



Submit by 2359 GMT on Monday 29 January 2018

Darwin Initiative Application for Grant for Round 24: Stage 2

Before completing this form, please read both the Fair Processing Notice on pages 17 and 18 of this form and the [Guidance](#). 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:	TREE AID
Address:	Brunswick Court, Brunswick Square
City and Postcode:	Bristol, BS2 8PE
Country:	United Kingdom
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref: 4305	Title (max 10 words): Rehabilitation of the ecosystem of the Park W landscape.
-----------------------------	---

3. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](#). Please bear this in mind, and write this summary for a non-technical audience.

(max 80 words)

The project will rehabilitate the ecosystem and enhance community-level economic development in the Nigerien area of the W trans-boundary biosphere reserve (WTBR/Niger) which is composed of Park W and its periphery. Through effective community forest governance, the development of partnerships between the local communities and Park W management, and tree-related enterprise development, the project will protect threatened biodiversity while enhancing local livelihoods. The project is responding to a lack of interventions promoting sustainable resource management in the peripheral area.

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: Niger	Country 2:
-------------------------	-------------------

5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: June 1 st , 2018	End date: March 1 st , 2021			Duration: 2 years and 9 months
Darwin funding request (Apr – Mar)	2018/19 £90,83	2019/20 £126,877	2020/21 £91,833	Total £309,545

Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost	15%
--	-----

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	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2
Surname	Gadage	SAMNA	
Forename (s)	Aboubacar	Abdoulkarimou	
Post held	Country Programme Manager	Coordinator	
Organisation (if different to above)	TREE AID	COGEZOH	

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
20-019	Cheru Tessema Mammo	Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods
3712	Amadou Tangara	Strengthening Malian Forest Management to Protect Biodiversity and Alleviate Poverty.

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)

8b. Do not complete if you answered 'Yes' to Question 7.

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>TREE AID http://www.treeaid.org.uk/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Capacity: TREE AID is an international NGO with over 30 years' experience working across the drylands of Africa. TREE AID employs sustainable natural resource management (NRM), forest governance, food security, community enterprise development approaches to alleviate poverty and protect the environment. TREE AID has been working with communities and local authorities in Tamou Commune in Niger since 2013</p> <p>Responsibilities: As lead institution, TREE AID will have overall responsibility for the successful implementation of project activities and will work in conjunction with COGEZOH to deliver the project on-the-ground and in synergy with local government authorities. TREE AID Niger's Country Programme Manager (Project Leader), based in Niamey, will have responsibility for overseeing the execution of activities, including coordination with COGEZOH, results monitoring and reporting. Further ongoing technical support, financial management, monitoring and quality assurance will be carried out with support from the regional office in Ouagadougou, with backstopping from the UK office. The UK Programme Manager will maintain project oversight and contact with Darwin, with further ongoing technical support, M&E, grant management and quality assurance provided by the UK Operations Team. This support entails the Lead Technical Advisor, Monitoring Evaluation & Learning Advisor, Finance Manager, and oversight from the Director of Operations.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>COGEZOH</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Capacity: COGEZOH (Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides) is a Nigerien NGO with the mission to support the rural population to sustainably manage and use natural resources. For the last 15 years, COGEZOH has been working in the peripheral area of Park W. These projects focussed on the development of a community managed tourist campsite, agriculture, non-timber forest product (NTFP) enterprises and strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflicts (HWC).</p> <p>Responsibilities: COGEZOH will deliver the project on the ground with oversight and technical support from TREE AID. They will be responsible for mobilising local communities, front line delivery of training, organisational and business development and technical support for the Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs), development of community patrols, delivery of prevention and awareness raising campaigns, liaison with local and regional stakeholders, data collection and monitoring of activities. With expertise in the prevention of HWC in Park W, COGEZOH will be leading the related activities. Their team will be composed of a Project Coordinator - in charge of ensuring effective implementation of COGEZOHs activities who will be the main point of contact with TREE AID - as well a Project Officer, four Village Extension Officers and administrative support (Finance Assistant and Executive Secretary).</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached*?
Aboubacar Gadage	Project Leader	TREE AID Niger	75%	Yes
Abdoulkarimou Samna	Project Coordinator	COGEZOH	25%	Yes
Moumouni Jigo	Project Officer (VTEs-NTFPs)	COGEZOH	100%	Yes
Ramatou Abdou Maïkarfi	Finance and Administrative Assistant	TREE AID	50%	Yes
Amadou Nadia Marichatou	Accounting	COGEZOH	20%	Yes
Sean McGough	Programme Manager	TREE AID	5%	Yes
Pietro Carpena	Lead Technical Advisor	TREE AID	5%	Yes

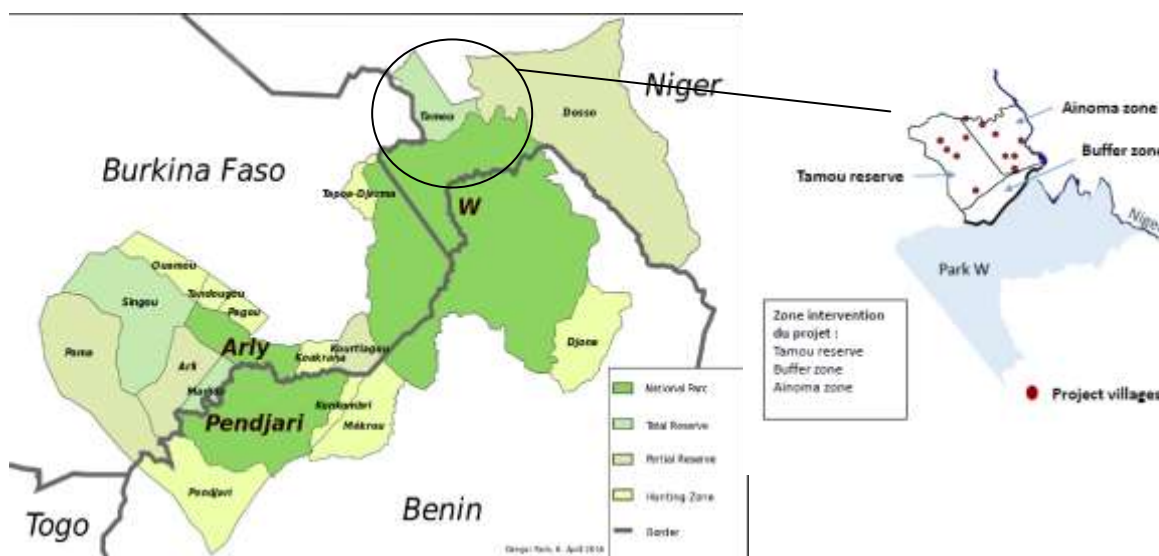
David Baines	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Advisor	TREE AID	5%	Yes
Samaila Sahailou	Executive secretary	COGEZOH	5%	Yes
*If you cannot provide a CV, please explain why not.				

11. Problem the project is trying to address

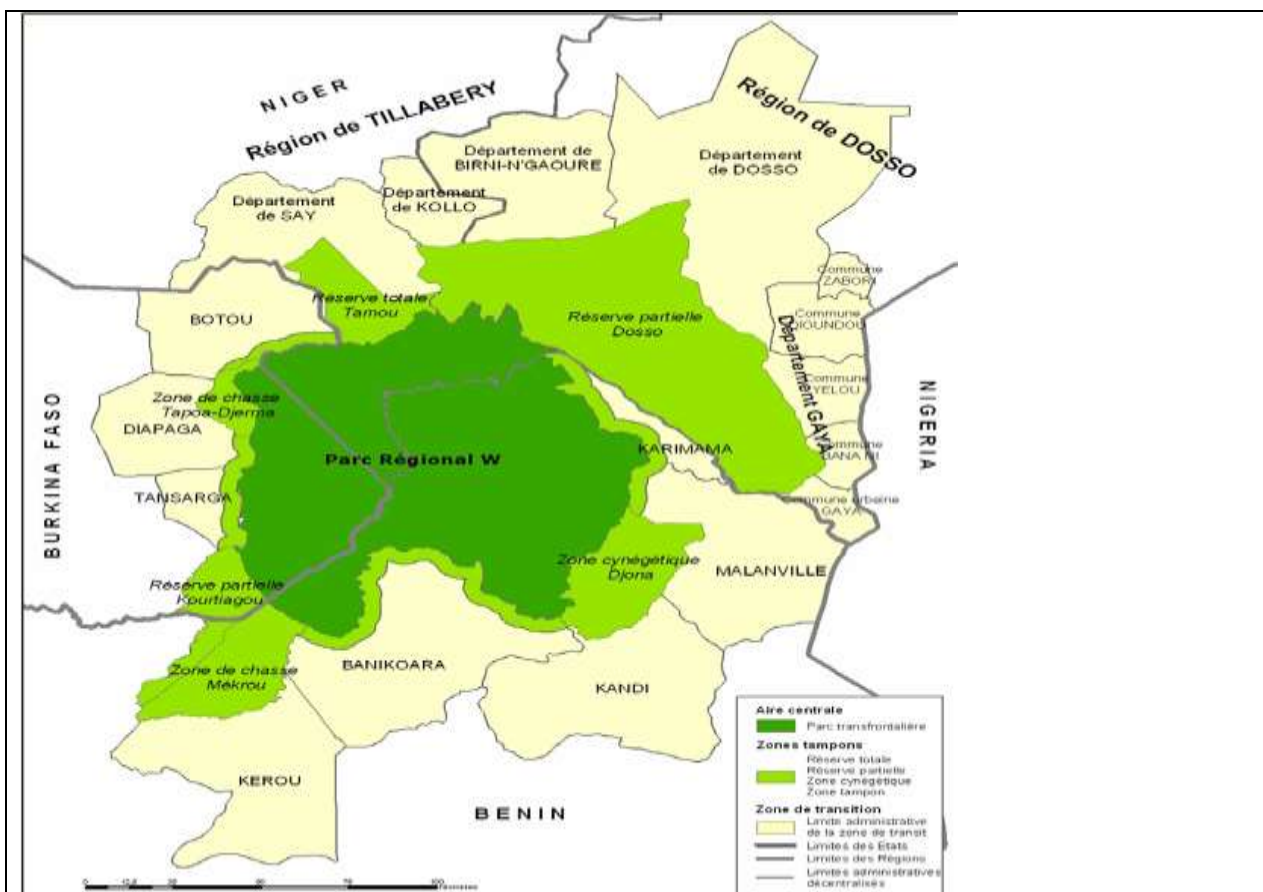
Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

(Max 300 words)

Niger is bottom of the Human Development Index¹ ranking 187th out of 188 countries. 84% of Niger's population lives in rural areas, largely relying on natural resources for survival. Consequently, Niger's forest habitat and its immense biodiversity is under significant threat. Over 25 years, Niger has lost 41% of forest cover (848,000 hectares).



¹ PNUD, 2016
R24 St2 Form



The project will be implemented in WTBR - a biodiversity reserve across Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso - recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The reserve is the largest and most important continuum of terrestrial, semi-aquatic and aquatic ecosystems in the West African savannah belt. It shelters the majority of elephants² in West Africa, as well as cheetahs³, leopards⁴ and the only viable population of lions⁵ in the region. However, the area's biodiversity has suffered severe degradation from anthropogenic pressures and climatic variabilities.

Following major droughts in 1973-74 and 1983-84, a significant influx of human migration occurred in the commune of Tamou (which includes Tamou Faunal Reserve and the "Ayinoma" area⁶). Accelerated population growth, together with high levels of poverty, has put great pressure on the protected areas, threatening natural resources (including dry zone mahogany (*Khaya Senegalensis*)⁷ and *Acacia spp*⁸) through transhumance, poaching, uncontrolled bushfires, overgrazing and unsustainable harvesting of NTFPs and timber. This has also resulted in more frequent HWC (e.g. destruction of crops and livestock by baboon, elephants or hyenas).

Currently the majority of interventions are directed towards Park W, leaving the peripheral area unmanaged, risking the integrity of WTBR in the long term. To decrease pressure on the protected areas, interventions are needed in the periphery to support communities to improve local forest governance, the communities' collaboration with Park W authorities, as well as to maximise the sustainable use of NTFPs for alternative economic opportunities.

² Elephant- *Loxodonta Africana* – vulnerable IUCN redlist 3.1

³ Cheetha – *Acinonyx Jubatus* and Leopard – *panthera pardus* – vulnerable IUCN redlist

⁴ Henschel, P., Kiki, M., Sewade, C., Tehou, A. (2012). Projet pour l'établissement d'un plan de sauvegarde pour les grands carnivores dans le Complexe W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP). Benin. Rapport Préliminaire, 31p.

⁵ Lion- *Panthera Leo*- vulnerable IUCN redlist 3.1

⁶ a portion of the Tamou Faunal Reserve decommissioned by Niger's government for agricultural purposes since 1976

⁷ IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-3 – Vulnerable status

⁸ "Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion de la Réserve de Biosphère Transfrontalière W - 2006-2010", Volume I : Etat des lieux, Mai 2005

12a. 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
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

12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. 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)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): In 2014, Niger adopted a new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for implementing the CBD at the national level. Objective 1 of the Strategy is to “conserve and sustainably exploit ecosystems, species and genetic resources” and objective 3 is to “improve and develop tools for managing protected areas”. The project will contribute to this by working with communities to improve their capacities on forest governance and NRM and their collaboration with Park W authorities to effectively conserve and manage forests, while increasing economic benefits through strengthening VTEs.

Furthermore, this project will contribute directly to Niger achieving its objectives and articles under the CBD. Specifically, the project will address **strategic goal B** by reducing anthropogenic pressure on WTBR/Niger by the local communities through reduction of illegal activities in Park W, providing alternative livelihood options and improving land productivity. The project will regenerate and prevent further degradation of forest landscape (aichi target 5). An area of approximately 7,600 ha of WTBR/Niger will be under sustainable management through the development of local conventions, a management plan as well the implementation of sustainable practices (aichi target 7 and article 8f). Alongside this, through creation and/or strengthening the capacity of the land tenure commissions (COFOBs/COFCOM) who will be responsible for developing and implementing the local conventions and management plan for the Tamou Faunal Reserve, the project will contribute to the sustainable management of WTBR (article 8c).

The project is based on a bottom-up approach where the design is centred on the needs of the local population. Project activities will build capacity within these communities who will be empowered to take practical actions to manage and restore biodiversity (e.g. tree planting and NRM) (article 10c).

The project will address **strategic goal C** by improving the status of biodiversity in WTBR and Tamou Faunal Reserve, through forest regeneration including enrichment planting of threatened tree species *Khaya senegalensis* and *Acacia spp*, as well as through the reduction of HWC, reducing pressure on wildlife including elephants, baboon and hyenas (aichi target 12).

Through the awareness raising campaign, the project aims to increase knowledge of local communities on the value of the park, the sustainable use of trees for livelihoods, cultural and medicinal purposes, and the importance of forests for wildlife (article 8d).

The project will not only work with villages inside the Tamou Faunal Reserve, but also with villages in the "Ayinoma" area surrounding the Reserve (article 8e)

Project actions will contribute to **strategic goal D** through securing the natural resources that local communities rely on for their livelihoods. The project will promote economic development within these communities through the development of 10 VTEs based on sustainable forest product value chains. The selection of forest product value chains has been made on the basis of market analysis which includes the local customs and traditional use of products. This development of livelihoods will provide additional income to help meet essential household needs such as food and education (aichi target 14 and article 10c).

12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES focal point in the host country? Yes No if yes, please give details:

The project team is regularly in contact with the Executive Secretary of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development, who is the focal point of the CBD in Niger. This department of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is a strategic partner for the project and with whom project data and results will be shared. The CBD focal point has committed support toward this project (see letter of support).

On a wider scale, the project will share information with all relevant departments within the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Directorate General of Water and Forests, Directorate of Wildlife, Hunting and Parks and Reserves, Protected Areas Division) through regular workshops.

12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

(Max 250 words)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): This project contributes to various SDGs, including:

- **Goal 15: Life on Land.** This project contributes strongly to this SDG, which includes the target: "By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally." This project will contribute to the sustainable management of WTBR, while contributing to reforestation and the restoration of degraded forests through the regeneration of threatened species.
- **Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere.** The project will support households in targeted villages to form 10 new Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs), in order to increase incomes from the production, processing and sale of NTFPs, to provide sustainable livelihoods and reduce local poverty. The project will also reduce the frequency of HWC incidents, enabling further economic development.
- **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.** TREE AID and local partners will actively work to target women and ensure inclusion in all activities. This will involve overcoming certain barriers around women's perceived traditional roles in the intervention areas, through knowledge-sharing, training, equipment and discussion. Women will be engaged in initiatives including forest management, NRM and VTE activities.

In addition to SDGs, TREE AID's approach to women is contributing to **DFID's Strategic Vision for Women and Girls**; through establishing systems that will deliver sustainable livelihood enhancements directly to women. The project is supporting 'pillar for action' 2: Economic assets direct to women.

13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome 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 team will train 600 lead farmers (training of trainers) from the 12 communities living in and around Tamou Faunal Reserve on assisted natural regeneration (ANR), soil and water conservation techniques and tree planting and care - vital for sustaining forest habitat, biodiversity and livelihoods. We will strengthen the capacity of 12 village level land tenure commissions (COFOBs⁹) and one commune level commission (COFCOM) in sustainable land management. In partnership with the technical services of Tamou, the Protected Areas Division of Park W and the communities, COFCOM will be responsible for developing and implementing a Tamou Faunal Reserve Management Plan in line with the Park W Management Plan¹⁰ and the Tamou Communal Development Plan¹¹. The COFOBs will develop and implement local conventions, assigning specific roles, rights and responsibilities for protecting and using forest resources at the village level. The conventions as well as the Management Plan will map out the actions needed for communities to improve the management of approximately 7,600 hectares of degraded land in WTBR/Niger. In order to further improve threatened indigenous tree species populations, three local nurseries will be established and 40,000 seedlings will be planted including dry zone mahogany (*Khaya senegalensis*), *Acacia spp.*, and baobab (*Adansonia digitata*).

The project will create a functioning partnership between 12 communities in the Tamou commune and Park W management to effectively reduce anthropogenic pressures on the park therefore protecting biodiversity. This partnership will be created through exchange forums to facilitate dialogue on forest management and raise awareness of the values of WTBR/Niger. Patrols comprised of community members (2 per village) will be established in order to bridge the knowledge gap in WTBR management by reporting illegal activities in Park W (e.g. tree cutting, land clearing, harvesting) to the Protection and Surveillance Services of the parks management. Additionally, they will report activity of wildlife outside WTBR/Niger and trigger an early warning system, by communicating details to forest guards stationed in Park W, who can then take action to deter wildlife. They will also alert local communities via the COFOB to be prepared for potential HWC incidents. The project will establish and promote enclosure plots¹² and train 120 COFOB members and villagers in protection measures to decrease frequency of HWC (see specific examples below).

The project will develop 10 VTEs, providing significant opportunities for people to diversify and improve livelihoods, whilst also presenting a clear economic motive to sustainably manage and protect WTBR. TREE AID utilises FAOs¹³ Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach, taking each VTE through a detailed enterprise formation and business training programme, which emphasises the sustainable management of resources. This will culminate in the development of business plans. The project will also facilitate linkages between VTEs, finance institutions and buyers and provide processing equipment to encourage business development.

During the participatory market analysis, honey production, manufacture of related by products such as soap and candles, gum arabic (from *Acacia senegal*) and oil production from balanites were identified as the NTFPs with the most potential for development.

⁹ Commission foncière de base (COFOB) - 12 at the village level and 1 Commission foncière communale (COFCOM) at Tamou commune level

¹⁰ Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion 2017-2026 (Septembre 2016)

¹¹ Plan de développement communal de la commune rurale de Tamou (2015-2019)

¹² The enclosures, or "Bomas" are used to protect livestock that are attacked by large carnivores (lion and hyena). It is *Commiphora africana*, a shrub widespread in the project area and not particularly consumed by livestock, which will be used around the pen.

¹³ United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

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 (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. 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 500 words)

In the short-term 7,600 hectares in the WTBR will be under improved management as a result of 65 COFOB/COFCOM members (40% female) having the skills and knowledge to develop and implement participatory governance (including local conventions and management plans). 3,000 community members will learn sustainable land management as a result of investment in skills and knowledge of 600 lead farmers (40% female) through a training of trainers programme.

The planting of 40,000 threatened indigenous tree species in the WTBR by communities will set in motion restoration of biodiversity, thereby strengthening key resources which local livelihoods rely on. Communities will also understand their rights and responsibilities to the environment and its benefits, addressing the issues of over-exploitation of natural resources.

The project will raise awareness and promote behaviour change in the wider community (500 households) in good practices to prevent HWC through awareness raising campaigns and specific training on physical protection measures (e.g. beehives, guard-dogs, noisemakers, enclosures (bomas¹⁴) and chilies) (120 people, 40% women). The behaviour change associated with the establishment of community-Park W partnerships, the community patrol (24 members) and the early warning system will reduce the frequency of HWC incidents by 50% as well as illegal activities in the park by 30%.

Communities will be further incentivised to preserve and sustainably manage resources by establishing 10 productive and economically viable VTEs, selling NTFP products from outside the protected areas of the WTBR. The 250 VTE members (70% women) will access equipment, training and support to process raw materials, make linkages with buyers to expand the quantities, quality, and variety of products in the short-term. Based on our experience and our market analysis, the 250 households engaged in the VTEs will experience an average 100% increase in income from NTFPs by the end of the project.

In the long-term, forest resources in WTBR, including the Tamou Faunal Reserve will continue to be sustainably managed and biodiversity preserved and enhanced through the structures strengthened by the project such as the COFOB/COFCOM, the partnership between Park W and communities and Tamou Commune authorities. This will have on-going benefits for the environment, as well as indirect benefits for 1,500 surrounding households through increased NTFP availability and land productivity (crop yields). Furthermore, improved management of natural resources in the peripheral area will reduce the anthropogenic pressure on Park W, further contributing to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in the WTBR.

The reduction in HWC incidents will also allow greater economic development of the local communities through protection of their livelihoods (agriculture and livestock) as well as reducing the pressure on wildlife including some threatened species in the WTBR. The additional household income generated through the VTEs can serve to address key basic needs such as food, health, education, and shelter long after project completion for the 250 households engaged in the enterprises. Through these viable economic opportunities, people will be empowered with new, alternative livelihoods to alleviate poverty and increase their well-being, whilst also preventing exploitation of resources from Park W.

¹⁴ See 12
R24 St2 Form

15. Gender

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

(Max 300 words)

Women play an important role in agriculture in Niger comprising nearly 70% of agricultural labour¹⁵, but face greater difficulty in transforming their labour into more productive employment activities. Women face a number of constraints such as the social-cultural barriers to accessing land, equipment, agricultural inputs and credit. Under law, women and men in Niger have equal rights to land and other natural resources. However, in practice rural women's access to land depends on their relationship to male family members¹⁶. Using tree products to improve the economic situation of these women is an effective approach as trees are one of the few resources women traditionally access, manage and control.

The project will actively target women and ensure inclusion in project inputs and outcomes (e.g. 40% training attendance). This will involve tackling certain barriers around women's perceived traditional roles. To ensure women's effective participation and long term attitudinal change, we will employ proven techniques such as sensitising community leaders and project stakeholders to gender issues. Women will be supported to actively participate in governance structures (e.g. 40% women in COFOB/COFCOM) and management arrangements across all outputs in order to increase their capacity to understand and implement sustainable forest management and their sense of ownership over natural resources. It will also increase women's voice and community decision-making power. Additionally 70% of VTE members will be women. Through this women will be empowered by contributing household income, increasing their skills and confidence through training, and taking up leadership positions within VTEs. This will increase women's voice in household decision-making and control over their lives.

Project data collection will be disaggregated by gender including attendee lists at training, workshops and community meetings. Additionally the baseline and end line collects gender disaggregated data, representing the views, perceptions and situation of women and men.

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 project design is grounded in strengthening the capacity of VTEs to be fully functional and able to operate without further support following project completion. Additionally by connecting VTEs with buyers and financial institutions, they will be empowered to continue their income generating activities and benefit in the long-term.

Collaboration between communities and Park W management will continue based on knowledge sharing and an understanding of the threats and consequences of unsustainable forest use and HWC. This relationship will be key to ensure responsible forest management beyond project completion.

By the end of the project, the COFOBs/COFCOM will be functional institutions that continue to support the management of forests and natural resources with the Technical Services in Tamou and Park W management. Alongside governance, training in NRM will provide skills for ongoing management beyond the project. The established nurseries will continue to operate and sell seedlings after project completion.

Collaboration with relevant stakeholders including the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has been key to the design process and will also

¹⁵ Women and Climate Resilient Agriculture Project - Niger

¹⁶ <https://usaidlandtenure.net/country-profile/niger/>

be vital for successful implementation. The relationships created will ensure long-term impact of our intervention and potential replication in other areas of the WTBR.

17a. Harmonisation

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

(Max 200 words)

TREE AID has worked in Niger since 2013 and have implemented several projects including some in collaboration with COGEZHO. This new initiative will build on our experience and learning from these projects.

E.g. TREE AID Niger implemented a BRACED project in consortium with CARE, financed by DFID called PRESENCES. The project trained and established 45 VTEs who are today profitable. In addition, the project strengthened the capacity of all project stakeholders in NRM, and developed and implemented local conventions on sustainable management of natural resources.

Over the years working in Tamou area, TREE AID and COGEZOH have developed strong relationships with local and national stakeholders (Tamou Commune including Technical Services, Park W management, and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development). These relationships will be key for the successful implementation of project activities and for on-going support beyond project completion.

The project also builds upon the work done by other organisations and programmes such as the Protected Ecosystems in Sudano-Sahelian Africa¹⁷ programme, developed and funded by the EU. This was implemented in Park W from 2001 to 2008 and strengthened the capacities of the Park W management, developed the Park W Management Plan and increased the availability of biodiversity data.

17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? **No**

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences. Explain 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.

TREE AID is not aware of any other organisations carrying out similar work in the targeted communities. However, there are other projects being implemented by TREE AID or other organisations in Niger and in other areas of the WTBR (including the area in Benin and Burkina Faso) which are complementary to this project. This includes other projects working on improving the resilience of local communities towards the impacts of climate change, the monitoring of species, biodiversity conservation, natural resources and the strengthening of the park management capacities.

For example African Wildlife Foundation in collaboration with The Association to Safeguard Giraffes worked with communities located in and around the Dosso Partial Reserve in Niger to help restore the tree habitat which West African giraffes depend on. In the framework of this project, AWF provided monitoring equipment (including GPS) and training to park guards, rangers, and guides in all three countries of the WTBR.

Another example is the GIZ project which aims to improve the conditions for sustainable nature

¹⁷ ECOPAS
R24 St2 Form

reserve management in the Park W region. The project provides support to the partner ministries in Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso. The cooperation focuses on joint efforts to raise the international profile of the region as a recognised biosphere reserve, to mobilise funds, and to test new technologies and methods for combating poaching and monitoring the environment.

A last example is the one from the Country Water Partnership, which in partnership with the Directorate of Wildlife, Hunting and Protected Areas is building a water reservoir for the wildlife in Park W.

The synergies between these projects offer opportunities for sharing knowledge and lessons learned across projects, to feed into project cycle management and joint advocacy. TREE AID will continue to maintain and build linkages with these known projects and organisations.

18. Ethics

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

(Max 300 words)

TREE AID is a beneficiary led and local partner-focussed organisation. We take pride in implementing a bottom-up approach to our work and encouraging equal partnerships with our developing country partners. While, as defined in our Partnerships Policy, ensuring due diligence in all our partnership endeavours.

TREE AID projects are based on robust needs assessments, participatory project design and direct community involvement wherever possible, to ensure appropriateness and sustainability of the work, and the highest possible returns for our beneficiary communities. Our approach to community engagement is embodied in the first of our six organisational values:

*"We **stand together** with and respect the people we work for and with. We recognise that we play one part in a large collective effort to drive sustainable development"*.

In all projects we strive to respect the rights, privacy and safety of our beneficiaries. To do this we employ the principles of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC), ensuring informed, non-coercive communication between all stakeholders prior to commencement and throughout project and partnership lifetimes. Further strengthening our community engagement approach we employ a Safeguarding Policy, outlining procedures to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults involved in our activities.

As defined in our Anti-Fraud Policy and Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, TREE AID has a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption of any type or in any circumstances, whether perpetrated by staff, volunteers, contractors, partners or clients. Processes and procedures as defined in our policies will be closely followed throughout the project lifetime.

The health and wellbeing of TREE AID's UK and in-country staff is of paramount importance and we have procedures in place to ensure safe working conditions for all our staff as defined in our Health and Safety Policy. All TREE AID policies are available on request.

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)

Advocacy of the worth of biodiversity is a key element of this project as part of the justification for long-term sustainable management of the largest and the most important continuum of terrestrial, semi-aquatic and aquatic ecosystems in the West African savannah belt. The project will employ a number of approaches to raise awareness of the importance of forests within the target communities who rely on it for their livelihoods (1,500 households). These include:

- Awareness raising programme (in collaboration with Park W management and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) on the value of the park, the use of trees for livelihoods, cultural and medicinal purposes, the importance of forest habitat for wildlife (at least 500 households reached).
- Training and support to COFOBs to act as a conduit of information and knowledge within the communities.
- Local texts developed and implemented including management plan and local conventions.
- Participatory learning through training of 600 community members in sustainable land management practices.

An ecological survey conducted at the beginning of the project will help to update land use maps of the Tamou Faunal Reserve and around, to understand the diversity and status of forest resources and inform appropriate management actions, while engaging community members in NRM from the outset. Throughout the project, ongoing participatory NRM will mean that communities are seeing and learning about the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services first-hand.

We will share experience, learning and project evaluation with stakeholders (Park W management, Tamou commune and the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) during various workshops and the capitalisation meeting. In addition, these documents will be available on our website.

TREE AID and partners are keen to engage in any platforms established by Darwin, in order to share experiences and learning generated across other Darwin-supported projects.

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)

Through training on natural resource legislation, NRM, and conflict management, the COFOBs/COFCOM will have the capacity to understand their role, rights and responsibilities which includes the dissemination of their knowledge among the communities. This capacity building will culminate in the development of a long-term dialogue platform and management plan with authorities.

Due to high illiteracy in the area, the training (patrol members, nursery staff, community members), will use a practical and interactive approach, delivered directly in the field using demonstration sites or at the nurseries. To ensure high attendance, training will be held outside of the planting season.

Training of the communities in sustainable land management practices (tree planting and care, ANR and soil and water conservation) and on physical protection measures to prevent HWC, we will employ a training of trainers approach in addition to direct training of skill users. The training of trainers is a learning technique that allows participants to acquire the necessary skills and confidence to then disseminate their knowledge to others. This allows an efficient and long-term dissemination of knowledge through a population.

VTE members will benefit from training in MA&D to identify and access market potential and build business skills creating institutional capacity. This will be coupled with specialist technical training in bee keeping, NTFP processing and storage. Supporting and reinforcing training throughout the project will allow new practices to be maintained in the long-term.

Training and awareness raising will inspire change within the wider community to make sustainable decisions that will benefit themselves and the environment in the long-term, whilst education and empowering the next generation of decision makers.

TREE AID will also build partners capacity and technical knowledge across diverse themes. They will have an improved knowledge in NRM and will be able to replicate the VTE approach for other projects.

21. Access to project information

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

(Max 250 words)

The technical reports and data sets derived through the project will be made available as relevant through the TREE AID website and shared with appropriate stakeholders (Park W authorities, Niger CBD focal points and different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development). This will include:

- Baseline Survey: The baseline will include household survey and a participatory resource inventory to be completed at the start of the project.
- Biodiversity data: Fauna and flora data collected throughout the project will be shared with relevant authorities and institutions.
- GPS Mapping: All of the locations on which natural resource management activities will be carried out will be geo-referenced, to determine their specific coordinates and area. All HWC incidents in the peripheral area will also be geo-referenced and the data will be shared with the forest guards of the WTBR.
- Final Evaluation: The final evaluation will generate learning on the effectiveness and efficiency of the project interventions, and the extent to which they have achieved or exceeded the project outcomes. The key findings from the evaluation will be published on the TREE AID website and shared with project stakeholders.

All full reports will also be shared with DEFRA/DFID. The relevant costs for these initiatives are all include in the budget, as they are essential aspects of monitoring and evaluating the project

Photos and case studies about the project will be shared through our social media channels (facebook, twitter and linkedin) which includes approximately ten thousand followers.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Measuring Impact

22. Logical Framework

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome if funded. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome 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: The W Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve in Niger is a thriving ecosystem supported by local communities			
<p>Outcome: Threatened species protection and community forest management in the WTBR/Niger, supported by sustainable economic development of local communities. (Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1 7,600 hectares in the peripheral area of the WTBR including Tamou Faunal Reserve benefit from improved management of natural resources by local communities with the support of the technical services of Tamou commune by year 3</p> <p>0.2 Reduction by 30% from baseline of illegal activities (e.g. tree cutting, land clearing, harvesting, fishing) in the WTBR (adjacent to Tamou) by year 3</p> <p>0.3 Reduction of frequency of human-wildlife conflict incidents (destruction of crops and livestock, human injuries from wildlife including from threatened species) by 50% from baseline by year 3 in the WTBR peripheral area</p> <p>0.4 Increased income from NTFPs by 100% from baseline for the 250 household involved in VTEs by the end of year 3</p>	<p>0.1 Updated land use maps, ecological surveys and final evaluation</p> <p>0.2 Ecological baseline survey, TREE AID and partner activity records, final evaluation</p> <p>0.3 Socio-economic baseline-final evaluation, updated land use maps, data from Park W management, data from the patrols</p> <p>0.4 Socio-economic baseline-end line,</p>	<p>Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable to local authorities</p> <p>The local communities work together in forest protection and tree planting activities</p> <p>Community nurseries will be well functioning and organised, following training and provision of materials (output 1). They will have the capacity to cultivate the required amount of seedlings</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Local communities in 12 villages in the peripheral area of the park W have their capacities strengthened in sustainable forest management</p>	<p>1.1 12 COFOB and 1 COFCOM (40% women as members) are established by year 1 and effectively functioning by year 2</p> <p>1.2 12 local conventions and one management plan for Tamou Faunal Reserve developed by year 2</p> <p>1.3 40,000 seedlings (from the 3 nurseries established by the project)</p>	<p>1.1 TREE AID field monitoring, COFOBs/COFCOM documentation including certificates and agreements</p> <p>1.2, TREE AID and partner field monitoring, physical documents of the local conventions and the management plan</p> <p>1.3 TREE AID and partner field monitoring, observation, photos</p>	<p>TREE AID and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members to participate in the forest management</p> <p>Training is effective in building the NRM capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of the communities</p>

	<p>planted (by year 3) including <i>Khaya senegalensis</i> and , <i>Acacia spp</i> species (threatened species) in the peripheral area of the WTBR Year2: 20 000 and year3: 20 000 1.4 70% of the people interviewed acknowledged that their community is involved in the sustainable management of the WTBR by the end of the project Year 1:30% , Year 2: 40% and Year 3: 70% 1.5 a)100% of the lead farmers (600) incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3 Year 1: 70% Year 2:90% Year 3: 100% b) 80% of the farmers trainers by the lead farmers incorporated good natural resource management practices on their land by year 3 Year 2 : 50 % Year 3: 80%</p>	<p>1.4 Regular KAP surveys, Focus groups, TREE AID and partner field monitoring 1.5 Regular KAP surveys, observation, photos, TREE AID and partner field monitoring</p>	
<p>2. Developed partnership between Park W management authorities and local communities in order to protect the biodiversity of the WTBR/Niger</p>	<p>2.1 Coordinated community patrol (24 members) system established and reporting to Park W management by year 1 2.2 70% of the people interviewed perceived the park W as being a valuable resource to protect by the end of the project Year1: 30%, Year2: 50% and Year3; 100% 2.3 120 (40% women) people trained on protection measures to protect crops and livestock from wild animals from the Park W (e.g. beehives, spices) by year 1 and Demonstration plots established by year 2 2.4 80% persons trained (96) have</p>	<p>2.1 Patrol records, TREE AID field monitoring, interviews 2.2 Regular KAP surveys, Focus groups, TREE AID and partner field monitoring 2.3.Training records, Photos, observation, TREE AID and partner field monitoring, 2.4 Regular KAP survey, Photos,</p>	<p>TREE AID and COGEZOH are able to effectively engage community members on the HWC activities</p>

	implemented at least one HWC prevention and mitigation strategy by the end of the project Year1: 60% Year 2: 70% and year 3:80%	observation, TREE AID and partner field monitoring	
3. Supporting local economic development through the establishment 10 VTEs based on sustainable forest product value chains	<p>3.1 10 VTE groups (175 women and 75 men) based on the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs established by year 1 , functional by year 2 and profitable by year 3</p> <p>3.2 3 agreements between VTE groups and buyers signed by year 3 (1 year 2 and 2 year 3)</p> <p>3.3 3 linkages with financial institutions established with VTEs by year 3</p>	<p>3.1 Business plans, VTE records, interviews, TREE AID field monitoring, final evaluation</p> <p>3.2 Contracts, VTE records, TREE AID field monitoring, interviews, final evaluation</p> <p>3.3 VTE records, TREE AID field monitoring, interviews, final evaluation</p>	Climatic conditions continue to favour the products value chains of selected by the VTEs
<p>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)</p> <p>Output 1</p> <p>1.1 Assessment of the COFOBs and COFCOM in the intervention area.</p> <p>1.2 Training of 65 COFOB/COFCOM members on land tenure law, land transaction law and communal conflict management.</p> <p>1.3 Support and follow up of the COFOBs/COFCOM especially on the development and implementation of the management plan and on the implementation of the local conventions.</p> <p>1.4 Update land use maps of the Tamou Faunal Reserve</p> <p>1.5 Development of 12 local conventions and one management plan for the Tamou Faunal Reserve based on the updated land use maps.</p> <p>1.6 Exchange forum on the local conventions. With support of communal and regional government stakeholders</p> <p>1.7 Training of the population on SWC and ANR techniques.</p> <p>1.8 Training of the population on the plantation and management of trees.</p> <p>1.9 Setting up 3 nurseries and training of the 9 nursery staff.</p> <p>1.10 Delineation of 25 ha of pastureland</p> <p>1.11 Rehabilitation and enrichment of degraded the 25 ha by the communities</p> <p>1.12 Plantation of indigenous nutritional tree species on farm land.</p> <p>Output 2</p> <p>2.1 Local exchange forum between the forest guards, the management unit of the WTBR and 24 patrol members in order to establish system of data collection, protection and surveillance.</p> <p>2.2 Regional and National exchange forum with the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the project partners.</p>			

- 2.3 Training of the 24 patrol members on the different fauna species in the area and on data collection
- 2.4 Development of a coordination unit for local patrol and follow up activities.
- 2.5 Awareness raising programme on the value of the park.
- 2.6 Organisation of awareness raising campaigns at the village level in the project area on wildlife behaviour and strategies to prevent HWC.
- 2.7 Organization of training sessions in the targeted villages on the HWC prevention and mitigation strategies
- 2.8 Establishment of demonstration plots for physical protection techniques against HWC.
- 2.9 Establishment of an early warning system.

Output 3

- 3.1 Training on MA&D for the 10 VTEs
- 3.2 Follow up on the 10 VTEs established and distribution of equipment/material
- 3.3 Dissemination of information on the VTEs' products through local radios.
- 3.4 Organise exchange visits for VTE members
- 3.5 Participation in a regional event to present the VTEs products
- 3.6 Participation in a national event to present the VTEs products.
- 3.7 Establishment of 5 agreements between the VTES and private/buyers
- 3.8 Establishment of links with microfinance institutions

Project Start-Up, Monitoring & Evaluation

- 1 Project launch workshop
- 2 Workshop to define the M&E plan with the partner
- 3 Establishment of project baseline (baseline on biodiversity)
- 4 RHoMIS (Socio-economy baseline)
- 5 Training M&E collection for the partner
- 6 Bi-annual workshops
- 7 Quarterly follow up by TREE AID
- 8 Project capitalisation
- 9 Final evaluation
- 10 International monitoring field visit form TREE AID West Africa and TREE AID UK

23. 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 (starting from Q2 July 2018)

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			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1												
1.1 Assessment of the COFOBs in the intervention area	0.25	■										
1.2 Training of 65 COFOB members on land tenure law, land transaction law and communal conflict management.	0.5			■	■							
1.3 Support and follow up of the COFOBs especially on the development and implementation of the management plan and on the implementation of the local conventions	0.25					■		■				
1.4 Update land use maps.	0.5				■							
1.5 Development of 12 local conventions and one management plan for the Tamou Faunal Reserve based on the updated land use maps.	4	■	■	■								
1.6 Exchange forum on the local conventions and management plan	1				■							
1.7 Training of the population on SWC and ANR techniques.	4		■	■			■	■				
1.8 Training of the population on the plantation and management of trees (follow-up activities from M&E budget).	6			■			■	■				
1.9 Setting up 3 nurseries and training of the 9 nursery staff.	1		■			■						
1.10 Delineation of 25 ha of pastureland	0.25				■							
1.11 Rehabilitation and enrichment of degraded the 25 ha by the communities	2					■	■					
1.12 Plantation of indigenous nutritional tree species on farm land.	4					■	■			■	■	
Output 2												
2.1 Exchange forum between the forest guards, the management unit of the WTBR and 24 patrol members in order to establish system of data collection, protection and surveillance.	0.25	■		■		■		■				
2.2 Exchange forum with the different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the project partners.	0.25		■				■			■		
2.3 Training of the 24 patrol members on the different fauna species in the area and on data collection	0.25	■										

24. 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)

TREE AID has invested in M&E staff, systems and tools which will be utilised within this project, to effectively measure the outcomes and feed learning into adapting on-going project management. Partner staff will also be trained and supported to use these tools effectively. A programme start-up workshop will be carried out between TREE AID and COGEZOH including review of the logframe and agreement on the detailed M&E plan.

Impact and Outcome indicators:

TREE AID will use the newly developed tool Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHoMIS), to measure the socio-economic aspects of the outcome. RHoMIS is a rapid, cost-effective, digital household-level survey and analytical engine for characterising, targeting and monitoring household and natural resource practices. We will use RHoMIS to capture detailed information at project baseline and end line around household level income from NTFPs. In addition, RHoMIS will enable us, to capture data beyond that outlined in the project logframe such as food security, livelihood strategies and women's decision-making power. This additional information will gain understanding of the wider impacts of the project on the poverty and wellbeing of beneficiaries. TREE AID will conduct an ecological survey to assess the forest conditions, current state of biodiversity and characteristics of the land at the beginning and end of the project. Statistics on the number the illegal activities in WTBR will be provided by the WTBR management unit.

Outputs indicators :

They will be captured by the project team using TREE AID tools designed to capture regular and appropriate data. Data for key indicators will be collected as detailed below:

Biological monitoring:

- The number of trees planted and regenerated will be monitored through field surveys and observation every six months.

COFOB/COFCOM monitoring:

- COFOB/COFCOM records will be used to collect data on group formation, function and membership numbers and composition (gender and social grouping), and NRM activities undertaken

VTE monitoring:

- Business records will be used to collect data on enterprise development, function and membership numbers and composition (gender and social groups).
- Enterprise development plan (EDP) implementation will be monitored through self-monitoring by entrepreneurs as well as regular monitoring by the project team who will check the records and compare the results to the targets established in the EDP.

Monitoring training:

- After each training session participants will complete a survey asking, how effective they found the training, what new skills were picked up and how they plan to use the skills.

Monitoring of HWC incidents:

- After each incident, the local patrol members will fill in an information sheet

Monitoring the change in knowledge, attitudes and practices

- A KAP¹⁸ survey will be used to monitor behaviour changes among the community at the end of year one and year two.

¹⁸ Knowledge, Attitudes and practices surveys- composed in general of 40 to 50 questions to assess the change in communities during the project life
R24 St2 Form

The regular monitoring of progress will allow the project team to detect early signs of potential problems. Any issues and lessons identified will be discussed between project partners, and modifications made accordingly. In the same way any mid-course feedback from the donor, stakeholders or/and beneficiaries will be discussed and the appropriate corrections made.	
Number of days planned for M&E	70
Total project budget for M&E	£31,697
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	8.7%

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 and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund](#)' document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

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

25. 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)

Economy: TREE AID Niger worked with COGEZOH to draft the initial budget, establishing local costs and determining where savings could be made. This was further critically reviewed and negotiated with TREE AID UK, to ensure value for money in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and economy. Key assumptions include some change to exchange rates and inflation throughout the project, so this has been built in. TREE AID's procurement policies will ensure fairness and best value, including obtaining three quotes for procuring goods and services above a threshold.

Efficiency: COGEZOH project staff will be based locally to the project site, thus minimising logistical costs. Trees will be grown in nurseries and then used in planting activities, creating planting cost efficiencies while increasing capacities (compare cost from nursery to buying seeds). TREE AID country and regional teams and COGEZOH staff will frequently carry out joint monitoring visits to minimise M&E costs.

Effectiveness: The project is within our on-going programme in Niger, one of the poorest and most fragile nations in the world, in an area with significant environmental and human needs. We have strong partnerships and linkages to these communities, and proven experience implementing similar projects successfully to achieve the desired outcomes. Project activities have been developed in consultation with beneficiary communities and local authorities, and are therefore appropriate and effectual.

The project offers good value for money, with a cost/restored hectare of **£13.16¹⁹**. For the beneficiaries participating in VTE work, the household income from NTFPs will increase by 100% by project end. Based on average income per person (**£299²⁰**), and the proportion of income from NTFPs in the region (24%)²¹, this would mean an increase to **£370.8** per person involved. This represents an excellent return on investment for Darwin that improves both the environment while delivering poverty reducing outcomes.

¹⁹ Calculated by taking the output 1 cost as well as one third of the staff and support cost divided by hectares restored,

²⁰ World Banc 2016 figure translated into £, will be updated with the RHoMIS baseline at the beginning of the project <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/niger/overview>

²¹ 2012 TREE AID household survey in the region

26. 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)

The project will purchase the following:

1 x motorcycle (to be used by COGEZOH) - this item will remain the asset of COGEZOH, and will continue to be used for charitable activities following the end of the project

10 x processing units (to be used by the VTEs) - these items will be procured by TREE AID and provided to the VTEs, who will continue to own and maintain them following project completion, and be given training to do so effectively.

This total is 5% of the total project budget and is within the Darwin Initiative limits set for capital items. The items will be used solely for the project and once the project has finished will continue to be used for charitable purposes. The rest of the items are purchases using the co-funding.

27. 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:

£XX,XXX annual pledge from the Oak

Foundation £XX,XXX from corporate partnership

27b) 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
February 2018	Prince Bernhard Nature Fund	£XX,XXX	Priorities strongly aligned to this project – good chance of success. Will look to apply for multiple years
September 2018	The Stephen Clark 1965 Charitable trust	£XX,XXX	This is a very warm donor for TREE Aid, high possibility of successful outcome
September 2018	The Roughley Charitable Trust	£XX,XXX	Long term supporter of TREE AID. High probability of success
January 2019	RPS- Corporate partnership	£XX,XXX	This is a very warm donor for TREE AID, high possibility of successful outcome

April 2019	Kirtby Laing Foundation	£X,XXX	This is a very warm donor for TREE AID, high possibility of successful outcome
September 2019	The Stephen Clark 1965 Charitable trust	£XX,XXX	This is a very warm donor for TREE AID, high possibility of successful outcome
September 2020	The Stephen Clark 1965 Charitable trust	£XX,XXX	This is a very warm donor for TREE AID, high possibility of successful outcome

27c) None

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

(max 100 words)

N/A

28) Financial Management Risks

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)

Violence/political insecurity: The country's current security issues have not been experienced in the intervention areas. A *Security and Response Plan* involving the different project stakeholders will be developed and enacted, which will define operating procedures in the event of security changes.

Fraud/corruption: Effective financial management procedures with checks and balances across stakeholders to prevent fraud and corruption will be established. TREE AID will review partner expenditure and supporting documentation. The procurement of equipment and recruitment of consultants will be carried out in accordance to TREE AID procurement procedures to ensure transparency and value for money.

Climatic change/weather: To reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the local community (including drought), communities will be trained in effective planning of NRM actions.

Benefits not shared sufficiently with women: For this project, women are being actively targeted to ensure they are the majority recipient of NTFP benefits. Training activities will be designed to build women's capacities to negotiate with buyers, and they will be encouraged to take leadership positions.

Partner narrative and financial reporting capacity: To reduce the risk of delay in reporting, TREE AID will train partners in reporting procedures and closely monitor its partner and request regular internal interim reports.

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**

***Please see TREE AID cover letter**

Certification

On behalf of the trustees/company* of TREE AID
(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £ 309,545 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.

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

- I enclose CVs for key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports

Name (block capitals)	JOHN MOFFETT
Position in the organisation	Chief Executive Officer

Signed**

Date:

29/01/2018

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 ?	X
Have you read and can you meet the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	X
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	X
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	X
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?	X
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	X
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the key project personnel identified at Question 6 and Question 10?	x
Have you included a letter of support from your <u>key</u> partner organisations identified at Question 9?	X
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	x
Have you included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	X
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	x

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Monday 29 January 2018 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 - Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete your application, the grant acceptance and the supplier forms.

Defra will use your personal data primarily for the purpose of processing your application for Darwin Initiative funding. By submitting an application, applicants have agreed to any disclosure of the information supplied (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which Defra considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Funds (as detailed in the paragraphs below).

A completed application form signifies agreement to place certain details of successful applications (i.e. name, title, total grant value, project summary, lead organisation and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative websites listed below. A completed application form also signifies agreement to send data on the project proposals during the application process to British Embassies and High Commissions outside the UK, including those outside the European Economic Area.

<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk>;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative>;

Application form data will also be processed by Defra contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative administration, monitoring and evaluation (working within relevant data protection rules).

Defra may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. The Grantee shall assist and co-operate with the Department (at the Grantee's expense) to enable the Department to comply with its disclosure obligations under these enactments.

We may use information, including personal data, to test computer systems to ensure that they work effectively and efficiently and to develop new systems in order to improve efficiency and the service that we provide to you and other persons. Any use of information for testing or developing computerised systems will be conducted in a secure manner in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to safeguard the privacy of the information that you have supplied.

Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, is on the Defra section of Gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, please telephone the Defra helpline 08459 33 55 77 and ask to speak to the Data Protection Officer for a copy of the Information Charter.