M&E (£) (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Total project budget for M&E (%) (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	[REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	780

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q24. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

[Philippines - Logical Framework - Latest](#)

27/11/2023

17:58:22

pdf 107.53 KB

Impact:

Effective, sustainable networks of community-based freshwater protected areas collectively manage and conserve riverine resources in the northern Philippines, benefitting biodiversity while improving resilience and well-being of local stakeholders

Outcome:

The riverine resources of the Pared River Catchment are better protected by an effective and socio-ecologically coherent network of co-managed Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) which benefit associated communities.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Through human and biological surveys, ten Freshwater Sanctuary sites have been identified to conserve riverine resources within the Pared River Catchment (PRC) and represent a socio-ecologically coherent network of protection.

Output 2:

A sustainable model of FS co-management is developed through community empowerment, capacity building, and government resourcing

Output 3:

The management effectiveness of the FS network is measurably improved through increased capacity and participatory monitoring.

Output 4:

Key government and community stakeholders are supporting an integrated response to identified threats to riverine resources in the Freshwater Sanctuaries

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1.

1.1 Conduct biological and socio-economic surveys of the Pared River Catchment

1.2 Participatory land-use mapping along PRC communities

1.3 Identification of ten 10 potential sites for freshwater protected area establishment

1.4 Development of digital maps of PRC and proposed FSs

1.5 Consultation meeting with selected barangays (villages) along PRC feedbacking the results of surveys, and maps of 10 proposed FSs

1.6 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) on FSs establishment and management objectives, benefits to local communities, and the importance of freshwater ecosystems.

1.7 Legalization of 10 proposed FS within PRC through barangay resolutions and municipal Ordinances

1.8 Demarcation of 10 proposed FSs with at least 10 hectares core zone

Output 2.

- 2.1 Attend municipal and barangay sessions with the champions to present FS establishments and scaling up concepts of FS into a network
- 2.2 Formation of FS management councils
- 2.3 Development of FS management plans (for Alcala) and updating (for Baggao, Penablanca) to include new established FSs
- 2.4 Adoption and institutionalization of FS management plans in LGU with allocated annual budgets
- 2.5 Conduct consultative meetings to the FS Management Bodies and discuss networking of FSs in PRC
- 2.6 Formation of PRC FS network management body recognized by the three LGUs within PRC
- 2.7 Presentation of FS network management body structure and roles to LGUs legislative body for adaption through resolution
- 2.8 Representation of FS network management body into LGUs Municipal Development Council
- 2.9 Participatory planning workshop for the development of PRC FS network management plan
- 2.10 Adoption and institutionalization of FS network management plan into provincial development plans to ensure budget allocation
- 2.11 Organizational development and management training of FS management body i.e., leadership training

Output 3.

- 3.1 Conduct MEAT workshops and assessments in all 13 sites and FS networks
- 3.2 Formation/reformation of Community Monitoring Group in all 13 sites
- 3.3 Training on Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring (BAMS) for CMG using the DENR BMB technical bulletin.
- 3.4 Development of CMG monitoring plan/yearly action plan based on FS network management plan
- 3.5 Identification of native fish species in PRC using visual tagging in close partnership with BFAR
- 3.6 Review and updating of FS and FS networks management plans
- 3.7 Management of FS monitoring data and preparation of related reports for reference in the improvement of FSs and networks

Output 4.

- 4.1 Law enforcement and paralegal training for river wardens in all 13 sites provided by DENR and BFAR


- 4.2 Regular patrolling in FS areas (Zones)
- 4.3 Skills training on silviculture and nursery establishment
- 4.4 Establishment of community based- native trees nurseries.
- 4.5 Inventory of invasive species in FS through regular monitoring by CMG
- 4.6 Mitigation action on invasive trees and freshwater fish species implemented by river warden in partnerships with the DENR and BFAR
- 4.7 Planting of native trees, fruit trees, bamboo in riverbanks with a 1:50 ratio (1 cleared invasive replace with 50 seedlings of native trees)
- 4.8 Adoption/implementation of policy on no planting of invasive species by DENR and adaption by local governments
- 4.9 Formation and establishment of CoMSCAs in all 13 sites within the PRC
- 4.10 Creation of environmental fund included in the CoMSCA groups to support community-led activities e.g., FS management
- 4.11 CoMSCA kits provided for the first operations of savers group
- 4.12 Village Agents (VA) training
- 4.13 Identification and training in biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs) e.g. mushroom farming, quail egg production, charcoal making using corn husk.
- 4.14 Lobby for funding by local governments of identified BDFEs
- 4.15 Introduction of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Organic Farming


Section 11 - Budget and Funding


Q25. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

 [Budget ZSL Philippines Freshwater](#)

 27/11/2023

 17:59:44

 xlsx 96.61 KB

Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q26a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

- Development of existing/past activities

Please provide details:

This project will build on our previous work in Region 2. Further, it will support the DENR's implementation of the Water Code of the Philippines (P.D. 1067) in retrieving riparian easement areas of river systems, i.e., 10-20m for agricultural lands and 40m in forest zones through planting of native tree species. It will complement the implementation of the DENR order prohibiting planting of alien and invasive tree species. It will also support the DENR's implementation of the Pared River Basin Watershed Management Plan through the protection and management of watershed and riparian zones, freshwater ecosystems, and resources.

The project will also support BFAR's implementation of the FOO 199 (BASIL) program to promote the stock enhancement of native freshwater fish species in open bodies of water - ZSL has already advocated for this in our previous projects. We will support BFAR's drive in catching and disposing of the invasive janitor fish within the Cagayan River Basin, and its major tributaries, including the Pared River. We will also strengthen the work of LGU Alcala in planting native trees along riverbanks and other terrestrial areas within their jurisdiction as spearheaded by the mayor.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project that may duplicate or cut across this proposed project?

- Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

Freshwater conservation is very limited in the Philippines and to date we have been one of a very small number of organisations working in this field. As the only INGO to be working in the PRC we will complement the current work of national and local governments, as described above. The local NGO Mabuwaya Foundation also works in the tributaries of Pared River particularly in Bluewater FS in Baggao. They support the LGU in the conservation of the Critically Endangered Isabela Oriole (*Oriolus isabellae*) and have declared a wildlife sanctuary to protect its habitat. ZSL will support this effort through continued capacity building of river wardens to include wildlife protection. Similarly there has been small-scale bankside tree-planting in the catchment which we would aim to support as part of the present project.

Q27. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

The budget was developed using a conservative exchange rate of £1=68PhP based on research of historical rates and spend on previous grants. We are confident it will ensure that any fluctuations are mitigated against. We are building on a trusted presence in the region, and used our experience to inform the budget. Several previous team members will return to the project, ensuring efficiencies are made in costs relating to hiring and establishing infrastructure - for example, some furniture and peripherals will be re-used. We will also use two motorbikes purchased during project 21-020 and having maintained them well, expect them to last the duration

of the proposed project. The car used in the previous two projects is no longer fit for purpose, but we will trade this in to off-set the cost of an updated model. We have built good relationships during the implementation of the previous projects and as such stakeholder courtesy visits will also be reduced. This is an essential but time-consuming element of work in the Philippines that has associated travel costs, allowing us to be more effective in delivery.

The budget has increased by £ 29,210 since Stage 1 due to in-country staff costs changes. These have been recently re-assessed and the new costs reflect a more equitable pay-structure for our in-country team. Overall, 87% of the budget will be spent in-country. ZSL is providing institutional support in the form of infrastructure such as HR, IT and communications services which will be available as needed.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Initiative funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

Capital items include laptops and office furniture. A new vehicle will also be procured that will support the mobilisation of the project team during field work to supplement already procured motorcycles – we will trade in the vehicle used in the previous project to offset some of this cost. We anticipate the electronic items will depreciate over the course of the project period. We will consult LTSI at the end of the project to discuss whether capital items remain within ZSL Philippines or are gifted to LGUs and/or national government agencies depending on what is deemed most appropriate for the project legacy at the time.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy:** including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy:** which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct:** which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

ZSL has developed specific HR procedures and policies to guarantee the safety and well-being of all project participants and through its FAIRER conservation framework. The Safeguarding Policy emphasises zero tolerance for bullying, harassment, and sexual exploitation and abuse. The Whistleblowing Policy outlines a clear process for dealing with concerns raised, ensuring the protection of whistleblowers from any reprisals. The Code of Conduct sets out clear expectations of behaviours for project staff, both within and outside the workplace. It defines the consequences for non-compliance or breach of these standards. Training on these policies is provided for all project staff.

Safeguarding issues are investigated thoroughly, and disciplinary procedures are implemented if complaints are upheld. We work closely with our partners to ensure compliance and provide support in implementation. We continually review and refine our procedures to address evolving challenges or emerging best practices in safeguarding. All projects will be subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and including establishment of grievance mechanisms.

Throughout ZSL's long-term experience implementing projects jointly with Filipino NGOs, local governments, local communities and research institutions, the team has developed ways to introduce safeguarding policies. Therefore, many partners and service suppliers are already familiar with ZSL's safeguarding policies

Q30. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

ZSL has worked in the Philippines for nearly two decades and all full-time staff on the project will be Filipino. We have good relations with governments on multiple levels and communities in the PRC, such that delivery is very much informed by in-country needs.

ZSL has robust structures in place to ensure that interventions relating to both humans and animals meet the highest ethical and health and safety standards. All activities are risk assessed and reviewed by relevant health and safety officers, as well as having an associated emergency response plan. Risk registers will be kept in line with Q20. Any research involving animals will be reviewed by ZSL's Ethics Committee for Animal Research before commencing. Similarly, ZSL's Human Ethics Committee will ensure that activities that involves human participants and/or their data is delivered in an ethical and legal manner – the technical advisor on this project presently chairs this group. ZSL safeguards the rights and needs of project participants through Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Once the project methodology has been approved, all data will be held according to the stipulations of the UK Data Protection Act (2018) and the Philippines Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Section 13 - British embassy or high commission engagement


Q31. British embassy or high commission engagement


It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies.


Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project.


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [FCDO evidence](#)

 27/11/2023

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Alejandro A. Belen	Project Leader	100	Checked
TBC	Senior Biologist	100	Checked
Luz Bayani	Biologist	100	Checked
TBC	Forester	100	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Franklin Piad Jr.	Socio Technical Specialist	100	Checked
Albert Barcena	Community Organizer	100	Checked
Nimfa Pagaduan	Community Organizer	100	Checked
Matthew Gollock	Technical Advisor	5	Checked
Alex Sibbaluca	Technical Advisor	15	Checked
Emma Ballad	Government Fisheries Advisor	10	Checked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

 [ZSL Combined CVs and JDs](#)

 27/11/2023

 18:05:44

 pdf 1.16 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included. The order of the letters must be the same as the order they are presented in below.

Lead partner name: Zoological Society of London

Website address: www.zsl.org

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

ZSL delivers a diverse portfolio of collaborative international conservation projects in 50 countries. ZSL-Philippines was set up in 2010 as a registered NGO and comprises ~40 technical and operational staff in 4 provinces.

ZSL has been working in Cagayan for over six years with six staff building strong relationships with local and national government agencies and communities. This office has the support of a national ZSL team based in Iloilo. Further, we have a well-established, UK-based project management infrastructure specific to aquatic projects as well as support from in-house finance, communications and human resources teams.

ZSL has worked in freshwater conservation for over ten years. The Senior Advisor is a member of the IUCN Freshwater Conservation Sub-Committee and chair of the IUCN Anguillid Eel Specialist Group, species that IUCN has resolved to promote as flagships for aquatic conservation.

ZSL will be responsible for overall project and budget management, co-ordination, M&E and reporting. We will provide support for FS establishment and management; formation and capacity building of FS management bodies, and creation of FSMB network; community engagement for riparian restoration, and disposal of invasive fish species; community banking and sustainable livelihoods diversification; community awareness campaigns; and community-based law enforcement.

International/In-country Partner: International

Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£ [REDACTED]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:	Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) Region 2 Office
Website address:	https://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/

(Max 200 words)
 BFAR is the government's agency responsible for the development, improvement, management, and conservation of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources with the aim of alleviating poverty and providing supplementary livelihoods among fisherfolk. It also aims to improve aquaculture productivity within ecological limits.
 As lead agency in protecting inland water bodies in the region, BFAR will provide technical advice and support to the project's biological component particularly on aquatic resources, implementation of fishery laws, FS establishment, and conduct of habitat monitoring. BFAR will support in capacity-building activities of river wardens in law enforcement, paralegal formation, IEC on inland fisheries management and fishery laws, and fish catch monitoring for CMGs. BFAR will also support river wardens foot patrol activities in the PRC especially in FS no-take zones, case-filing, and litigation.
 BFAR is well-placed to achieve these roles as it is the key government agency relating to fisheries and has a structure that works on municipal, regional and national levels. BFAR has facilities within Cagayan Province that will serve as project management hubs for long-term, structured, local-level engagement with stakeholders both during and after the project. We will work with our point of contact from project 21-020, thus ensuring continuity.

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	£ [REDACTED]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

2. Partner Name: Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Region 2 Office

Website address: <https://www.denr.gov.ph/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

DENR is the government's main agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits for welfare of the present and future generations. In this project DENR Region 2 office will support through: provision of drone and other survey equipment for use during biological surveys of the PRC, Provision of technical advice and support to the project team during surveys and mapping of riparian areas of the PRC and proposed FS, Support in the inventory of flora and fauna within riparian vegetation, and Issue sanitation cutting permits of invasive tree species. DENR will allocate budget for the implementation of the Pared River Basin Watershed Management Plan which the project complements. Its staff will support in building capacities of river wardens and CMGs in the project sites through various training: law enforcement, para-legal, silviculture skills, Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System (BAMS), and establishment of native tree nurseries in selected communities. DENR will also assist river wardens in foot patrol in PRC areas especially in FS no-take zones and in filing of cases pertaining to wildlife poaching and cutting of trees in watershed and riparian areas.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget: £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes
 No

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

International/In-country Partner:

- International
 In-country

Allocated budget:

No Response

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

- Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?


- Yes
 No
-


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.


No Response

Please provide a **combined PDF** of all letters of support.

 [ZSL Combined letters of support - Philippines](#)

 27/11/2023

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 pdf 1.18 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
30-003	Susie Offord-Woolley	Developing a sustainable model for human-elephant coexistence in Thailand
30-005	Bhagawan Raj Dahal	Protection to community engagement: Managing Nepal's youngest transborder National Park
DAREX008	Ms Katherine Secoy	Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal
29-011	Bishnu Prasad	Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods

DARCC001	Paul Barnes	Mainstreaming livelihoods, health, poverty, and wellbeing into EDGE species conservation
DARCC010	Fridah Mutili	Building effective and equitable multi-stakeholder mitigation for HWC in Tsavo

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q.35 Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

The Zoological Society of London

I apply for a grant of





£597,784.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.





(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)





- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.

Checked





Name	Andrew Terry
Position in the organisation	Director of Conservation and Policy
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 AT sig  27/11/2023  18:11:43  jpg 4 KB
Date	27 November 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [ZSL Audited Accounts 2022-23-min](#)
 27/11/2023
 18:30:59
 pdf 887.54 KB

 [ZSL Audited Accounts 2021-22](#)
 27/11/2023
 18:12:00
 pdf 1.26 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF

 [ZSL Combined policies](#)
 27/11/2023
 18:12:10
 pdf 502.2 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: • a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF. 	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Socially and ecologically coherent freshwater protection in the Northern Philippines

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Effective, sustainable networks of community-based freshwater protected areas collectively manage and conserve riverine resources in the northern Philippines, benefitting biodiversity while improving resilience and well-being of local stakeholders			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words) The riverine resources of the Pared River Catchment are better protected by an effective and socio-ecologically coherent network of co-managed Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) which benefit associated communities.</p>	<p>0.1 A network of 13 FS totalling at least 17 ha core zone (from a baseline of 7ha in Y1) are established by Q4Y2 and supported through a sustainably financed co-management framework by Q2Y3. (DI-D01 Core)</p> <p>0.2 FS management is strengthened through the establishment of a FS Network monitoring framework/plan endorsed by municipal government by Q4Y1 and Q2Y3 (baseline = 0 frameworks/plans) (DI-B01 Core).</p> <p>0.3 Five fish species native to the PRC (green-belt mullet; giant mottled eel; bighead catfish; black snakehead; Bia goby) exhibit a 30% increase in abundance within new FS by Q4Y3 (baselines to be established as FS are created) (DI-D04).</p> <p>0.4 10 community-based sustainable livelihood</p>	<p>0.1 Barangay ordinances including protected area coverage; FSMB establishment; GO financial commitments; CoMSCA EF reports; disaggregated by protection status pre- and post-project.</p> <p>0.2 Monitoring records; updated FSMPs; FS Network monitoring framework delivery plan; disaggregated by language, type of plan, habitat type.</p> <p>0.3 CMG fisheries independent monitoring records disaggregated by species.</p> <p>0.4 Intervention maps; # of native species nurseries/organic farming initiatives/climate-resilient agriculture, quail egg and mushroom production and</p>	<p>The impact of COVID-19 in the project area does not significantly limit and/or impact project activities.</p> <p>There is a regional and national willingness to adopt Freshwater Sanctuaries as an effective conservation intervention for aquatic resources.</p> <p>Biological and social data analysis successfully informs the identification of potential sites to establish a robust network of FS.</p> <p>Stakeholders work together to establish an effective network of management and implementation for Freshwater Sanctuaries.</p> <p>GOs are willing to commit funding to FS network.</p> <p>GOs are adopted as a model for replication.</p>

Project Title: Socially and ecologically coherent freshwater protection in the Northern Philippines

	<p>programmes are established on at least 35ha - from a baseline of 0ha in Q1Y1 - of riparian area within and surrounding FS by Q4Y2 (DI-D01 Core).</p> <p>0.5 100 household representatives (>50% female) are members of CoMSCAs established in FS communities and are reporting improved livelihoods (financial resilience through increased annual savings and access to loans of at least 7500PHP (€110) / person) by Q4Y3 (baseline = 0 HHs) (DI-D16).</p>	<p>Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT)</p> <p>0.5 CoMSCA summaries, loan use and membership data; disaggregated by gender and loan use.</p>	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Through human and biological surveys, ten Freshwater Sanctuary sites have been identified to conserve riverine resources within the Pared River Catchment (PRC) and represent a socio-ecologically coherent network of protection.</p>	<p>1.1 The PRC (95 km) has been mapped by Q3Y1, digitised maps created and used to identify 10 areas for FS establishment (baseline = 0ha) (DI-B11)</p> <p>1.2 A socio-economic assessment of a minimum of 10% of registered households in 10 barangays characterises both how communities use and value freshwater resources, and the capacity needs to develop sustainable interventions by Q3Y1 (baseline of 0 assessments) (DI-C04 Core).</p>	<p>1.1 Digital Maps including identified FS sites; disaggregated by habitat type.</p> <p>1.2 Key-informant interview / Focus Group Discussion / Socio-economic survey reports; data disaggregated by household gender, age group, livelihoods and resource use.</p> <p>1.3 Land-use maps; Habitat survey using BAMS methodology</p>	<p>There is community buy-in to the Freshwater Sanctuary model.</p> <p>Drones work under tropical conditions and appropriate permits are secured.</p> <p>Analysis yields sites that adequately protect the Pared River catchment from identified threats.</p> <p>Communities support the establishment of sites that protect the Pared River catchment from identified threats.</p>

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	<p>1.3 A total of at least 50ha across the 10 identified areas is ecologically characterised and assessed through walkover habitat surveys and participatory land-use mapping by Q2Y1 informs FS establishment (baseline = 0 assessments) (DI-C03 Core)</p> <p>1.4 Using consolidated data from participatory approaches 10 new FS in the PRC have been delineated by Q3Y1 (baseline = 0ha) (DI-B11).</p>	<p>report; disaggregated by assessment method and habitat type.</p> <p>1.4 Consolidated data report and maps; disaggregated by habitat type.</p>	<p>Drone equipment and operator provided by DENR.</p>
<p>2. A sustainable model of FS co-management is developed through community empowerment, capacity building, and government resourcing</p>	<p>2.1 Three community members from existing FS in the PRC are trained as 'FS champions' to support replication in new sites by Q4Y1 (baseline = 0) (DI-A01 Core).</p> <p>2.2 10 new FS covering a cumulative area of at least 10ha core no-take zone are endorsed through barangay and municipal government ordinances by Q3Y1 (baseline of zero ordinances) (DI-D03 Core).</p> <p>2.3 10 new FS Management Boards (FSMBs) are established to ensure at least 50 river and land-users are represented in decision-making by Q4Y1,</p>	<p>2.1 Training materials and pre- and post-training assessments; disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder type, training type, and trainees' employment status at end of project.</p> <p>2.2 Barangay ordinances; disaggregated by policy type.</p> <p>2.3 FSMB ToRs and membership; meeting minutes; FSMPs; updated governance documents; disaggregated by gender, age group, and type of community organisation.</p>	<p>Identified champions are willing to take on the role and engage in the establishment of new FS.</p> <p>Barangays are willing to create ordinances.</p> <p>FSMB are effective governance structures.</p> <p>Stakeholders are willing to attend a forum and share experiences.</p> <p>LGUs and national GOs are willing to financially support FS.</p>

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	<p>(baseline of 0 people) (DI-B05 Core).</p> <p>2.4. 13 FS Management Plans (FSMPs) are created/renewed in Tagalog and are endorsed and incorporated into municipal/regional governance structures by Q4Y2 (baseline = 3) (DI-B01 Core).</p> <p>2.5 PRC FS Network Management Board (NMB) of 25 people is established by Q4Y2, in order to facilitate knowledge sharing, skills development and problem-solving of those involved across the PRC FS network (baseline = 0 people) (DI-B05)</p> <p>2.6 Through the PRCFSNMB, an average of at least PHP10,000 (~£150) per new FS per year in GO funding is secured from LGUs and national agencies by Q2Y3 (baseline = PhP0).</p>	<p>2.4. 13 FSMPs in Tagalog and 1 FSNMP, with evidence of endorsement; disaggregated by language, habitat type, and plan type.</p> <p>2.5 FSNMB ToRs and membership, meeting minutes; disaggregated by gender, age group, type of community organisation.</p> <p>2.6 FS budgets are written in to LGU and National GO spending plans.</p>	
<p>3. The management effectiveness of the FS network is measurably improved through increased capacity and participatory monitoring.</p>	<p>3.1 At least 60 FS stakeholders are trained over a cumulative period of 1.1 week in the application of the FS Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) by Q4Y1 (baseline of 0 people) (DI-A01 Core).</p>	<p>3.1 Training records; disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder type, training type, and employment status of trainees at end of project.</p> <p>3.2 MEAT report; data disaggregated by management</p>	<p>MEAT is an appropriate assessment tool for FS.</p> <p>Community members are willing to become part of CMGs.</p> <p>Communities support fish movement studies.</p>

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	<p>3.2 Through MEAT assessment, all 10 new sites are achieving Level 3 (Sustained effectiveness) in by Q4Y3.</p> <p>3.3 Community Monitoring Groups (CMG) are established/renewed in all 13 FS - with at least five members per site by Q1Y1 - with training from BFAR, DENR and ZSL initiated by Q2Y2 and native and non-native species surveys established (baseline = 3 CMGs) (DI-A03).</p> <p>3.4 500 individual native fish are visually marked within the FS between Q1Y2 and Q4Y3 in order to determine residency and better understand the effectiveness of the network to protect mobile aquatic fauna resulting in a peer-reviewed publication (baseline = 0 papers) (DI-C17).</p>	<p>effectiveness, policy, budget and enforcement.</p> <p>3.3 CMG training reports, with pre- and post-training assessments; CMG monitoring reports.</p> <p>3.4 Study report and peer-reviewed paper.</p>	<p>GOs/FSMBs effectively utilise information from CMGs.</p> <p>Networked FS are more effective for catchment level protection compared to individual FS.</p>
<p>4. Key government and community stakeholders are supporting an integrated response to identified threats to riverine resources in the Freshwater Sanctuaries</p>	<p>4.1 60 sustainably funded River Wardens are in place across the 10 new FS with training from BFAR, DENR and ZSL by Q2Y2 (baseline of 0 people) (DI-A01 Core).</p>	<p>4.1 River warden training materials, para-legal training materials, pre- and post-training assessments, arrest reports; disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder type, training type, and trainees' employment status at end of project.</p>	<p>Community members agree to be River Wardens.</p> <p>River Wardens are an effective mechanism for preventing illegal activities in FS.</p> <p>GOs effectively utilise information from River Wardens.</p>

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	<p>4.2 By Q2Y2, 25ha of land within or adjacent to FS has been converted to support sustainable livelihood management practices including native species silviculture, climate-smart agriculture, and quail egg and mushroom production (baseline = 0ha) (DI-D01 Core).</p> <p>4.3 At least 100 beneficiaries are engaging in sustainable livelihood improvement practices by Q4Y3 resulting in an average increase in annual income of PhP4,800 (£70) / year equating to 5% of annual household expenditure. (baseline of 0 people) (DI-B10).</p> <p>4.4.10ha of riparian land is cleared of invasive plants and replaced with native species from local nurseries by Q2Y2 (baseline of 0ha) (DI-D12).</p> <p>4.5 Environment funds linked to CoMSCAs each have a cumulative annual input of at least PHP3600 (£55) per cycle by Q4Y2 and these are being used to support activities to support FS and/or riverine resources (baseline = PHP0).</p>	<p>4.2. Land-use maps, reports on livelihood practices; disaggregated by practice/land use type and extent pre- and post-project.</p> <p>4.3 Training materials, intervention maps; data disaggregated by gender, age group, and livelihood improvement practice type. Sales data.</p> <p>4.4 Habitat survey reports; intervention maps; disaggregated by threat/driver type and habitat type.</p> <p>4.5 Environment fund records and proposed budget for fund spending in place</p>	<p>Stakeholders are willing to adopt more sustainable practices.</p> <p>Communities buy-in to benefits of CoMSCAs.</p> <p>Availability of funds and savings and support of the community.</p> <p>Communities are motivated to support freshwater management and conservation activities.</p> <p>CoMSCAs strengthen FS.</p> <p>Financial and social incentives of river wardens provided by LGUs.</p>
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

Output 1.

- 1.1 Conduct biological and socio-economic surveys of the Pared River Catchment
- 1.2 Participatory land-use mapping along PRC communities
- 1.3 Identification of ten 10 potential sites for freshwater protected area establishment
- 1.4 Development of digital maps of PRC and proposed FSs
- 1.5 Consultation meeting with selected barangays (villages) along PRC feedbacking the results of surveys, and maps of 10 proposed FSs
- 1.6 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) on FSs establishment and management objectives, benefits to local communities, and the importance of freshwater ecosystems.
- 1.7 Legalization of 10 proposed FS within PRC through barangay resolutions and municipal Ordinances
- 1.8 Demarcation of 10 proposed FSs with at least 10 hectares core zone

Output 2.

- 2.1 Attend municipal and barangay sessions with the champions to present FS establishments and scaling up concepts of FS into a network
- 2.2 Formation of FS management councils
- 2.3 Development of FS management plans (for Alcala) and updating (for Baggao, Penablanca) to include new established FSs
- 2.4 Adoption and institutionalization of FS management plans in LGU with allocated annual budgets
- 2.5 Conduct consultative meetings to the FS Management Bodies and discuss networking of FSs in PRC
- 2.6 Formation of PRC FS network management body recognized by the three LGUs within PRC
- 2.7 Presentation of FS network management body structure and roles to LGUs legislative body for adaption through resolution
- 2.8 Representation of FS network management body into LGUs Municipal Development Council
- 2.9 Participatory planning workshop for the development of PRC FS network management plan
- 2.10 Adoption and institutionalization of FS network management plan into provincial development plans to ensure budget allocation
- 2.11 Organizational development and management training of FS management body i.e., leadership training

Output 3.

- 3.1 Conduct MEAT workshops and assessments in all 13 sites and FS networks
- 3.2 Formation/reformation of Community Monitoring Group in all 13 sites
- 3.3 Training on Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring (BAMS) for CMG using the DENR BMB technical bulletin.
- 3.4 Development of CMG monitoring plan/yearly action plan based on FS network management plan
- 3.5 Identification of native fish species in PRC using visual tagging in close partnership with BFAR
- 3.6 Review and updating of FS and FS networks management plans

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3.7 Management of FS monitoring data and preparation of related reports for reference in the improvement of FSs and networks

Output 4.

- 4.1 Law enforcement and paralegal training for river wardens in all 13 sites provided by DENR and BFAR
- 4.2 Regular patrolling in FS areas (Zones)
- 4.3 Skills training on silviculture and nursery establishment
- 4.4 Establishment of community based- native trees nurseries.
- 4.5 Inventory of invasive species in FS through regular monitoring by CMG
- 4.6 Mitigation action on invasive trees and freshwater fish species implemented by river warden in partnerships with the DENR and BFAR
- 4.7 Planting of native trees, fruit trees, bamboo in riverbanks with a 1:50 ratio (1 cleared invasive replace with 50 seedlings of native trees)
- 4.8 Adoption/implementation of policy on no planting of invasive species by DENR and adaption by local governments
- 4.9 Formation and establishment of CoMSCAs in all 13 sites within the PRC
- 4.10 Creation of environmental fund included in the CoMSCA groups to support community-led activities e.g., FS management
- 4.11 CoMSCA kits provided for the first operations of savers group
- 4.12 Village Agents (VA) training
- 4.13 Identification and training in biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs) e.g. mushroom farming, quail egg production, charcoal making using corn husk.
- 4.14 Lobby for funding by local governments of identified BDFEs
- 4.15 Introduction of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Organic Farming