Applicant: **Graham, Becky**
Organisation: **Tree Aid**
Funding Sought: **£345,755.00**

DIR27S2\1031

Promoting Forest Governance for Resilient Ecosystems and Communities in Segou

In order to reduce deforestation and desertification in Mali's Segou Region, the project will strengthen and scale-up decentralised forest management to protect and restore dryland forest ecosystems, covering 25,000hectares. This will be achieved by building organisational and institutional capacities for effective stewardship of forests. 6,500hectares of degraded agricultural land will also be restored through tree planting and sustainable land management practices alongside reduced anthropogenic pressures. Finally, alternative livelihoods will be promoted based on the viable use of non-timber forest products.

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Miss
Name	Becky
Surname	Graham
Website (Work)	http://treeaid.org
Tel (Work)	███████
Email (Work)	███████████
Address	██████
	██████
	██
	██
	████

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Amadou
Surname	Tangara
Organisation	LTS International
Tel	█████
Tel	█████
Email	█████████
Address	██████████
	████████
	███
	██

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Other**
Name	Tree Aid
Phone (Work)	██████
Email (Work)	██████
Address	██████
	█████
	██
	███
	█████

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Promoting Forest Governance for Resilient Ecosystems and Communities in Segou

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR27S1\100123

DIR27S1\1787

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Mali	**Country 2**	*No Response*
Country 3	*No Response*	**Country 4**	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

⊙ No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:	**End date:**	**Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):**
01 July 2021	30 June 2024	3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£107,771.00	£134,345.00	£88,443.00	£15,196.00	**£ 345,755.00**

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

⊙ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

£▮▮▮▮ will be raised from Tree Aid's portfolio of trust, foundation and corporate supporters, as well as new donors with priorities closely aligned with the work. Tree Aid has a strong donor base who regularly support our work, from which we are confident the required match funding can be secured.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request <u>plus</u> other funding required to run the project).   ▮▮▮▮

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. 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 write this summary for a non-technical audience.

In order to reduce deforestation and desertification in Mali's Segou Region, the project will strengthen and scale-up decentralised forest management to protect and restore dryland forest ecosystems, covering 25,000hectares. This will be achieved by building organisational and institutional capacities for effective stewardship of forests. 6,500hectares of degraded agricultural land will also be restored through tree planting and sustainable land management practices alongside reduced anthropogenic pressures. Finally, alternative livelihoods will be promoted based on the viable use of non-timber forest products.

Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q8. Objectives for the Darwin Initiative

Please indicate which of the fund objectives (listed on p.8 of the guidance) you will be addressing.

☑ To understand and tackle impacts of agriculture practices on biodiversity, livelihoods and climate
☑ To promote the responsible stewardship of natural assets
☑ To promote the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity
☑ Contributing towards reversing the increase in threats of extinction to the world's flora and fauna

Q9. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q9a. Your project must support the commitments 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.

☑ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
☑ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
☑ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q9b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here.

Mali adopted a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for implementing the CBD at the national level (revised and updated in 2014). The Strategy is divided into 19 ambitious but realistic and time-bound objectives that take into account the Aichi Targets on biological diversity. The project contributes to these through its bottom-up approach, taking into account gender, poverty alleviation, and local community

rights, including the disabled and marginalised. Land restoration of dryland ecosystems will take place through the promotion of agroforestry tree planting, farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR), soil and water conservation (SWC) practices and increasing soil fertility and land productivity, and in turn reducing desertification.

The promotion of decentralised forest governance will improve forest management and natural resource use of 25,000ha of forest and plant and animal habitats. This will take place alongside the restoration of 6,500ha of degraded farmland, contributing to Mali's UNFCCC and CBD commitments.

The project will reduce pressures on forest biodiversity and promote its sustainable use. The project will restore ecosystems by investments in institutional and organisational capacities, alongside the development of tools to support management of two forest areas (Aichi B5). Structures will be established for effective implementation of these management plans (Aichi B7). The restoration of degraded farmland by the promotion of agroforestry systems, tree planting and improved forest management (article 10d) will increase resilience of ecosystems to climate extremes and increase carbon sequestration in the area (Aichi D17).

The project is designed around the needs of local communities, and aims to empower communities with the skills and knowledge to manage their own forest resources. Project actions will promote economic development within targeted communities through the development of 8 village tree enterprises (VTEs) based on forest products. This development of livelihoods will provide additional income to help meet essential household needs such as food and education (article 10c). Land restoration activities and prevention of deforestation will secure ecosystem services for these people, including increased availability of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to support livelihoods, taking into account specific needs and perspectives of women (Aichi D14).

The project aims to increase local knowledge on the forest resources, the sustainable use of trees for livelihoods, cultural purposes, and the importance of forests for wildlife (article 8d). The planting of locally adapted trees species will reverse the decline in the population numbers and improved conservation status of threatened species including Pterocarpus erinaceus(1), Terminalia habeensis(2), Afzelia africana(3), Khaya senegalensis(4) and Dalbergia melanoxylon(5) (Aichi C12). The development and implementation of Forest development Management Plans will support protection and restoration of 25,000ha of forest area (article 8f).

Q9c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / CMS / Ramsar / UNFCCC focal point in the host country?

◉ Yes

If yes, please give details.

Tree Aid is in contact with CBD focal points at the Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Assainissement et du Développement Durable (MEADD)(6) and in particular with the National Directorate of Water and Forests (DNEF)(7), the Head of the Biosphere Reserves and National Parks Management Unit(8) and the Environment and Sustainable Development Agency (AEDD)(9).

Q9d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

SDG 15: Planting throughout forest areas (including threatened species) will restore forest biodiversity. Anthropogenic pressures on the land will be reduced through firebreaks, fuel-efficient stoves and regulated

charcoal supply. Management plans will be developed advancing progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM) (15.2).

SDG 13: Investments in institutional, technology and organisational capacity-building (13.B.1) will restore ecosystems, alongside the development of tools to support management of two forest areas totaling 25,000ha, increasing carbon sequestration in the area, contributing to reduction in climate change.

SDG2: Developing viable income generating opportunities through NTFPs value chains and promoting land restoration practices (e.g. SWC, FMNR, agroforestry) will support farmers to increase productivity of 6,500ha of degraded agricultural land and improve their income (2.3).

SDG 1: The project will reduce the proportion of households living in poverty (1.1) and diversified incomes will increase the resilience of the population to climate shocks and extremes (1.5).

SDG 8: The project will increase decent work and economic growth by supporting women and youth employment through business development, education and training (8.3) based on the sustainable consumption of forest resources (8.4).

SDG 5: The project will address the specific roles, responsibilities, needs and perspectives of rural women, taking into account the local context and constraints. Women and youths will be encouraged to participate in governance structures, enterprise activities and financial services alongside land restoration and stewardship activities. Women will be empowered through increased access and control over forest resources, increased household decision-making and control over their lives (5A).

Section 5 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q10. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative or IWT Challenge Fund award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

⊙ Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
25-029	Aboubacar Gadage	Rehabilitation of the ecosystem of the Park W landscape
24-022	Amadou Tangara	Strengthening Malian Forest Management to Protect Biodiversity and Alleviate Poverty
20-019	Cheru Tessema Mammo	Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

⊙ Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

⤓ Tree Aid Annual Accounts 2019-20	⤓ TREE AID Annual Accounts 2018-19
▦ 09/02/2021	▦ 09/02/2021
⊕ 17:52:50	⊕ 17:52:49
▧ pdf 3.69 MB	▧ pdf 1.39 MB

Section 6 - Project Partners

Q11. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) 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 Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B: There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name:	Tree Aid
Website address:	https://www.treeaid.org/

| Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): | Tree Aid is an international NGO with over 30 years' experience working across the African drylands. Tree Aid employs natural resource management (NRM), forest governance, food security and enterprise development approaches to alleviate poverty and protect the environment. Since establishment, Tree Aid has grown 22million trees and directly supported 1.85million people out of poverty in Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Niger. Tree Aid has worked in Mali since 1997, focusing on land restoration in the central-south of the country.

As lead institution, Tree Aid will have overall responsibility for successful implementation of activities and will work with partners to deliver the project on-the-ground, in synergy with local government authorities. Tree Aid Mali's Country Programme Manager (Project Leader), based in Bamako, will oversee the execution of activities, including coordination with SAHEL ECO, results monitoring and reporting. Additional technical, finance, monitoring and quality assurance will be carried out with support from Tree Aid's regional head-office in Burkina Faso. The UK Programme Manager will maintain project oversight and contact with Darwin, with further technical support, M&E, grant management and quality assurance provided by the UK Operations Team including Lead Technical Advisor, MEL Advisor, Finance Manager, and oversight from the Director of Operations. |
|---|---|
| **Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?** | ⊙ Yes |
| **Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?** | ⊙ Yes |

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⊙ Yes

1. Partner Name:	SAHEL ECO
Website address:	http://www.saheleco.org/

| Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): | Created in 2004, Sahel Eco is a national NGO, previously operating as the SOS Sahel International UK Mali programme. Tree Aid has been working with SOS Sahel International UK since 1998, formed a partnership with Sahel Eco after its creation, and have been working together in the Segou region since 2013. Together, we have led on the development of participatory forest development and management plans (FDMPs) an innovative approach in the Mali context to improve forest governance. Sahel Eco have expertise including agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, food security, sustainable management of natural resources and development of forestry and agricultural enterprises

Sahel Eco supported the design of this project, and will lead on project implementation locally. They will be responsible for mobilising local communities, frontline delivery of training, capacity building and engagement of key stakeholders, organisational and business development, and technical support for the cooperatives and monitoring brigades, liaison with local and regional stakeholders, data collection and monitoring of activities. Sahel Eco's team comprises a Project Coordinator, 2 Forest Resource Management Advisors, Accountant, Finance and Administration Manager and Executive Secretary. |
|---|---|
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? | ⊙ Yes |

2. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

3. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*

| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? | ○ Yes |
| | ○ No |

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4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? | ○ Yes |
| | ○ No |

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5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? | ○ Yes |
| | ○ No |

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6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? | ○ Yes |
| | ○ No |

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

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

Section 7 - Project Staff

Q12. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Amadou Tangara	**Project Leader**	20	Checked
To be recruited	Tree Aid Mali Project Officer	50	Checked
Elizabeth Kamate	Tree Aid Mali Finance and Admin Assistant	20	Checked
Pietro Carpena	Tree Aid UK Technical Lead Advisor	2	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⦿ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
David Baines	Tree Aid UK Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Advisor	2	Checked
Sean McGough	Tree Aid UK Programme Manager	2	Checked
Drissa Gana	Sahel Eco Project Coordinator	50	Checked

To be recruited	Sahel Eco Forest Resource Management Advisors (x2)	100	Checked
Aminata Traoré	Sahel Eco Secretary-accountant	50	Checked
Mansa Samake	Sahel Eco Administration and Finance Manager	15	Checked
Pierre Dembélé	Sahel Eco Executive Secretary	10	Checked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked

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

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

⤓ **All CVs**
▦ 09/02/2021
🕑 18:12:46
🗎 pdf 3.17 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

⦿ Yes

Section 8 - Problem statement

Q13. 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?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the next page).

Dryland biodiversity plays a pivotal role in the fight against climate change, desertification and poverty. Despite their relative level of aridity, drylands contain a great variety of biodiversity, much of which highly adapted to dryland ecology and central to the traditional livelihoods of many dryland inhabitants(10). However, drylands are struggling against rapid deforestation, desertification and loss of biodiversity, threatening their ecological functions and ecosystem services.

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 184/189 on the Human Development Index (2020), and an extreme poverty rate of 42.7%. Poverty is concentrated in the rural areas of southern Mali (90%), where population density is highest(11). Mali's economy is largely based on agriculture, employing 90% of the rural population, and therefore particularly vulnerable to climate breakdown, which is causing rising temperatures, reduced rainfall and increasing desertification. Additionally, Mali has faced instability since 2012 due to political unrest in the north followed by the increase of terrorism and the coup d'Etat in 2020.

High poverty levels alongside an increasing erratic climate(12) and rapid population growth (2.99%(13)) is leading to overexploitation and degradation of natural resources, with Mali's forest ecosystems suffering from deforestation, desertification and loss of biodiversity. Between 1990-2015, Mali lost 30% of its forest area (about 2,000,000ha (14)) and even today, 500,000hectares of forest are being destroyed each year by agricultural expansion, unviable wood consumption uncontrolled bushfires. Wood consumption places major pressures on forest resources, constituting the principal source of energy for households(15).

Mali's weakened socio-political context alongside security challenges, means the state has limited capacity to implement interventions to combat deforestation. Therefore, rural communities are key stakeholders in conservation of forest resources and consequently, any long-term strategies for sustainable forest management needs direct involvement of rural communities(16).

Decentralised forest management offers an opportunity to reshape how central governments and communities relate to one-another, providing a platform to build new socio-economic and institutional linkages. Decentralisation initiatives offer an opportunity to achieve development goals, improve governance and enhance participation in NRM(17).

Tree Aid has been working in Mali's Segou Region since 2004. During this time, we have gained an in-depth understanding of the needs, challenges and constraints faced by communities. Tree Aids previous experience has demonstrated that an increased investment in pro-poor, environmentally sustainable initiatives that create a skills transfer and incentivise local communities to have ownership in the management of their forest resources. This not only increases forest cover and benefits biodiversity of forest ecosystems, but can also be an important vehicle to improve living conditions and livelihood opportunities, alongside reducing conflicts over natural resources.

Tree Aids implementing partner Sahel Eco carried out consultations with key stakeholders from the targeted communes (January 2019). Participants included village delegates, technical services, administrative and political authorities. These consultations, involved natural resource mapping, identification of problems and constraints related to NRM, and prioritised actions for mitigation. Participants showed support for the strategies discussed and willingness to participate in interventions targeting improved NRM in the area.

Section 9 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q14. Methodology

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

- **How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.**
- **The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.**
- **How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).**
- **How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).**

Tree Aid's project will build on the work of the Malian government's GEDEFOR (Programme de Gestion Décentralisé des Forêts) Programme, which aims to preserve forests by moving administration of forest resources from central authorities to local communities through local municipalities. GEDEFOR led to Decree No.2018-0079/PR-M(29/01/2018) establishing the power by the State of transferring the management of Forest and Wildlife Resources to Local and Regional Authorities.

This project will work within the framework of GEDEFOR to support the implementation of FDMPs through agreements signed between the government, communes and cooperatives, the latter strengthened to ensure effective implementation of these FDMPs.

Tree Aid has been working on decentralised forest management (including Darwin project 24-022) in Mali's Segou Region since 2004. This project will build on the experiences and progress made to date. By building on learning so far(18), we are well positioned to extend our reach to additional communes and forest areas, securing forest resources for the benefit of local users and supporting biodiversity in the long-term.

Local forest governance will be promoted in 40 villages, across four communes in Segou Region, in order to protect and conserve two dryland forest ecosystems (Safienso and Sanekuy), covering 25,000ha. Key stakeholders (elected officials, town halls secretaries and technical services, as well as cooperative members) will be led through a capacity-development programme to increase their understanding of legal texts around NRM, forest management and governance within a decentralised framework. Exchange visits to GEDEFOR sites will take place, to increase understanding of these processes, in particular the opportunity that organised forest users, such as cooperatives, have in managing their natural resources.

Two cooperatives will be established, comprising community forest users (one cooperative/forest, approximately 500 members each (40% women)). Cooperatives will be expected at the end of the project to be responsible for the stewardship of each forest. Members will be trained in governance, organisational and financial management and service provision. The FMDPs developed for each forest area, will become an important tool for restoration and protection activities carried out by cooperatives. The cooperatives will be supported by two monitoring brigades (100 members/brigade, 50% women), responsible for patrolling, surveying and protecting the forests.

Support will also be provided to six adjacent communes, with FDMPs already in place. The project will help communities and local authorities pursue the procedures to formalise the status of these forests into "protected forest area" thus officially endorsing the full management responsibilities of decentralised local structures. This support will strengthen the existing consultation framework in place and facilitate Tree Aid's work in the two new forests.

To restore and increase productivity of 6,500ha of degraded agricultural land bordering the forests, 3,000 farmers (40% women) will be supported with training and equipment to carry out SWC practices, in particular stone bunds, fertility management, with practices such as zaï pits, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration (ANR) of trees, thereby reducing the need for further agricultural expansion. Agroforestry systems reconcile conservation and social benefits and restoration of farmland is achieved through planting and regeneration of native species with high NTFP potential.

To further restore forest biodiversity, enrichment planting of 100,000 seedlings (from project nurseries) will take place throughout the forests, including threatened locally adapted indigenous species such as the endangered Pterocarpus erinaceus(19), Terminalia habeensis(20), vulnerable: Afzelia Africana(21), Khaya senegalensis(22) and near threatened: Dalbergia melanoxylon(23), alongside species with high restoration and NTFP potential. This will contribute to restoration of these areas by repairing ecosystem processes, productivity and services. The practice of SWC restoration techniques in the forest will increase water retention for the enrichment planting and promote a better survival for the regeneration of tree species. Human effect and pressures on existing tree resources will also be reduced through establishment of firebreaks, promotion of fuel-efficient stoves and regulated charcoal supply.

Eight VTEs will also be developed (400 members, 75% women), based on NTFPs, such honey, shea tree (Vitellaria paradoxa), henna (Lawsonia inermis) or (Borassus sambiranensis), all known to have strong market potential in the area. VTE members will also be members of the cooperatives. Development of

livelihoods opportunities will increase incomes for rural households whilst incentivising the sustainable use of forest resources in the long-term. Tree Aid utilises FAO's Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach, comprising a detailed business training programme, which underlines the importance of sustainable exploitation of natural resources. The project will provide equipment and facilitate linkages between VTEs, cooperatives, finance institutions and buyers for business development. The final choice of NTFPs will be determined during the MA&D process.

Q15. 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?

Community members in the targeted area are highly reliant on natural resources for livelihoods, fuelwood and food. This project seeks to increase awareness of the worth of biodiversity, particularly forest resources, amongst the targeted population in order to ensure long-term sustainable management and exploitation of forest resources. Communication and knowledge sharing not only with communities but also with CBD focal points at MEADD is key to achieving this objective.

Local stakeholders (elected officials, town halls secretaries, technical services) will benefit from increased awareness on Malian regulatory texts for NRM and decentralization in the forestry sector. Stakeholders will also benefit from an exchange visit to GEDEFOR programme area, enabling participants to learn and share experiences.

Monitoring brigades will have capacity built in ecological monitoring including changes in vegetation cover and biodiversity of target species. A manual, translated into local languages will be published to support the brigades. Cooperatives will be empowered to act as a conduit of information and knowledge within communities following tailored training and support in forest management. Training modules will be digitised, translated into local languages and distributed to local actors via various communication channels (videos, radio, WhatsApp).

Ongoing participatory NRM will allow communities to learn about the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services first-hand. Awareness raising through local radio will take place on the use of improved cookstoves, highlighting the damage of bushfires, promoting their reduction.

Ecological surveys including forest inventory will increase understanding of diversity, the status of forest resources to inform appropriate management actions.

We will share experience, learning and project evaluations with stakeholders (communities, CBD focal points within MEADD and local administration). These documents will be available on our website.

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

Q16. 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.

Capacity building is a key element of this projects design. Two cooperatives will have their capacity built in governance, organisational management, marketing, provision of services and management tools for the forest areas. Through this they will understand their role, rights and responsibilities, culminating in the development and implementation of FMDPs. The monitoring brigades will have increased capacity through training and equipment in ecological monitoring to effectively collect data on biodiversity in the area.

Local stakeholders (elected officials, town halls secretaries, technical services) will have their capacity built on Malian regulatory texts for NRM and decentralization in the forestry sector.

Community members will be trained in SWC, soil restoration, tree planting and ANR, empowering farmers with skills to preserve and restore their land, preventing further degradation and improving ecosystem services. Due to low literacy, training will be practical and interactive, delivered directly in the field. To ensure high attendance, training will be held outside of the planting season. A training of trainers approach will be used, allowing an efficient and long-term dissemination of knowledge through a population. Community members will also have their capacity built in activities to reduce pressure on natural resources including fuel-efficient stove construction, and regulated charcoal burning and sustainable logging.

VTEs 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 NTFP processing. Supporting and reinforcing training throughout the project will allow new practices to be maintained.

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

Tree Aid will build partners capacity and technical knowledge across diverse themes including NRM and VTEs, which they can replicate elsewhere.

Q17. Gender equality

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 sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

The project is built on the principal of 'do no harm' and project design is based on a thorough understanding of the broader context in the intervention area to mitigate potential negative consequences from activities.

Women across Mali suffer from the consequences of gender inequality, with Malian society being highly patriarchal and unequal. Women in Mali are traditionally absent from NRM decision-making and lack access to credit, information and technical training. Therefore women are disproportionally affected by extreme poverty.

The project will actively target women and ensure inclusion in project activities and outcomes, tackling barriers around women's perceived traditional roles. To ensure women's participation, techniques such as sensitising community leaders and project stakeholders to gender issues will be utilised. To ensure women can effectively participate and access training, activities will take place at times and locations that facilitate women's attendance.

To ensure greater inclusion in governance structures, the project will support women to actively participate,

to increase their sense of ownership over natural resources. The project will target 40% women in cooperatives, which a realistic target given the context of the area.

Women will be empowered through participating (75% membership) in enterprise development, in turn contributing to household income, increasing 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.

Previous Tree Aid projects have found as women's contribution to household income increases so does their decision-making power and control over household savings as well as gaining an improved status in the community.

Project data collection is disaggregated by gender including attendee lists at training, workshops and community meetings. The baseline and endline collects, through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions, gender disaggregated data, representing the views, perceptions and situation of women and men.

Q18. 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.

In the short-term, two cooperatives (500 members/cooperative, 40% women) will benefit from training in forest management, land restoration, organisational and governance skills. Cooperatives will be supported by two monitoring brigades (100 members/brigade, 50% women) who will benefit from training in ecological monitoring. These structures will have a clearer understanding of their responsibilities and benefits of sustainable management. Supported by FDMPs, they will have increased capacity to effectively manage 25,000ha of forest.

Communities and stakeholders will gain increased awareness and understanding of decentralised forest management. Communities will benefit from increased access to and control over forest resources resulting in a reduction in destructive practices. Through these actions forest cover of Safienso and Sanekuy will increase by 1,250hectares (5%) by the project end, increasing carbon sequestration in the area.

3,000 (40% women) farmers will learn sustainable land management skills including SWC, agroforestry and ANR to restore 6,500ha of degraded farmland and increase land productivity. The promotion of fuel-efficient stoves, regulated charcoal and sustainable logging with reduce pressures on existing tree resources. Enrichment planting of 100,000 locally adapted tree seedlings, including endangered and threatened species, within the forest areas will contribute to the restoration of forest biodiversity and improved wildlife habitat.

After 3-years, our previous forest governance project in Segou found an 8.3% increase in tree density, 31.5% increase in number of trees over 30cm in diameter, 40.5% increase in above-ground biomass and 13.5% increase in tree species diversity. We expect similar improvements to forest ecosystem health by the end of this project.

As a result of the enterprise development, 400 people (75% women) will see their income from NTFPs increase by 100%, and overall household income increase by 10%.

In the long-term, local communities will be empowered to sustainably manage their forest resources through structures established by the project. Local forest governance will promote sustainable exploitation of natural resources, ensuring the forest landscape is protected and conserved. The decrease in pressures from damaging human activities, will result in a continual improvement to forest coverage, its biodiversity preserved, with an increase in carbon sequestered.

The restoration of 6,500ha of degraded agricultural land will increase land productivity and availability of tree resources, leading to more healthy and biodiverse landscape, reducing agricultural expansion and pressures on existing forest resources. Agroforestry combined with regulated charcoal management will help provide wood resources for charcoal production, alongside staple agricultural crops, forest foods and animal fodder, contributing to halt and prevent desertification and deforestation. A healthier ecosystem will be better able to mitigate climate extremes.

The additional household income generated through VTEs can help address key basic needs (food, health and education) long after project completion. Households will be empowered with new, alternative livelihoods to alleviate poverty and increase well-being, whilst preventing exploitation of natural resources. Communities will have a clear understanding of the link between forest resources and household income, embedding the incentive for sustainable forest management in the long-term. The increased and diversified income will increase communities' resilience to external shocks and stresses in the future.

Q19. Pathway to change

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

The project will strengthen organisational and institutional capacities of local authorities, community-based organisations and support structures, alongside developing tools for the sustainable management of forests in order to strengthen forest governance across four communes, protecting 25,000hectares of forest, alongside the conservation of biodiversity including threatened indigenous species in the Segou region.

6,500hectares of degraded agricultural land will be reclaimed and restored through agroforestry and sustainable land management techniques, reducing agricultural expansion, and so further loss of drylands forest ecosystems. Restoration of degraded land alongside reduced pressures on the landscape will also decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Incomes will be increased for 400 farmers through the economic development of forest resources including through training and equipment alongside increased access to finance and markets. These actions will also provide an incentive for sustainable forest management going forwards.

Through these targeted actions to promote forest governance, restore degraded land and establish sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities, the project will increase forest cover by 1,250hectares and improve living conditions of rural populations.

Overall, the project will contribute to increase forest cover and restore forest biodiversity across the Ségou region in Mali, whilst also reducing the vulnerability of 3,000 rural households to climate change.

Q20. Exit Strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual".

Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

Project design is grounded in strengthening the capacity of stakeholders, to be fully functional and able to independently operate following project-end.

The surveillance brigades are established within cooperatives, and collaborate with the cooperatives, Mayors and technical services, to monitor the forests in order to prevent cutting of green wood, poaching and bushfires. After the project, the town halls will ensure the continuing functioning of the cooperatives, and therefore the surveillance brigades also. Brigade members will participate in VTEs, providing the incentive to commit to monitoring activities.

The restoration of farmland will improve productivity, building community self-reliance. Capacity building of communities in sustainable land management will also ensure protection and sustainable use is maintained beyond project completion. Increased land productivity will in turn reduce pressures on natural resources on which communities depend. The benefits seen through the project, including supply of NTFPs to support livelihoods, will incentivise the continuation of practices promoted through the project.

Capacity building of enterprises will empower the groups to continue with income generating activities, long after project completion. By linking enterprises with financial institutions and buyers, the project will enable groups to be self-sustaining, continue to grow, invest in themselves, and financially benefit in the long-term.

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

📤   Map and References
📅   09/02/2021
🕐   18:18:24
🗋   pdf 520.72 KB

Section 10 - Budget and Funding

Q21. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget.

- Budget form for projects under £100,000
- Budget form for projects over £100,000

Please refer to the Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance for more information.

N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

  ⤓ Tree Aid Budget Final
  🗓 09/02/2021
  🕐 18:28:04
  🗋 xlsx 93.75 KB

Q22. Funding

Q22a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

◉ New Initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new phase of work that will build on Tree Aid's previous experience promoting decentralized forest governance in the Segou Region of Mali. Tree Aid has been working on decentralised forest management in Mali's Segou Region since 2004. This project will build on the experiences and progress made to date to scale-up the approach to adjacent communes to those previously targeted. By building on learning so far, we are well positioned to extend our reach to additional communes and forest areas, securing forest resources for the benefit of people and biodiversity in the long-term. The process of transferring forest management from central authorities to local communities, requires significant time and investment, therefore, there is need to continue the process within the region, in order to ensure its effective establishment.

This project will also build on the Malian government's GEDEFOR programme, working within its framework, in order to successfully support development of FDMPs through collaboration between the government, communes and cooperatives, to ensure effective implementation of these FDMPs.

Q22b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

◉ 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.

Other organisations working on complementary projects in Tominian include Caritas who are currently implementing a 3-year project contributing to poverty reduction and strengthening the resilience of households and communities through ecosystem protection, sustainable agriculture, agricultural entrepreneurship and local governance.

AMAPROS is working in the Mopti and Tominian Regions to increase resilience, food security and incomes through effective decentralized institutions and organizations for service delivery, improved natural resource and land management and local economic development. Preventing and managing conflict, gender and inclusion and finally youth and governance.

AMEDS are implementing various projects including contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development in Mali; improving cereal-legume systems by valuing farmers' knowledge in interaction with research; empowering women and young people in the Sikasso and Ségou regions; supporting the empowerment of vulnerable women in a climate change adaptation context.

Synergies between the projects could offer the opportunity to share knowledge and learning. Through effective relationships with other agencies, we will be able to implement a coherent and efficient project.

Q23. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

⊙ Yes

Q23a. 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, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Q23b. Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency Code	Comments
01 September 2021	The Roughley Charitable Trust	██████	£	Long term supporter of TREE AID. High probability of success.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 September 2021	Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation	██████	£	Long term supporter of TREE AID. High probability of success.
01 June 2021	Evan Cornish Foundation	████	£	Warm supporter for Tree Aid with a history of donating. Good chance of success
01 September 2022	The Roughley Charitable Trust	█████	£	Long term supporter of TREE AID. High probability of success

Do you require more fields?

⊙ Yes

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 September 2022	Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation	████	£	Long term supporter of TREE AID. High probability of success.
01 June 2022	Evan Cornish Foundation	████	£	Warm supporter for Tree Aid with a history of donating. Good chance of success
01 September 2023	The Roughley Charitable Trust	█████	£	Long term supporter of TREE AID. High probability of success

Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

Q24. Outputs of the project and Open Access

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

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 (e.g. local authorities, Mali CBD focal points). 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.
• 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/FCDO. 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 over 30,000 followers.

Q25. Financial Risk Management

This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

Fraud/bribery: Tree Aid has robust policies and procedures in place to which partners need to adhere. Policies are included in sub-grant agreements, with training provided.

Foreign exchange: Detailed budgets are prepared in the local currencies and take into account in-country inflation as forecast by IMF. Tree Aid monitors exchange rates and aims for final budgets using realistic rates based on market information.

Storage of financial data: Tree Aid has a Data Protection and IT security policy. Financial data is held within our PS Financials cloud based accounting system, managed by the software provider under a contract. Regular backups of data are maintained. System access is restricted to relevant members of finance staff and is hierarchical.

Poor financial management through partner: Partners have been chosen based on capacity assessments and have development plans in place outlining training/actions required to ensure capacity. Tree Aid undertakes annual internal audits of partners' finance and systems.

Inability to transfer funds: During times of political instability, ECOWAS blocked international transfers to Malian banks. As and when political instability may occur, windows of opportunity will be used to make payments to ensure the continuation of activities for as long as possible with the same strong financial oversight.

Q26. 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. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

GPS (x3) - 2 for Sahel Eco and 1 for Tree Aid Mali
Digital Camera (x3) - 2 for Sahel Eco and 1 for Tree Aid Mali
Motorcycle & accessories (x2) - both for Sahel Eco
Computer with accessories (x4) - 3 for Sahel Eco and 1 for Tree Aid Mali
Office furniture – for both Sahel Eco and Tree Aid Mali.
Video kit (x2) - for Sahel Eco
Solar mills (x2) to support NTFP processing, to be used by the cooperatives.

This totals ■ 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.

Q27. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

Economy: Tree Aid Mali worked with Sahel Eco to draft the budget, establishing local costs, determining the best returns on investment. The value for money was then reviewed by Tree Aid UK. Key assumptions include fluctuation in exchange rates and inflation throughout the project. Partners will apply Tree Aid's procurement policies to ensure transparency and best value. We provide staff with training and a competitive salary, to ensure staff are retained and are able to deliver results, which are both key drivers of success.

Efficiency: Sahel Eco project staff and Tree Aid Project Officer will be based locally minimising logistical costs. Trees will be grown by project nurseries creating planting cost efficiencies while increasing capacities (compared to buying seeds from private nurseries). A training of trainer approach will be used in order to maximise training costs and ensure a long-term diffusion of knowledge. Tree Aid and Sahel Eco will frequently carry out joint monitoring visits to minimise M&E costs.

Effectiveness: 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 based on stakeholder consultations, so are appropriate and effectual to address beneficiary needs. Tree Aid uses adaptive management, to adjust activities to local context changes.

Equity: Activities are appropriately targeted to individuals, to take into account specific needs around gender and age.

This represents an excellent return on investment delivering increases in forest cover, and land restoration alongside poverty reducing outcomes.

Section 12 - Ethics and Safeguarding

Q28. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

This project will uphold all legal and ethical obligations of both the UK and Mali. Tree Aid is a beneficiary led and local partner-focussed organisation with a bottom-up approach, encouraging equal partnerships with local partners. While, as defined in our Partnerships Policy, ensuring due diligence in all 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, and the highest possible returns for beneficiary communities. The project will empower communities with the knowledge to manage their own natural resources, as well as promoting local leadership to ensure the needs, perspectives and context of local people are fully taken into account.

This project will strive to respect the rights, privacy and safety of our beneficiaries, employing the principles of Free, Prior, Informed Consent, ensuring informed, non-coercive communication between all stakeholders prior to commencement and throughout project and partnership lifetimes.

Further strengthening our community engagement approach, we will apply our Code of Conduct to safeguard communities and ensuring Tree Aid has a positive impact in communities. As per our policies, we have a zero-tolerance approach to financial crimes, abuse and retaliation. Processes as defined in our policies will be closely followed throughout the project lifetime.

The health and wellbeing of all 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.

Q29. Corruption

This question specifically considers corruption. Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this. This may include financial corruption, but may also deal with gifts or inducements, or other types of dishonesty or deceit.

As defined in our Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, Tree Aid has a zero tolerance approach to 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.

Tree Aid has policies in place against corruption, bribery and other financial crimes. These are contained within the Employment Handbook. All staff are trained in these policies and their relevant procedures. The policies are communicated to downstream delivery partners, who are required to adhere to the policies including our policy on procurement. This is set out in the Partnership Agreement and training in the implementation of these policies is included in the training and development session. Tree Aid will undertake necessary due diligence on implementing partners before entering into agreements and contracts with them.

Tree Aid carries out risk assessment to identify corruption risk and mitigates them through effective financial management procedures with checks and balances to prevent any form of aid diversion. Tree Aid will review partner expenditure alongside supporting documentation. Tree Aid has a procurement policy and procedures to ensure transparency and value for money.

Q30. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload below)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.

As described in Tree Aid's Safeguarding policy, Tree Aid recognises that safeguarding must be the responsibility of the whole organisation, and therefore covers Trustees, management, staff, volunteers and sub-grantees/partners working for or with Tree Aid. All staff members have a responsibility to raise suspicions to senior managers when noticing signs that may pose a threat to anyone in contact with Tree Aid through its activities. TREE AID trains annually staff and partners on the Safeguarding policy.

We also include safeguarding as part of our sub-grant agreements with partners. The safeguarding policy also identifies a designated contact person for safeguarding in each regional office with her/his contact information, as well as it details prevention and reporting procedures in place. Safeguarding is a standing item in all partner meetings.

Specific measures in place, include (but not limited to) posters displayed in offices to encourage incident reporting. A hotline has been established from country offices directly to the UK Compliance and Risk Manager, for staff to report or discuss concerns. Safeguarding questions are included in the household RHoMIS surveys, allowing beneficiaries to raise concerns. Tree Aid has developed a 'Safeguarding Action Plan', detailing actions and responsibilities to continually review and improve our approach.

Please upload the lead organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

- ⬇ Tree Aid Safeguarding Policy
- 🗓 09/02/2021
- 🕐 19:07:58
- 📄 pdf 1.04 MB

Section 13 - Logical Framework

Q31. Logical Framework

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. 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.

- Stage 2 Logframe Template

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

- ⬇ Tree Aid Logical Framework Final
- 🗓 09/02/2021
- 🕐 18:47:40
- 📄 pdf 253.64 KB

Impact:

Sustainable forest management and tree-based livelihoods contribute to biodiversity conservation in the Safienso and Sanekuy forests, covering 25,000 hectares in Mali, and the poverty reduction of local people.

Outcome:

Strengthen promotion of local forest governance, investments in forests and valorization of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for sustainable improvement of livelihoods for 3,000 rural households in Tominian circle, Mali.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Strengthened governance, including increased women's participation, and the transfer of competences in the management of forest resources in four communes (Yasso, Tominian, Benena and Sanekuy) in Tominian circle.

Output 2:

Promote the adoption of actions for the restoration of land, the reduction of pressure on forest resources and restoration of degraded land

Output 3:

Increased income for eight (8) Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) (50 members per group = 400 members; 75% women = 300 women) through the economic development of forest resources

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

○ Yes
○ No

Activities

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

1.1. Official project launch

1.2. Training of 80 local stakeholders from 10 communes (elected officials, general secretaries of town halls and technical services agents (subject matter specialists)) on Malian regulatory texts for natural resource management and decentralization in the forestry sector.

1.3. Support to community operations for local governance of forest resources within the framework of transferred competences

1.4. Organization of an exchange visit for 35 local stakeholders on the experiences of decentralized forest management in the "Programme de Gestion Décentralisée des Forêts" (GEDEFOR) intervention areas

1.5. Establishment and training of members of the monitoring brigades of the two forest areas in four new communes on their role and responsibility in the decentralization in the forestry sector

1.6. Capacity development for brigades' members on ecological monitoring (changes in plant cover and biodiversity of target species, bush fire management.)

1.7. Training of 40 members of the local consultation framework on participatory conflict management

1.8. Establishment of two management cooperatives for the intermunicipal massifs of the communes of Tominian, Benena, Yasso and Sanékuy.

1.9. Training of the cooperative members on governance, organisational management, market access and developing marketing mix and improvement of services to its members

1.10. Training of members of the two cooperatives on management tools for new forest areas and the implementation of Forest Development and Management Plans

1.11. Drawing up two Forest Development and Management Plans for the Safienso forest massif in the communes of Bénéna and Tominian and the Sanekuy forest massif in the communes of Sanékuy and Yasso.

1.12. Drawing up and signature of partnership protocols between communities, technical services and cooperatives (Malian regulatory texts for natural resource management and decentralization in the forestry sector provides an overall framework for management between local authorities and communities and a work contract between communities and cooperatives).

1.13. Digitalisation of training modules, translation into local languages and distribution through various communication channels (commented video programmes, radio, WhatsApp Group)

1.14. Conducting a visioning process for the identification of forest heritage and elaboration of a

community action plan for restoration of the land

1.15. Elaboration and translation into local languages of a forest surveillance procedure manual, validated by the local technical services, for the benefit of the surveillance brigades

1.16. Materialization of the limits of the two forests (geo referencing, demarcation beacons)

1.17. Support to the two cooperatives and the surveillance brigades in equipment for the development and surveillance of the forests

2.1. Support for the installation of two community nurseries (wire mesh fence, solar water point, equipment, pots and seeds) for the production of 100,000 seedlings for planting in the two forest areas

2.2. Carry out water and soil conservation / defence and soil restoration measures in the forest to promote regeneration of local tree species (including stone bunds and other locally adapted techniques)

2.3. Planting of 100,000 trees and direct seedlings of local forest species in the forests

2.4. Training of actors (nurserymen, VTE members, cooperative members) on techniques (grafting, sanitary pruning and transplantation)

2.5. Creation of access feeder roads and firewalls in the two forest areas.

2.6. Broadcast radio programs to raise awareness on the use of improved cookstoves.

2.7. Training of 40 artisans on how to make improved cookstoves

2.8. Structuring and formalization of four groups of charcoal producers and coal operators.

2.9. Training of 40 charcoal and wood operators on improved charcoal burning and sustainable logging techniques

2.10. Equipping four groups of charcoal and wood operators with improved carbonization equipment

2.11. Assistance to four charcoal and wood harvester groups in the acquisition of logging maps and the first charcoal production permits from the forestry services.

2.12. Training of 3,000 farmers on soil and water conservation / defence and soil restoration

2.13. Support in small equipment for the treatment of 6,500 hectares of degraded agricultural land in villages bordering forests by agroforestry techniques (compost, soil and water conservation / defence and soil restoration), planting, assisted natural regeneration (ANR).

2.14. Organize an annual competition to reward the communities with the best rates of adoption of agroforestry and sustainable land management practices.

3.1. Carrying out a diagnosis of the actors and value chains of promising non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

3.2. Organization of value chain validation workshops by commune

3.3. Creation of forestry enterprises (based on MA&D and farming as a business training package) in the four communes

3.4. Elaboration of business plans for Eight Village Tree Enterprises, based on NTFP

3.5. Training of groups/cooperatives on techniques of processing and conservation of NTFPs to improve the quality of the products

3.6. Installation of two mini solar multifunctional platforms (solar mills) for various non-timber forest product (NTFP) processing uses

3.7. Training of beekeepers in modern beekeeping techniques

3.8. Equipping producers with 40 modern hives and other beekeeping equipment (hives, overalls, smokers, gloves, boots, etc.).

3.9. Training of VTEs on marketing techniques, simplified financial management, entrepreneurship, etc.

3.10. Development of a Simplified Market Information System (SIM) to facilitate the marketing of non-timber forest products

3.11. Installation of 4 sales points/stores for non-timber forest products installed to promote the marketing of NTFPs

3.12. Equipping NTFP processing groups with modern packaging and labeling materials to facilitate the packaging and marketing of their products

3.13. Support to producers and processors for their participation in various local and national fairs and other trade events.

M&E 1. Training of agents on monitoring and evaluation tools
M&E 2. Recruiting new agents
M&E 3. Tree Aid field follow-up
M&E 4. Sahel Eco field follow-up
M&E 5. Kick-off workshop
M&E 6. Ecological Survey (including forest inventory); baseline & endline
M&E 7. Permanent Monitoring Plots - establishment & monitoring
M&E 8. Baseline (RHoMIS survey, focus group discussions, consultant)
M&E 9. Final evaluation (RHoMIS survey, focus group discussions, consultant)
M&E 10. Project Audit

Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

Q32. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

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 fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

   ⤓ Tree Aid Implementation Timetable Final
   ▦ 09/02/2021
   ◷ 19:00:59
   ▤ pdf 354.03 KB

Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q33. 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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT**).**

Tree Aid have a technical support team (Technical Officer; MEL Advisor) supporting project management with M&E planning, delivery and analysis. An organizational M&E manual, including indicator guide, is used by all projects. Data is collected in ODK on tablets using generic survey templates which are 'localised' for projects. Data is stored on ONA website.

A start-up workshop between Tree Aid and SAHEL ECO will review the logframe and M&E plan. Partner staff are trained and supported to use tools effectively in line with organisational standards.

Outcome indicators:
A forest ecological inventory, including the establishment of Permanent Monitoring Plots, will collect data on vegetation cover (Indicator 0.1), as well as forest conditions and land characteristics. Methodology and analysis generates data on species frequency, density and dominance (Indicator 0.3).

Tree Aid use the FCDO-funded Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHoMIS), to measure socio-economic change. It will capture information on household income disaggregated by source (Indicator 0.2), households below calorie line (Indicator 0.4) and poverty line (Indicator 0.5).

RHoMIS collects data on food security, livelihood strategies, women's decision-making power and the knowledge/attitudes of the community in relation to local forest governance (Indicators 1.1; 1.2).

The project will conduct beneficiary group discussions and stakeholder review meetings to capture opinions and context on key issues. Tree Aid has developed standardised methodology and templates for Focus Group Discussions (FGD).

Outcome indicators are the responsibility off the Project Manager; support from UK technical team.

Outputs indicators:
Monitoring of strengthened forest governance is done through the RHoMIS survey (see above) and project records (Indicators 1.3, 1.4). Forest areas will be mapped using our 'Land Use Survey' form (Indicator 1.3), including accurate perimeter records with GPS.

Attendance sheets are kept detailing training/activities and participants, such as the membership of monitoring brigades (Indicator 1.4). Post training surveys are conducted on the day of training for immediate reflection and (b) six months post training to assess skill application/sharing, and changes to personal/family circumstances.

Attendance data is integrated into the 'Beneficiary List', allowing us to monitor the number of direct/indirect, male/female, beneficiaries (and households) per activity and per operational quarter.

Degraded agricultural land and forest areas are mapped using the Land Use Survey, which also records trees planted/regenerated disaggregated by species, as well as type and extent of NRM practices (Indicators 2.1; 2.2).

The consumption of fuel wood is monitored through a gold standard Kitchen Performance Test (Indicator 2.3). This is done at baseline/endline to monitor effectiveness of fuel saving stoves and changes in livelihood practices.

VTE group assessments (organisational capacity; enterprise development) are conducted annually. These monitor organisational structure, membership (gender disaggregated), as well as production, skills and equipment, management and market access. Records will show turnover, profits and contracts with buyers (Indicators 3.1; 3.2 and 3.3).

This project takes an adaptive management approach. Monitoring allows the project team to detect variations on expected project delivery. Issues and lessons identified are discussed and modifications made accordingly.

Output data is collected by the local partner organisation. Support from Project Manager/UK technical team.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£███████
Number of days planned for M&E	244
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	██

Section 16 - FCDO Notifications

Q34. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

No

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 Notes**) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.**

⊙ No

If no, why not?

Tree Aid has previously met with the British Embassy in Bamako (January 2020). We contacted the Embassy again during this proposal's development, but wasn't able to get a response before submission, so haven't yet received updated security advice. Tree Aid will endeavour to get this before project start.

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

No Response

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Tree Aid

I apply for a grant of

£345,755.00

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

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

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

    Checked

Name	Tom Skirrow
Position in the organisation	CEO
Signature (please upload e-signature)	⤓ CEO Signature 🗓 09/02/2021 🕐 19:05:17 📄 pdf 3.97 KB
Date	09 February 2021

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "Guidance Notes for Applicants**" and "**Finance Guidance**".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked

The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the key project personnel identified at Question 12, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 11, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outling how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the lead organisation's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website **immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.**	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK**.**	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available here. This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and 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 General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).