



Submit by Monday 5 December 2016

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 23: STAGE 2Please read the [Guidance](#) 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. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

ELIGIBILITY**1. Name and address of organisation**

(NB: Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 6)

Applicant Organisation Name:	Rainforest Alliance
Address:	233 Broadway, 28th Floor
City and Postcode:	New York – 10279
Country:	USA
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref: 3857	Title (max 10 words): Empowering Ivorian communities to conserve biodiversity and improve their livelihoods
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3. Project description (not exceeding 50 words)

The project will support the cocoa industry to remove deforestation and poaching from its supply chain, as well as the Ivorian government's commitment to a deforestation-free agricultural economy, by facilitating the creation of a Landscape Management Board in South-West Taï to rehabilitate degraded land in and around forest reserves.

4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

Country 1: Côte d'Ivoire	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: July 2017	End date: June 2020			Duration: 3 years	
Darwin funding request (Apr – Mar)	2017/18 £86,339	2018/19 £91,563	2019/20 £96,208	2020/2021 £25,890	Total £300,000
Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost					29%

6. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed. You may copy and paste this table if necessary.

Details	Rainforest Alliance (Applicant)	CEFCA (Project Partner 1¹)
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¹ Please note that under this section we have only included the partners that will have a key role in the implementation of the action (Rainforest Alliance and CEFCA); other institutions will be involved as key

Surname	Fadika	Sirima Bayo
Forename (s)	Sarah	Melanie
Post held	Senior Associate	Managing Director
Organisation (if different to above)	Rainforest Alliance	CEFCA
Department	Landscape and Livelihoods	
Telephone		
Email		

7. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)? **If so, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
NA	NA	NA

8a. If you answered 'NO' to Question 7 please complete Question 8a, b and c.

If you answered 'YES', please go to Question 9 (and delete the boxes for Q8a, 8b and 8c)

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	1987
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO Yes Government No University No Other (explain)
How is your organisation currently funded?	The Rainforest Alliance receives support from diverse funding sources, including in FY15: \$15,571,679 from government and multilateral sources (including USAID, GEF, IDB, and GIZ), \$5,432,494 from foundations (including Ford Foundation, Packard Foundation, and Avery Dennison Foundation), \$6,002,734 from individual contributions, \$11,176,672 from certification fees, \$7,934,741 from participation agreements, \$1,190,996 from special events, \$1,108,202 from in-kind contributions, \$30,653 from investments and \$233,140 from other sources.
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?	Yes

8b. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 7.

Provide detail of 3 contracts/awards held by your organisation that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

1. Title	Integrating Sustainable Productivity into Best Practices for Cocoa Cultivation - Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)
Value	121,484 EUR
Duration	18 months (completed)
Role of organisation in project	Rainforest Alliance worked with local stakeholders to facilitate a cocoa productivity improvement training program in Yakassé (South East Côte d' Ivoire) and Taï. In this project, Rainforest Alliance collected data using an online platform called IForm Builder, enabling farm bookkeeping data to be collected and stored on a cloud-based information system for easy analysis and sharing. This technology also incorporated an annual trainer registration and examination system to maintain training quality.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>The overall objective of this project was to pilot a productivity enhancement training module in a small number of certified farms based on demonstration plots. Learnings were then replicated and adapted across a wider group of farms. Farmers learned best management practices enabling them to continue to use the land without clearing new areas and destroying local habitat rich in biodiversity.</p> <p>Through this project, the Rainforest Alliance trained 40 pilot cocoa farmers in each of the Yakassé, Taï and Guiglo provinces on good agronomic practices aimed at improving their productivity and rehabilitating old farms. Over three years, the project recorded a 167% production increase (from 251 kg/ha to 669 kg/ha). A further 100 farmers per group were further trained as lead farmers to scale-up the training to other farmers in the group. In collaboration with local authorities, results from these pilots were further disseminated to 1,000 farmers across Côte d'Ivoire.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details	Renske Aarnoudse - Country Manager Côte d'Ivoire at IDH Cocody Mermoz, Abidjan 08 BP 2823 Abidjan 08 Côte d'Ivoire

2. Title	Greening the Cocoa Industry - GEF/UNEP
Value	US \$5,000,000
Duration	6 years (ending FY17)
Role of organisation in project	Rainforest Alliance and UNEP worked together to develop a strategic global initiative to transform production practices in cocoa farming and company buying practices for sourcing cocoa and cocoa products. These best practices conserve biodiversity and protect local wildlife by training local farmers to sustainably grow cocoa with minimal negative effects to the environment and livelihoods that depend on the habitat.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	This project's objective was to change production practices in major cocoa producing countries, (specifically Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru) and business practices in cocoa and chocolate companies, enabling the sector to conserve biodiversity in its production landscapes, provide greater long-term stability to all value chain participants and increase income for

	<p>smallholder farmers. Rainforest Alliance and UNEP pursued this objective through two main strategic approaches. At the production end of the value chain, it fostered, promoted and supported application by farmers and their groups of a validated set of sustainability criteria for tropical agricultural production as defined in the SAN Standard. At the market end of the chain, Rainforest Alliance and UNEP worked to persuade and support trading, processing and manufacturing companies to demand cocoa that is produced according to the SAN Standard, thus ensuring that best management practices are used and biodiversity is managed and well protected.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details	<p>Ersin Esen - GEF Task Manager Europe Office - UN Environment International Environment House 11 - 13, Chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva Switzerland</p>

3. Title	<p>Improved group governance, and strengthened internal management systems through improved planning processes and digitalized data management, to position cocoa farming as a modern business – Mars, Inc</p>
Value	<p>US\$150,000</p>
Duration	<p>18 months (ongoing)</p>
Role of organisation in project	<p>Rainforest Alliance is leading this project as part of a multi-year agreement with Mars Inc. to improve practices across the company's cocoa supply origins.</p>
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>In order to protect biodiversity, local farmers must learn and apply best management practices when growing cocoa. Not only do these practices ensure that the local farmers receive a higher price, thus improving their livelihoods, but they also protect the environment and local wildlife that face continuous threats due to poor land management and knowledge among farmers. Through this project, Rainforest Alliance is working in the Taï Region in Côte d'Ivoire to improve group governance and strengthen cooperatives' Internal Management Systems (IMS) so that farm data can be more effectively used to implement a continuous improvement planning cycle of farmers' practices on biodiversity protection, such as planting shade trees. This includes testing a digitalized data collection system at group and farm level to facilitate IMS data collection, analysis and feedback to farmers. This has enabled farmer groups to begin implementing tailor-made technical assistance programmes.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	<p>Angela Tejada Chavez* - Cocoa Sustainability Manager at Mars, Inc 116 Ring Rd, Cardigan VIC 3352, Australia * We would appreciate if you could inform us before contacting this referee</p>

8c. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 7.

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

Aims (50 words)

The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve ecosystems and promote sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices and consumer behaviour.

Activities (50 words)

Agriculture, forestry, and tourism are three industries that have huge impacts on biodiversity worldwide. The Rainforest Alliance works with farmers, foresters, and tourism entrepreneurs, providing them with training and guidelines, and leverages market demand for sustainable products to conserve biodiversity and enhance local livelihoods.

Achievements (50 words)

Globally, the Rainforest Alliance has ensured that 104,657,164 acres of land is under sustainable management and 1,235,656 farms adopt best management practices designed to protect ecosystems and biodiversity and safeguard the well-being of workers and local communities.

9. Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Institution) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

<p>Lead institution and website:</p> <p>Rainforest Alliance http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>The Rainforest Alliance (RA) is a global leader in providing technical assistance for conservation and sustainable agriculture and accordingly, has developed extensive relationships with local farmers and their communities in global biodiversity hotspots such as the Taï region. RA began working in Côte d'Ivoire more than seven years ago with its local implementing partner, Centre d'Etudes, Formations, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA), to train farmers on how to improve their environmental, social and economic conditions. Through this work, RA has gained significant experience in the protection of critical wildlife habitats, the sensitization of local people around conservation, and the generation of sustainable land use alternatives. Under this project, Rainforest Alliance will continue its relationship with CEFCA as an implementing partner, but bring its global landscape-level expertise to apply this approach in Taï. Specifically, it will build on its experience from neighbouring Ghana under the Olam Juabeso-Bia project², the results and successes of which have been widely recognized and documented³. Through CEFCA, and under the leadership of its regional cocoa expert Christian Mensah, RA will establish a self-governing Landscape Management Board in South-western Taï with an effective land management plan and revenue diversification scheme for the community.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

² <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/sites/default/files/2016-08/A-landscape-approach-to-climate-smart-agriculture-in-Ghana.pdf>

³ <http://peoplefoodandnature.org/publication/reducing-risk-landscape-approaches-to-sustainable-sourcing-synthesis-report/reducing-risk-landscape-approaches-to-sustainable-sourcing-olam-international-and-rainforest-alliance-case-study/>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Centre d'Education, Formation, Conseils, Audits (CEFCA)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>CEFCA has been involved in training farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and in Francophone Africa since 2010, supporting producer groups to adopt sustainable production techniques. Many projects on ecosystem conservation and productivity have been led by CEFCA, working in close collaboration with national environmental agencies such as <i>Société de Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)</i>, <i>Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)</i>, the <i>Conseil du Café Cacao (CCC)</i>, farmer's groups and communities, cocoa and coffee exporters (Cargill, Cemoi, Barry Callebaut, Olam, Nestle). As such, CEFCA has the expertise, experience, human resources, connections and on-the-ground presence to successfully implement this project and deliver its conservation impacts.</p> <p>As part of this project, CEFCA will initiate the project by holding a consultative workshop in the region to establish a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and will lead field activities in collaboration with the other partners of the project, including organizing LMB meetings. CEFCA will provide direct technical assistance to the farmers on sustainable agricultural practices and conservation. It will also supervise and monitor progress and challenges with the LMB.</p>	
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>		<p>Yes</p>

10. Key Project personnel

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sarah Fadika	Project Leader (Lead organization)	Rainforest Alliance	20%	Yes
Christian Mensah	Cocoa Expert	Rainforest Alliance	15%	Yes
Edward Millard	Director Africa	Rainforest Alliance	10%	Yes
Beatriz Avaloz	Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	Rainforest Alliance	15%	Yes
Jose Ochoa	Finance Manager	Rainforest Alliance	9%	Yes
Melanie Bayo	Project Leader (Partner)	CEFCA	40% (2 first years); 20% (3 rd year and 4 th year)	Yes
Kouassi Konan	Field Technician (Agronomist and animal husbandry specialist)	CEFCA	80% (2 first years); 50% (3 rd year and 4 th year)	Yes
Serge Kofi	Field Technician (Agronomist)	CEFCA	50%	Yes

Jean Nicaise Assi	Field Technician	OLAM	100%	Yes
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11. 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 poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

If your project is working on an area of biodiversity or biodiversity-development linkages that has had limited attention (both in the Darwin Initiative portfolio and in conservation in general) please give details.

(Max 300 words)

The 3,500 square kilometre Tai National Park is Côte d'Ivoire's most important forest protected area and a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is renowned for floral and faunal diversity, including a population of endangered pygmy hippopotamus, 11 monkey species, 1,300 species of higher plants and a chimpanzee population of about 500, which has declined by 90% since the 1960s⁴.

Years of political instability and resource conflict, poaching and logging have led to declining forest cover and wildlife population in much of Côte d'Ivoire, especially the Taï National Park region. Expansion of the agricultural frontier, notably for cocoa production (Côte d'Ivoire is the world's leading producer), has decimated forests and increased pressure on wildlife. Forest cover has shrunk from 16m to less than 3m hectares in the last fifty years⁵. Entire tracts of nationally protected 'Classified Forests' around Taï National Park have been cleared in the last decade.⁶ According to the country's NBSAP, agriculture is the most significant factor contributing to deforestation today,⁷ and increases in production of export products such as coffee, cocoa, rubber, pineapple and oil palm, primarily in the southern part of the country, is an even greater threat to deforestation.

Another threat to biodiversity comes from the consumption of bushmeat (notably wild chimpanzees). While this practice slowed during the Ebola outbreak in 2014, it remains an issue with consistently high demand from rural and urban populations, and illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking continue as well. Regulations and legislation have not yet been adopted to deal with the significant conservation challenges posed by illegal bushmeat markets⁸.

Biodiversity pressure is also exerted from illegal logging, including unauthorized felling of shade trees from farms. Overall, deforestation poses a direct threat to biodiversity, exposes farmer livelihoods to climate change and reduces the suitability of cocoa growing areas⁹.

12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Your project must support the objectives of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes
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⁴ Campbell G, Kuehl H, Kouamé PN, Boesch C. 2008. Alarming decline of West African chimpanzees in Côte d'Ivoire. *Current Biology* 18, R903-R904. DOI: [10.1016/j.cub.2008.08.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2008.08.015)

⁵ <https://forestcarbonpartnership.org/c%C3%B4te-divoire>

⁶ Examples include Goin Debe and Scio Classified Forests north of Tai NP, and Parc Naturel de Gaoulou south-east of Tai NP. These deforested patches are clearly visible of the Global Forest Watch map:

<http://www.globalforestwatch.org/map/>

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/default.shtml?country=ci#facts>

⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/default.shtml?country=ci#facts>

⁹ Laderach et al. 2013. Predicting the future climatic suitability for cocoa farming of the world's leading producer countries, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. *Climatic Change Journal*, Volume 119, Issue 3, pp 841-854

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	No
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	No
Global Goals for Sustainable Development	Yes

12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting and how your project will help to achieve the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs). You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement

(Max 500 words)

The project focuses directly on three priority themes of Côte d'Ivoire's **National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (CBD)**:

#2. Use and enhancement of biodiversity: Working with communities around Tai, the project will provide training on good agricultural practices, as per the SAN¹⁰ Standard for climate-smart agriculture, for cocoa agroforestry systems that support biodiversity and habitat conservation, restore degraded ecosystems, and reduce impacts of pesticides.

#4. Awareness and public participation: Through the creation of a Landscape Management Board, the project will greatly strengthen local governance and increase participation in natural resource management. Communities adjacent to Tai will gain more power in determining land-use practices in their communities.

#5. Integration of spiritual values and traditional knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity: RA's training is built on local interpretation of the SAN standard, which recognizes traditional knowledge, local custom and spiritual values. Training is led by a local organization, CEFCA, with deep roots in the community.

The project also supports the Global SDGs:

1. No Poverty: By empowering communities to take action through the involvement of farmer groups, tree nursery operators, and CBOs under the guidance of a new landscape management structure. The economic opportunities offered will aim to improve the resilience of farmer livelihoods to ensure a more stable income throughout the year.

2. Zero Hunger: By improving productivity and increasing revenue from cocoa production, and promoting options to diversify income sources (e.g. bee keeping or chicken rearing), cocoa producers, families and workers will experience an improved standard of living, including adequate access to food and nutrition.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: By making cocoa farming more attractive to communities, ultimately leading to job creation in a greener, more sustainable sector. Economic diversification activities will promote new entrepreneurship in farming communities, especially among women.

12. Responsible consumption and production: By building a more sustainable cocoa value

¹⁰ Sustainable Agriculture Network develops and manages the SAN standard to guide best practices in tropical land management; SAN promotes the conservation of ecosystems as a critical criterion, prohibiting the certification of farms that have destroyed High Conservation Value areas since November 2005 (<http://san.ag/web/>).

chain, working with all actors along the chain and through the adoption of credible sustainability standards systems. The project will work in partnership with Olam, a leading cocoa trader that applies a livelihood charter to its operations¹¹.

13. Climate Action: By training cocoa farmers on climate-smart agriculture practices that increase their ability to build resiliency. The project will develop locally appropriate materials to help farmers mitigate and adapt to predicted climate change impacts across the Taï landscape. This will help build on-farm adaptive capacity, improve livelihood diversification and reduce GHG emissions.

15. Life on Land: By supporting smallholder farmers surrounding Taï National Park to make productivity improvements, which are necessary, but not sufficient, to stop encroachment into the forest. To complement improvement in farm economics, the project will also create a LMB that facilitates a more coordinated approach to forest protection, where the needs of the community for long term conservation of their natural environment are reconciled with the needs of individual farmers to make a living from cocoa production.

12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / SDG focal point in the host country?

Yes **No** **if yes, please give details:**

The project will work in collaboration with the *Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves* (OIPR), whose Technical Director, Mr François Djè N'Goran is the CBD National Focal point for Protected Areas in Côte d'Ivoire.

¹¹ <http://olamgroup.com/sustainability/olam-livelihood-charter/>
R23 St2 Form

13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

(Max 500 words – this may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you may update or refine as necessary. Tracked changes are not required.)

The project will demonstrate an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation that harnesses three complementary drivers: the cocoa market's commitment to deforestation-free supply chains, the farmers' capacity to increase productivity and income through applying best social and environmental practices, and the interest of the wider community, including local government, to plan and manage land use for their long-term benefit.

To achieve this, the project will establish and empower a community Landscape Management Board (LMB) in the South-Western area of Taï National Park to manage resources effectively and responsibly, strengthening local governance structures across 5 communities representing 500 cocoa growing families and an additional 750 families around Djouroutou. This area represents a strip of farming landscape between the Taï National Park, the Haut Dodo and Grebo classified forest, and Sapo national Park in Liberia. The corridor will be centered around the Hana River, which flows in a south-westerly direction from Taï National Park and is a tributary to the Cavally River, which forms the border with Liberia (map attached). The LMB will be established in the corridor and will create an effective mechanism for stakeholders to plan and manage land use in a way that protects wildlife and conserves the natural resources and ecosystem services to sustain productivity in the long term (Participatory Landscape Management Plan). This will also support the government's CDB strategy.

The technical approach will provide farmers the knowledge to increase productivity and resilience of their cocoa farms, as well as diversifying their income sources. RA will apply tailored climate-smart practices that increase yields, using improved hybrid plants from CNRA^[1] and encourage planting native fast-growing shade trees from SODEFOR to stabilize soils, reduce temperature fluctuations and store carbon on farms. RA successfully piloted this training in south-eastern Côte d'Ivoire from 2012 to 2015, achieving 167% higher yields than the average national production. Olam will assist by providing technical assistance, as well as a route to market for sustainable cocoa. Effective peer-to-peer training techniques will be employed, such as the creation of demonstration plots by lead farmers in strategic locations in the landscape to showcase best management practices to neighboring community members. Training will also be provided on income diversification activities, determined by community consultation, that boost household income between annual cocoa cycles. These diversification schemes will help to prevent poaching and associated bushfires, and foster better food security. A similar initiative in western Ghana generated women-led micro-enterprises in bee-keeping and small livestock rearing.

In coordination with OIPR, the project will raise awareness on biodiversity protection through public meetings, informative posters and radio shows to sensitize the communities on the negative consequences of bushmeat consumption, and the importance of a biodiversity corridor to facilitate the passage of wildlife sustain their livelihoods. This will be achieved by implementing tree nurseries in the communities to provide farmers (as part of their farm-level environmental management training) and community members with indigenous and economically useful tree seedlings to plant on farms as cocoa shade and in key degraded forest patches and riparian areas along the Hana River.

^[1] Centre National de Recherche Agronomique
R23 St2 Form

14. Change Expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term and b) in the long-term.

(Max 300 words)

This project aims at reducing deforestation, biodiversity loss and wildlife depletion around Taï National Park, while also contributing to safeguard the future production of cocoa as a key export crop through the adoption of sustainable, climate-smart, biodiversity-conserving practices that can also contribute to increase cocoa farmers' incomes.

In the short-term, farmers and community members living adjacent to Taï will achieve greater understanding of the role of biodiversity and its importance for their future welfare, and will become involved in determining land-use plans through the creation of a local LMB, working in partnership with all the stakeholders engaged in the project to help safeguard key protected areas and species while coordinating land restoration activities on farms and in key biodiversity corridors. It will result in improved governance and an empowered civil society, who will have the capacity to analyze information, monitor governance improvement and effectively advocate to hold the government accountable.

Farmers livelihoods will improve through increased productivity and improved market access for sustainable cocoa, while household economies will grow and become more secure through income diversification activities. Part of the additional income will be generated by women, further reinforcing their position in the community and improving household food security.

In the long-term, biodiversity and wildlife movement between protected areas will be improved along a key wildlife corridor. Farmers and community members living adjacent to Taï will have implemented key conservation efforts, thus securing an active stake and achieving greater understanding of the role of biodiversity and its importance for their future welfare. More cocoa farmers in the region will apply climate-smart practices, which will lead to increased productivity of their farms and resilience to future climate shocks. These benefits will continue thanks to the economic incentives resulting from the sustainable cocoa market system and links to value-added export markets.

15. Pathway to poverty alleviation

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected to be impacted by your project. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

(Max 300 words)

The project will work with cocoa growing communities totaling 1,250 households, whose farming sections are part of the districts of Béoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou. Overall, we hope to impact the wider population of these districts, estimated to be over 24,000 people, of which 11,000 are women, mostly living below the \$2 per day poverty line¹². Central to the project will be a focus on income improvement from cocoa to reduce poverty, and prevent shifting agriculture behavior that has led to land tenure conflict and deforestation in the region.

Climate-smart agriculture involves not just an increase in cocoa yields but also diversification strategies to help households supplement their income from cocoa production through other locally-appropriate activities such as bee-keeping and chicken rearing, which not only earns extra cash between the cocoa harvests but also reduces the needs to encroach into forest areas. Under RA's project in Western Ghana, households have been able to earn an additional \$800-1,200 per year from sales of honey. In Côte d' Ivoire, women own 25% of the farms but represent 68% of the labor force, playing a lead role in tending young cocoa trees and

¹² 46.3% Poverty Ratio in Côte d'Ivoire; <http://data.worldbank.org/country/cote-divoire>, World Bank, 2015
R23 St2 Form

performing post-harvest activities. However, as cocoa farming is considered by some to be “men’s work”, women earn only 21% of the farm revenues¹³. Income diversification training activities will therefore be specifically targeted towards women to enable them to earn direct cash and supplement their family diet. However, activities will also involve men in the decision-making process on which activities to undertake to ensure equal access to information and enable a shared understanding of family income priorities. The project will also promote the participation of women in the LMB to ensure they have a say in the governance of natural resources in the area.

16. Exit strategy

State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

(Max 200 words)

The model proposed for this project is based on a successful experience implemented in Ghana by the Rainforest Alliance, whereby the Landscape Management Board (LMB) has taken responsibility for the continued oversight of land-use management, and is still holding regular meetings two years after the close of the grant. The structure for the LMB will be properly and legally established in the project’s timespan and appropriate management capacity building will be delivered throughout the project to strengthen the capabilities of their members. The project will also engage leading cocoa trader Olam with an ongoing presence of technicians on the ground who will continue to work with the cocoa communities to improve farming practices and encourage the maintenance of tree nurseries, as well as generating increasing demand for cocoa from responsible manufacturers. Where there is specific market demand, and where the right conditions are met on the ground, some communities may choose to apply for Rainforest Alliance certification, in which case the SAN standard requires a steady improvement in farming and group practices for them to remain certified as part of its scoring mechanism.

17a. Harmonisation

Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Please give details **(Max 200 words)**

RA and its partners have a long-term commitment to conservation in Côte d’Ivoire, and have engaged in a series of projects to disseminate best practices across the cocoa sector, beginning in 2008 with preliminary training on the SAN standard¹⁴. A grant from the GEF in 2011 allowed us to better focus on greening the cocoa industry through biodiversity protection, across the whole country, working through Public Private Partnerships. Leveraging the success of this project in 2013, RA sought further collaboration with Mars Inc. and IDH to pilot farmer productivity training as a means of mitigating deforestation in Taï and the East of the country, with highly successful results. Arcus Foundation funds also contributed to the success of this project, with a more explicit focus on Chimpanzee protection. Under this Darwin project, we aim to incorporate learnings from past experiences, including the landscape approach we have successfully implemented in Ghana, to deepen our level of engagement with specific communities in the key biodiversity hotspot of Taï. It will pilot our landscape approach in this new area, bringing a greater level of impact to poor households, and serve as an example that can be scaled up to other regions in Côte d’Ivoire.

17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? **Yes**

¹³ https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/dp-womens-rights-cocoa-sector-good-practice-100316-en.pdf

¹⁴ <http://sanstandard2017.ag/2017standard/certification-documents/>

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences explaining how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

The IDH's Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (IDH-ISLA) presents the closest similarity to the work proposed under this project. This programme takes a landscape approach, also working with cocoa farmers, traders and local government to tackle the underlying causes of deforestation and poverty.¹⁵ However, this initiative is working around the northern half of Taï National Park, around the areas of Cavalli and Goin Debe Classified Forests. This proposed Darwin project aims to work around the South-Western part of Taï National Park, along the border with Liberia's Grebo Forest Reserve. As such it will work alongside the IDH initiative by complementing it with similar activities further south to widen the area of implementation of landscape initiatives. As a long-time partner of IDH, we are in regular contact with the IDH ISLA team and their partners and will seek further alignment, collaboration and increase the level of scale. KFW is also implementing a large-scale project to protect the wider Taï National Park¹⁶, and re-establish wildlife corridors between Taï, Cavalli Classified forest and Grebo in Liberia. We will also seek to build links with their project, and in particular with their local partner OIPR, who are a key stakeholder on this Darwin project. This will include coordinating on the location of wildlife corridors to explore how the farms within this project can contribute to conservation, to ensure the best use of tree planting material and avoid duplication of efforts on the ground.

18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the [Guidance](#).

(Max 300 words)

One of the main tools in the Rainforest Alliance's approach to conservation and livelihood development is the use of third-party voluntary sustainability standards to ensure compliance with internationally-recognized best practices that help countries make progress toward international conventions and ensure that best management and fair labour practices are being met, as well as respect for local laws and customs.

In agriculture, the SAN Standard requires demonstrated progress toward living wages, and ensures workers on certified farms receive no less than the legal minimum wage of the applicable laws of the country. It requires that all workers have access to potable water and decent housing (when housing is provided). Discrimination in hiring practices or wage rates is strictly prohibited. Workers have the right to organize and are provided grievance mechanisms to, among other things, object to paid wages and have their objections reviewed. Additionally, employers cover the cost of work-related gear, equipment or trainings.

In the case of smallholders organized in groups, group administrators and smallholders may democratically agree on how to provide access to health care and education for smallholders and their families. Legitimate right to use the land is demonstrated by legal documents or by documentation of traditional or community use rights. The Standard contributes the protection of worker's human rights by requiring businesses to demonstrate commitment to certification and to complying standard criteria and applicable law.

While the groups under this project may not ultimately apply for the SAN certification as this is a market-based decision, we will nevertheless work to implement the SAN standard practices during our activities as a guiding tool for best management of farms and as a basis for engaging with the cooperatives. This will address ethical risks in the fieldwork but also provide the farmers with the option of pursuing certification as needed.

¹⁵ <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/landscapes/wider-tai-area-cote-divoire/>

¹⁶ <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Entwicklungsfinanzierung/L%C3%A4nder-und-Programme/Subsahara-Afrika/Projekt-Cote-d-Ivoire-EN-2014.pdf>

19. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

(Max 300 words)

Rainforest Alliance will build on its previous technical assistance work in the region to develop specific training materials promoting wildlife conservation for inclusion as an additional module to farmers, women, the elderly and other community groups not traditionally reached. Awareness raising campaigns coupled with revenue diversification schemes to foster responsible consumption have proven successful in Ghana, where the LMB implemented a grass cutter or greater cane rat (*Thryonomys swinderianus*) rearing scheme that led to a significant drop in bushmeat consumption.

Resources will include posters, which can be used as training aids but are then put on permanent display on walls of community buildings and even individual homes. Additionally, radio shows will be organized and broadcasted on Radio Taï in conjunction with OIPR, to further raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity protection. Surveys will be conducted with the project participants about their consumption of primate meat, both at the beginning of the project and again at the end of the first year, in order to measure changes in the perception of bushmeat consumption. Although primate hunting is forbidden by law in Côte d'Ivoire, a recent study from the GIZ found that more than 30% of farmers admitted to purchasing bushmeat, primarily of monkeys and duikers, and some farmers admit to having consumed chimpanzee meat in the recent past. This demonstrates that primate poaching and bushmeat is not adequately perceived as a wrongdoing, and requires significant adjustments to prevailing attitudes towards wildlife conservation. These pre- and post-implementation surveys will also measure the respondents' awareness of the dangers of primate consumption to human health, an issue we expect to resonate particularly strongly with female participants.

20. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

(Max 300 words)

On an individual level, this project will build the capacity of the Landscape Management Board members composed of cocoa farmers and cooperative leaders, traditional community leaders, women leaders, and governmental agents. This structure will empower community members to put effective conservation and wildlife corridor plans in place to manage the landscape around Djouroutou town, an area South-West of Taï National Park linking to Grebo Forest and Sapo National Park in Liberia. As part of this plan, training will be given to 500 cocoa farmers in the topics of climate smart agriculture practices and biodiversity protection. Best agricultural practices shared will include regenerative and sanitation pruning, weeding and soil erosion control, post-harvest quality control and storage, integrated pest management, use of compost, appropriate fertilization, and farm record keeping. Training will be provided by experienced technicians and will take the form of interactive sessions in the field using real farm situations based around model farms or demonstration plots. Materials used are simplified and vivid¹⁷, using photos of good and bad practices to illustrate training topics and stimulate conversation and sharing between the farmers.

The project will also build the capacity of an additional 750 households on biodiversity conservation through community meetings and information campaigns centered on tree nursery activities. Community members, and in particular selected women, will be given training on how to set up diversification projects on beekeeping and chicken raising.

On an institutional level, this project will engage with key technician stakeholders such as

¹⁷ Examples can be viewed in the library section of RA's training website: www.sustainableagriculturetraining.org

government extension agents of OIPR and SODEFOR, who will share knowledge during workshops and trainings, and in turn improve their capacity to engage with farmers. They will participate in the LMB, bringing a new level of interaction with the community, to share and discuss conservation plans and consult with farmers and community leaders.

21. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

(Max 250 words)

The project's Monitoring and Evaluation system will ensure access to project performance information and relevant supporting documentation, to RA's project staff and designated partner points of contact. Project performance information will be stored in a project site to be hosted in RA's SharePoint-based platform. RA's project staff and designated partner points of contact will have "read only" or "read & edit" access to the project-site, depending on the nature of project performance information to be accessed. The donor will have full "read only" access to project performance information and relevant supporting documentation. The budget for these activities is specified in section 26 below.

As part of RAs global communications work, the project will produce and publish regular online news postings detailing the project's key success stories and achievements, as well as challenges and how they are being addressed. The postings will target both British and International readers¹⁸, and will be further reinforced through email and social networks such as Twitter and Facebook to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders.

22. Match funding (co-finance)

a) Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity.

Confirmed:

Olam International: Olam will provide technical assistance to farmer groups under this project, and will be the route to market for their cocoa. Over the three-year project, we have secured an in-kind co-financing amount of £111,000 from Olam, equivalent to the costs of their technical team on the ground, and providing improved hybrid cocoa seedlings (Letter of support attached).

22b) Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments
October 2016	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund	US\$143,890 over 2 years (total budget); £13,951 as potential matched funding for this project	"Strengthen Ivorian Cocoa Stakeholder Landscape Management Capacity to Foster Conservation". This is a project lead by CEFCA in partnership with RA, which overall project goal is to improve livelihoods and promote increased incomes from agriculture, while reducing pressures on forests and wildlife, and rehabilitating

¹⁸ <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/latest>

			<p>the portion of the Tai NP buffer zone included in the Cestos-Sapo-Grebo-Tai-Cavally corridor.</p> <p>The CEPF project will be concentrating on an area further north, near Cavalli Classified Forest. As such the co-financing from this project will not include amounts spent on field activities on the ground. Instead, it will stem from a proportion of CECFA's staff time in interacting with local stakeholders (institutional and conservation partners) on a larger scale, including co-designing training materials, sharing learnings and aligning approaches in a consistent manner across the wider Tai National Park landscape</p>
Ongoing negotiations	Mars Inc.	£90,000 over 3 years (total budget)	<p>The Rainforest Alliance operates a field technical assistance programme funded by Mars Inc, which is renewed on an annual basis. This project covers multiple origins, including Côte d'Ivoire. We are currently in conversations with Mars to secure an in-cash co-financing amount of £90,000 from Mars Inc to be specifically earmarked as contribution towards work conducted in this project area over the next 3 years, as part of Mars' efforts to map all of its supplier farms to remove all risks of deforestation through cocoa farming.</p> <p>Please note that this potential source of unsecured match-funding has not been included in the attached budget as the specific terms of the scope of work are still under discussion, thus the related budget is still under construction. Also, we would be grateful if you could treat this information as confidential.</p>

22c) None

If you are not intending to seek matched funding for this project, please explain why.

(max 100 words)

23) Risk

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

(max 200 words)

Potential risks and threats and proposed mitigation measures (M) are:

- Local communities do not feel engaged in the LMB. M: By including key traditional leaders in the Board.
- Local communities do not feel supported by political authorities. M: By generating the space for all stakeholders to voice their needs and concerns within the LMB, we plan to close the gap between farming families and authorities.
- Risk of cocoa Swollen Shoot disease which can lead farmers to lose all their crop production and trigger the risk of expanding farms into new protected areas. M: By including specific best practices in the farmer training that avoid the spread of this disease.
- Risk of new Ebola outbreak in the region that can delay project implementation. M: This remains beyond our control due to the nature of the disease and the drastic containment measures employed. An unintended positive consequence of the outbreak is that Ebola awareness helped to enforce behavioral changes toward reducing bushmeat consumption.
- Cooperatives are not able to honor their commitments with the traders. M: Group cohesion will be maintained through capacity building to strengthen group structures, as well as through efforts to secure access to markets.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

24. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcomes if funded. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcomes of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
IMPACT: Deforestation, biodiversity loss and wildlife depletion around Taï National Park are reduced, cocoa production as key export crop is safeguarded, and local communities enjoy diversified, sustainable incomes, impacting 24,000 people.			
OUTCOME: Communities adjacent to Taï National Park understand and engage in sustainable land-use and natural resource management, while cocoa farmers apply sustainable, climate-smart, biodiversity-conserving practices that improve their productivity and incomes.	0.1 By 3 rd quarter of Year 1, one Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) at the village level comprising 1,250 households and spanning 500 farms, of which 32 are owned by women, in 5 communities in Taï, is approved by the Landscape Management Board (LMB).	0.1 Village-level PLMP document, signed by the LMB.	The LMB is created and operational. Communities are effectively involved in the formulation of the PLMP. Government agencies cooperate with the project, allowing and/or facilitating project interventions as appropriate.
	0.2 At least 350 cocoa farmers trained by the project apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two-thirds do so by project end.).	0.2 Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers' farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.	Target cocoa farmers fully participate in the trainings. Farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.
	0.3 At least 70% of identified <u>female</u> cocoa farmers (i.e. those that actively participate in cocoa farming, either alone or alongside their husbands) actively participate and satisfactorily complete training on climate-smart cocoa farm management practices, according to the training programme timeline.	0.3 Satisfactory Training Completion Certificates delivered to female cocoa farmers.	Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, and are willing, and able to participate in the trainings.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>0.4 At least 70% of trained <u>female</u> farmers apply at least 80% of key climate-smart cocoa farm management practices (a third do so by project mid-term, and two thirds do so by project end.).</p>	<p>0.4 Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers' farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.</p>	<p>Target cocoa female farmers fully participate in the trainings.</p> <p>Female farmers to be trained are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.</p>
	<p>0.5 At least 70% of trained cocoa farmers located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, create and maintain buffer zones (5 to 10m wide) with additional shade trees in accordance to climate-smart criteria.</p>	<p>0.5 Analysis of Sampled Monitoring Survey of cocoa farmers' farm management practices, applied at baseline and end of project.</p>	<p>Targeted cocoa farmers whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, fully participate in the trainings.</p> <p>Trained cocoa farmers with farms located within the biodiversity corridor and adjacent to the Hana River, have access to shade tree seedlings in sufficient quantity and of the required species.</p> <p>Cocoa farmers to be trained, whose farms are located within the biodiversity corridor, are well identified early on after project inception, allowing the baseline survey to be applied to them.</p>
	<p>0.6 At least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are established by lead farmers by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and maintained by them, through project-end.</p>	<p>0.6 Demo-plot activity logs and photographs (quarterly).</p>	<p>Lead farmers are willing to establish and maintain demonstration plots.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>0.7 At least 70% of individuals that participated in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.)</p>	<p>0.7 Group records on individuals engaged in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.</p>	<p>Individuals in target communities fully participate in the income diversification training courses.</p> <p>Individuals trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.</p>
	<p>0.8 At least 50% of individuals that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are female adults.</p>	<p>0.8 Training participants' lists.</p>	<p>Females adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses.</p>
	<p>0.9 At least 70% of females that participate in income diversification training courses (bee-keeping and chicken-rearing) are newly involved in either or both of those activities (a third of them by the end of the 2nd year, and the rest by the end of the project.).</p>	<p>0.9 Group records on females engaged in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.</p>	<p>Females adults in target communities are able and willing to fully participate in the income diversification training courses.</p> <p>Female adults trained find it attractive and feasible to engage in bee-keeping and/or chicken-rearing.</p>
OUTPUTS:			
<p>1. Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Tai National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP).</p>	<p>1.a. One LMB constituted by 3rd quarter of Year 1.</p>	<p>1.a. Signed document of the LMB creation</p>	<p>Leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Tai National Park are willing to engage in the process of the LMB creation</p>
	<p>1.b. One community Participatory Landscape Management Plan (PLMP) formulated by 4th quarter of Year 1.</p>	<p>1.b. LMP document</p>	<p>Leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Tai National Park are willing to engage in the process of the Plan's formulation.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on bee-keeping and chicken-rearing.</p>	<p>2.a At least 500 farmers trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming practices, by project end.</p>	<p>2.a Signed participants list per training event (with gender differentiation).</p>	<p>Cocoa producer groups fully embrace the project, and set up the internal management systems required to deliver training to farmers following the training of trainers.</p>
	<p>2.b Lead farmers to establish at least 3 demonstration plots on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa management practices are identified and engaged by 2nd quarter of Year 1, and supported through project-end</p>	<p>2.b Signed commitment letters signed by lead farmers, defining responsibilities on demo-plot establishment and maintenance.</p>	<p>Lead farmers are identified, who are willing to establish and maintain demonstration plots.</p>
	<p>2.c At least 5 cocoa and shade tree nurseries provided by CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam, producing a total number of 100,000 climate-smart endorsed shade tree seedlings and 180,000 cocoa seedlings are produced and maintained with the support of 100% of trained farmers. At least 50% of cocoa and shade tree seedlings produced, are distributed by project mid-term.</p>	<p>2.c Nursery seedling production records; Signed farmer seedling distribution lists.</p>	<p>CRNA, SODEFOR and Olam are willing and able to maintain shade tree and cocoa seedling nurseries, and distribute them to farmers at an affordable cost.</p>
	<p>2.d By project end, one buffer zone for the Biological Corridor defined, and at least 70% of cocoa farmers within that buffer zone are trained in sustainable, climate-smart cocoa production practices, including shade tree planting in particular</p>	<p>2.d Buffer zone map, and list cocoa farmers's within the buffer zone, identifying those that have received project training.</p>	<p>Cocoa farmers in the buffer zone are identified and are willing and able to participate in the trainings.</p>
	<p>2.e At least 50 cocoa farmers and/or other adults in their households, trained in bee-keeping and at least 32 women cocoa farmers are trained in chicken-rearing by end of project.</p>	<p>2.e Signed participants' lists per training event (with gender differentiation).</p>	<p>Cocoa farmers and other adults in their households accept bee-keeping and chicken-rearing as a potentially viable source of household income.</p>
<p>3. The population living in communities around the Tai National Park is informed about the value of biodiversity and</p>	<p>3.a. 7,500 Awareness-raising posters designed and disseminated to community members in the local language by 3rd quarter of Year 3.</p>	<p>3.a Posters are available in communities in local language.</p>	<p>The local population knows how to read.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
habitat conservation in the Tai National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.	3.b. Environmental education meetings held with 1,250 community members (including 250 women); 750 by project mid-term.	3.b Signed participants' lists (with gender and age differentiation).	Community members are willing to attend environmental education meetings, including adults, youth and children of both genders.
	3.c 6 By project mid-term, at least 3 awareness-raising radio programs organized, involving OIPR, CEFCA and community leaders.	3.c Radio programs audio files are available.	Radio stations are willing to transmit radio programs at affordable prices for the project.
4. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented.	4.a One Project Monitoring and Evaluation System designed and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	4.a Approved Project Monitoring and Evaluation System document	Sufficient budget is available to finance an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop.
	4.b 12 Quarterly and 3 annual project technical, evidence-based project performance reports produced and delivered internally for adaptive management, and to the donor, 30 days after the end of each quarter or year.	4.b Quarterly project technical project performance reports, and backed by documented evidence; evidence document repository.	The project team and partners do their part in operationalizing the M&E Plan.
	4.c One Project Communication Strategy formulated and approved by the donor at project inception by the first quarter of the first year.	4.c Approved Project Communications Strategy.	RA's Communication Division devotes the required human resources to formulate the Strategy.
	4.d Semi-annual communications products delivered, and their diffusion operationalized through RA's online media outlets (website blog, publicized through email and social/thematic networks) to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders, 30 days after the end of each quarter.	4.d Semi-annual online news piece; list of social/thematic networks through which the newsletter was publicized.	RA's Communication Division devotes the required human and financial resources to implement the Strategy.
KEY ACTIVITIES:			
1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Tai authorities.			
1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedures.			
1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings.			
1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB's operation, and share them during the Steering Committee meetings as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project monitoring and evaluation workshops.			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on the formulation of a PLMP at the village level.			
2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers' cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.2 Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.			
2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program.			
2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.			
2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices.			
2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.			
2.8 Design the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation.			
2.9 Deliver the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults.			
3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou.			
3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members.			
3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.			
3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs.			
3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders.			
4.1 Hold an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the project's RA team and partners, aimed at designing the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System submitted to donor for approval.			
4.2 Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers.			
4.3 Implement the projects Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports.			
4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval.			
4.5 Produce the project's semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders.			

25. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project (Q1 starting April 2017)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Output 1. Training and technical assistance delivered to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on creating a Landscape Management Board (LMB), and on the formulation of a village-level Landscape Management Plan (PLMP)														
1.1 Organize one consultative workshop jointly with CEFCA and OIPR to create the LMB in coordination with local Taï authorities	6													
1.2 Organize 6 training sessions to train community members on the LMB's governance structure and procedures	9													
1.3 Facilitate 6 LMB Steering Committee meetings	6													
1.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges from the LMB's operation, and share them during the Steering Committee meetings as well as in the mid-project and end-of-project monitoring and evaluation workshops	12													
1.5 Provide technical assistance to leaders and other relevant stakeholders living in communities adjacent to the Taï National Park, on the formulation of a PLMP at the village level	20													
Output 2. Training on sustainable, climate-smart farming practices delivered to cocoa farmers, and to them and other adults in their households, on bee-keeping and chicken-rearing														
2.1 Identify and engage cocoa farmers' cooperatives and their members, to register in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program	4													
2.2 Design the training program on sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation	4													
2.3 Identify lead farmers willing to set up demonstration plots, and engage them in the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program	4													
2.4 Implement the sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming training program	30													
2.5 Engage CRNA and SODEFOR on the establishment of nurseries.	10													
2.6 Coordinate the distribution of cocoa and shade-tree seedlings, so that it responds to farmer needs, according to project-endorsed sustainable, climate-smart practices	8													

Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
2.7 Coordinate the delineation and establishment of the biological corridor Buffer Zone along River Hana.	12													
2.8 Design the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program, ensuring it is adapted to the local context and maximizes female farmer participation	3													
2.9 Deliver the bee-keeping and chicken rearing training program to at least 82 cocoa farmers and/or other adults	20													
Output 3. The population living in communities around the Taï National Park is informed about the value of biodiversity and habitat conservation in the Taï National Park, about natural resource management in their communities, and about the dangers and negative consequences of hunting and consuming bushmeat.														
3.1 Design environmental awareness-raising posters in local language, and distribute 7,500 copies, reaching 30% of the wider 5 Taï communities of Beoué, Djouroutou, Petit Grabo, Poutou and Youkou .	26													
3.2 Design training materials and agenda for the environmental education meetings aimed at key community members	3													
3.3 Organize 18 environmental education awareness meetings for 1,250 community members, jointly with the LMB, Olam and OIPR.	20													
3.4 Design the content of environmental awareness-raising radio programs	5													
3.5 Organize 6 environmental awareness-raising radio programs, involving OIPR, CEFCA, and community leaders	12													
Output 4. The project's Monitoring and Evaluation System, and Communications Strategy formulated, approved and implemented														
4.1 Hold an on-site Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for the project's RA team and partners, aimed at designing the project's Monitoring and Evaluation System. Submit to donor for approval.	3													
4.2 Design and apply at project inception and end-of-project, the Sampled Monitoring survey on a statistically representative sample of target cocoa farmers	9													
4.3 Implement the projects Monitoring and Evaluation System, and produce and deliver quarterly and annual technical, evidence-based project performance reports	36													
4.4 Formulate a Project Communication Strategy, and submit for donor approval	3													

Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
4.5 Produce the project's semi-annual online news piece and publicize it through email and social/thematic networks to relevant in-country and global organizations and stakeholders	18													

26. Project based monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, 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.

(Max 500 words)

A robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System will be designed and its implementation coordinated under the leadership of RA's Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance. The System's design and implementation will be a joint effort by RA and its partners, and together, they will ensure its seamless integration to the project's day-to-day operation. User-friendly M&E tools and processes to support reliable, precise, relevant and timely data collection will be defined, and partner and RA staff will be trained on the use of these tools and their respective roles in the System. The System will be designed and implemented under the following eight principles: Evidence-based, transparent, additionality, stakeholder involvement, user-friendliness, skills-building, gender sensitivity, and institutional learning.

First and foremost, the M&E System will provide the necessary, periodic information to project management on the project's day-to-day performance to facilitate planning, adaptive management decisions, and the shaping of the project's short- and medium-term strategic direction. Documented evidence, to be stored in a "document repository" housed in RA's SharePoint-based project site, will support quantitative and qualitative assessments, highlighting key accomplishments, challenges, risks, and unintended negative impacts.

In addition, the M&E System will design and apply sample-based survey tools to assess the project's progress towards achieving expected cocoa farmers' adoption rates of sustainable, climate-smart farm management practices. This will be done by comparing mid-term and end-of-project survey results with baseline estimates obtained from surveys applied to target farmers at project inception. Student enumerators will be hired and trained by RA to survey farmers and their households

The M&E System will also be the source of credible information to be used as input to document the project's success stories, lessons learnt and challenges highlighted in the quarterly Newsletter, and to produce quarterly and annual reports to be submitted to the donor.

Number of days planned for M&E	3 days per month for each project RA and partner staff; 20 days per year for RA's M&E/QA Director; 100 days total for hired student enumerators
Total project budget for M&E	£38,207
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	8.99% (of total budget including match funding)

FUNDING AND BUDGET

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. You should also ensure you have read the 'Finance for Darwin' document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

NB: The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

27. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(max 300 words)

The project budget includes a small team of experienced project managers to oversee the successful completion of the deliverables, who will be making regular short visits to the country at key moments in the project timeline. The main project activities will be delivered through a single implementing partner team in Côte d'Ivoire, with whom Rainforest Alliance has a long and trusted relationship. As such, local overheads will be minimized, and management time will be focused on delivering quality and impactful interventions, rather than managing multiple implementing partners.

The project design aims to implement a series of workstreams at different levels to ensure maximum and lasting impact and ensure the best value for money. This includes activities at farm level to improve yields and diversify income sources, activities at community level to raise awareness and set up a community governance structure, as well as engaging with national level institutions to enable scale-up beyond the project area. The project activities are also designed to accompany the ongoing efforts of Olam in working to improve the cocoa productivity of smallholder farms in two cooperatives, through an annual investment of £37,000 or £111,000 over the life of the project. This private sector relationship and commitment not only brings significant co-finance but will also have a lasting effect on the project by continually engaging with the farmers through a trading relationship long after the project has ended.

From a metrics standpoint, we aim to reach 1,250 households through this project, composed of 500 cocoa farming families, and a further 750 households in the wider communities. The project budget of £300,000 corresponds to an amount of £240 per household, which represents good value for money considering that the project aims to improve incomes for the households through increased cocoa yields and/or other sources of income.

28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

(max 150 words)

Not applicable.

FCO NOTIFICATIONS

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 the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice) **Yes, advice attached** **No**

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees of the **Rainforest Alliance**, I apply for a grant of £300,000 in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports

Name (block capitals)	NIGEL SIZER
Position in the organisation	PRESIDENT

Signed**

PDF ATTACHED

Date:

12/01/2016

If this section is incomplete or not completed correctly the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

Stage 2 Application – Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance ?	YES
Have you read and can you meet the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	YES
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	YES
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	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 all the key project personnel identified at Question 10?	YES
Have you included a letter of support from your key partner organisations identified at Question 9?	YES
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	NO
Have you included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	YES
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	YES

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Monday 5 December 2016 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the application number (from your Stage 1 feedback letter) and the first few words of the project title **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). You are not required to send a hard copy.

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.