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# **DIR29S2\1055**

## **Biocredits Investment Operations (BIO)**

Biodiversity degradation is reaching unprecedented rates, and biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts are often underfunded leading to negative impacts on the environment and those living in biodiversity rich areas.

“Biocredits” are an emerging approach to finance biodiversity that benefits Indigenous People and Local Communities. Darwin BIO will pilot biocredit schemes in the Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia) for the sale of credits to finance community led conservation, reducing poverty and protecting and restoring biodiversity.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Cinzia  
**Surname** Cimmino  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Paul  
**Surname** Steele  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# DIR29S2\1055

Biocredits Investment Operations (BIO)

## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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<b>Title</b>	Ms
<b>Name</b>	Cinzia
<b>Surname</b>	Cimmino
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Tel (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>Name</b>	Paul
<b>Surname</b>	Steele
<b>Tel (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	International Institute for Environment and Development
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

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### Q3. Title:

Biocredits Investment Operations (BIO)

### What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR29S1\1033

### Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

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

#### Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

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#### Biome 2

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

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#### Biome 3

*No Response*

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#### Conservation Action 1

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

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#### Conservation Action 2

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

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#### Conservation Action 3

Species management (harvest, recovery, re-introduction, ex-situ)

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**Threat 1**

Energy production &amp; mining (incl. renewables)

**Threat 2**

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

**Threat 3**

Other threats

**Q5. Summary of project**

**Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, 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 the website.**

**Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

Biodiversity degradation is reaching unprecedented rates, and biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts are often underfunded leading to negative impacts on the environment and those living in biodiversity rich areas.

“Biocredits” are an emerging approach to finance biodiversity that benefits Indigenous People and Local Communities. Darwin BIO will pilot biocredit schemes in the Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia) for the sale of credits to finance community led conservation, reducing poverty and protecting and restoring biodiversity.

**Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary****Q6. 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.**

<b>Country 1</b>	Uganda	<b>Country 2</b>	<i>No Response</i>
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<b>Country 3</b>	Zambia	<b>Country 4</b>	<i>No Response</i>
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**Do you require more fields?**

No

**Q7. Project dates**

<b>Start date:</b>	<b>End date:</b>	<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):</b>
01 April 2023	31 March 2026	3

## Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %

[REDACTED]

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Two of our proposed partners (ValueNature and Conserve Global) will provide in-kind support and matched funding by providing equipment and staff time.

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)

[REDACTED]

Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how will you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A

## Section 4 - Problem statement

### Q11. 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. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

**For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite any evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).**

The drivers of biodiversity loss particularly of *Pan troglodytes* (Eastern Chimpanzees) and *Panthera leo* (Lion) are different at each of the project sites and have been identified and described below by the project partners through ongoing research and experience on-site. However, they both share the common conservation dilemma of a lack of long-term finance for conservation and community empowerment. The Tropical High Forests and woodlands in the Northern Albertine Rift have been degraded over the years resulting in the fragmentation of once densely forested areas. The core protected areas have lost the connecting natural vegetation, which is critical for the long-term survival of the wildlife in the corridor, particularly the Eastern Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*). The degradation applies to both private/communal forests as well as central forest reserves. Between 1986 and 2002, it is estimated that over 110 km<sup>2</sup> of

forest was cleared within 15 km of Bugoma, and about 90km<sup>2</sup> was cleared within 15km of Budongo (1) . A central challenge to conservation initiatives in the corridor has been the absence of sustainable long-term financing to enable the uptake of conservation initiatives beyond initial donor support (2) . This biocredits project therefore presents an opportunity for addressing this finance gap.

The Tondwa Game Management Area in northern Zambia is a key area for the connectivity and long-term integrity of the Nsumbu-Mweru Wantipa landscape (3). However, pressure from long-term poaching and a lack of investment from earlier hunting operators has led to under-resourced and under-capacitated management with poor or non-existent law enforcement and a failure to engage local communities. Wildlife populations have therefore steadily declined. Biocredits revenue will be used to restore the landscape and create enabling conditions to support the expansion of a neighbouring elephant population (*Loxodonta africana*) from Nsumbu National Park and, in the longer term, the restoration of lion populations (*Panthera leo melanochaita*).

Both site's challenges speak to a wider challenge of biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts being underfunded, or the "biodiversity funding gap". The funding gap for actions under the CBD is estimated to be between US\$ 598 billion and 824 billion per year (4). Additionally, where funding is available it often takes a long time to access and does not reach those at the forefront of biodiversity loss and conservation and restoration efforts. Biodiversity credits are a way to mobilise private sector funding and channel the funds directly to local male and female land managers, ensuring impact for every dollar that is raised for conservation activities.

## Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

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### Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

**Q12a. 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)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

### Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

The project impact of "Biocredit schemes increase the finance reaching Indigenous People and Local Communities and relevant land managers for commitments under the CBD and the SDGs, ultimately improving livelihoods and increasing biodiversity globally", will contribute to the CBD in particular the following articles: 8. In-situ Conservation (8e sustainable development adjacent to protected areas; 8j equitable sharing of benefits); 11. Incentive Measures (economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for conservation). Also, within the CBD Framework, the BIO project is aligned with Target 3 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as it creates positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, considering national and socio-economic conditions.

Though the details of CBD Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework have not yet been agreed, biocredit schemes are aligned with this agenda, specifically in terms of resource mobilisation.

At the national level in Uganda, the National Biodiversity and Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is the main instrument for implementing the CBD. Within the NBSAP, Uganda recognises that funding for the plan will come from public and private sources, including innovative financing. Though this project is not an offset scheme, the Ugandan NBSAP identifies offsets to mobilise finance and includes cases in which offsets take positive management interventions to ensure “protecting areas where there is imminent or projected loss of biodiversity” (5). Biocredits are a suitable and fitting alternative to biodiversity offsets, that fit with the guidelines and the needs of the Uganda NBSAP.

The project is aligned to the Ugandan National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) adaptation sectors that include forestry, wetlands, biodiversity, ecosystem services, human settlement and social infrastructure, disaster risk management, and scaling out of clean low carbon technologies (6). The project is also aligned to Uganda’s Green Growth Development Strategy and Vision 2040 (7).

In Zambia, the BIO project also aligns closely with the country’s second NBSAP2, and will make contributions to Strategic Goals A, B, C and E. Specifically, it will increase local community awareness of the values of biodiversity (Target 1), promote the sustainable management of Game Management Areas (Target 7), improve and sustain populations of threatened and endemic species (Target 11), and generate knowledge relating to biodiversity (Target 17). The project will also develop incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, thus contributing to Target 3. Finally, by mobilising internal and external financial resources for effective implementation of NBSAP2, the BIO project will contribute to Target 18 (8).

In both countries, unlocking financial flows to support effective biodiversity management will directly contribute to UN SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 15 and indirectly to the remaining goals.

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

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### Q13. Methodology

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

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

Biocredits are an emerging instrument to finance biodiversity through the creation and sale of biodiversity units. This project will be impactful by implementing “Biocredit schemes [to] increase the finance reaching Indigenous People and Local Communities and relevant land managers for commitments under the CBD and the SDGs, ultimately improving livelihoods and increasing biodiversity globally.”

While biocredits are a novel instrument, the logic of the project builds on, and learns from, similar schemes such as “wildlife credits” in Namibia and some aspects of REDD+(9) .

IIED has recently reviewed existing biocredit methodologies and concluded that the VN Methodology is the most contextually appropriate because of its ability to channel money to the local level and provide highly cost-effective biodiversity monitoring (10) . ValueNature already has a working partnership with CG, strengthening their ability to build on the organisations existing efforts.

The overall outcome of the Darwin BIO project is to have a:



“Biocredit scheme operating and increasing the amount of finance for biodiversity conservation efforts and contributing to livelihoods in Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia), and generating an evidence base to assist scaling biocredit schemes outside of pilot countries”.

Output 1: International demand established for biocredits in the Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia)

IIED and VN have been engaged in a number of working groups, including with UNDP (Biodiversity Credit Alliance) and a working group with the World Economic Forum (WEF), in which widespread demand for biocredits has been identified, confirming previous research conducted by partners (11,12). Output 1 will largely be achieved through work done by IIED to undertake a market survey of buyers, building on similar surveys by McKinsey, and a proposed global auction of biocredits.

Output 2: A supply of biocredits supporting gender responsive biodiversity conservation established in pilot sites in Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia)  
Generating supply of biocredits will draw on the biodiversity management expertise of ET and TCL as well as the knowledge of methodological processes of IIED and ValueNature. Providing the “supply” of biocredits will include project site vegetation assessments, deploying biosensors and data collection according to biodiversity management plans. It will also include pulling information from global datasets, such as the IUCN Star Metric Scores. Ultimately, all activities under this output will contribute creating a biodiversity intactness measure that can then be used to create a biocredit.

Output 3: Regulatory and monitoring architecture supports at least two thirds of funds reaching female and male local land managers, biodiversity custodians, local organisations, and households.

For a biocredit scheme to provide intended benefits, clear regulatory and monitoring architecture is key, specifically to support two thirds of the funds reaching the local level. All partners will continue their engagement with regulation and standard developers (eg IIED advises Verra’s biocredit certification), including the Biodiversity Credit Alliance, WEF and UNDP. This will ensure that the pilot projects comply with the regulatory and monitoring frameworks established and provides project developers the opportunity to feedback into the process of regulation and standard creation.

Output 4: Local level decision making on biodiversity conservation empowers and engages female and male Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities

Like any conservation mechanism, it is key that the decision-making is driven by the needs of those that are most effected by conservation efforts, or lack thereof. Output 4 will engage and empower female and male IPs and LCs in the decision-making process. Activities include community visioning and site action planning meetings, that will contribute to the creation of a landscape restoration plan. Specific focus will be given to engaging with marginalised groups (i.e. women, indigenous people, poor people). Output 4 will be led by ET and TCL and build on existing relationships that they have with local stakeholders, specifically the local land managers and local biodiversity custodians.

Output 5: Lessons learned shared with international conservation and biodiversity finance community at the international level to replicate biocredits in other locations and countries based on the experience learned from the BIO project.

Biocredits remain an emerging market in which there is a rapidly growing interest. Therefore, Output 5 will share lessons learnt that emerge from the pilot programs with both the conservation and the finance communities. Due to IIED’s experience in biocredit working groups and related research (e.g., hosting a biocredit side event at CoP15), IIED is in a unique position to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders in the biocredits market and disseminate lessons learnt from the country pilots.

## **Q14. Capability and Capacity**

**How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit, and the post-project value to the country.**

The Darwin BIO project will be supporting intuitional and individual capacity building at different levels and among different stakeholders, with a strong focus on sharing lessons learnt and building on the existing capacity of all partners.

Sharing of lessons learnt across a wider network will also occur to increase the capacity of the pilot projects to adapt to changes and to overcome setbacks. Specifically, ValueNature will coordinate with the wider Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA) and IIED will consult with biocredits working groups to increase their capability to assist project sites in Uganda and Zambia, and to increase the compatibility of pilot sites with the global biocredit architecture (e.g., developing regulation and certification, market opportunities, etc).

Through the benefit sharing mechanism that ensures equitable distribution of the revenue generated, the project will also contribute to increasing the ability of women, Indigenous People and local community members to contribute to biodiversity restoration and conservation efforts. In Uganda, this project will build on and increase funding to the existing community engagement work being done, including the use of GALS methodology. In Zambia, this will involve working with Nsama Community Resources Board and Village Action Groups, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society.

The post-project value of the project is that a successful biocredit schemes will ensure continuous funding for pilot sites in the Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia) to ultimately sustain the increase in species abundance and wellbeing of Eastern Chimpanzees and Lions at respective sites. Implementing camera traps and bioacoustics sensors will increase the ability of EcoTrust Uganda and Tondwa Conservation Limited to effectively monitor biodiversity past the project period and revenue from biocredit schemes can fund maintenance where required.

## Q15. Gender equality

**All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.**

Darwin BIO project will promote gender responsive action across all 5 outputs (see logframe).

Successful efforts to increase the amount of climate finance reaching women are becoming more common, though nature finance remains limited, and as a result, only a small share of the already small amount of public finance for biodiversity reaches women and other marginalised people. The proposed BIO project helps women access nature finance and aims to have a minimum of 20% of the revenue from the scheme flow towards female land managers, biodiversity custodians and led local organisations and households.

Reducing gender inequality will be a specific focus during activities that pertain to promoting gender responsive decision-making processes and ensuring effective gender equitable benefit sharing mechanisms. For example, in the Albertine Rift (Uganda), gender dynamics revolve around access to and decision making around land use and resources on land. Although there is no policy that prevents anyone from owning land, the main form of land acquisition in the area is through inheritance, where land is bequeathed to relatives, mainly male descendants, of the household.

At each of the pilot sites, an internationally recognised methodology will be used during community workshops to promote the inclusion of women and marginalised people in the construction of biodiversity management plans and the distribution of revenue from the biocredit scheme. The different ways in which women value and use biodiversity is important in all conservation efforts, but it is particularly important in biocredit schemes because the project seeks to create a numerical value on biodiversity. Including a wide range of knowledge and values into the valuation process of biodiversity is key to a successful and sustainable biocredit scheme(13) . The appropriate methodology will be determined in Year

1 upon further consultation with EcoTrust Uganda and Tondwa Conservation Limited and community members

## **Q16. Awareness and understanding**

**How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who your stakeholders are, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?**

Due to the novelty of biocredit schemes, sharing lessons learnt is a key factor to the success of the project. In Year 1 of the project, a communications strategy will be established by IIED with inputs from all partners to deliver on Output 5.

In Uganda, ET works with Farmer Voice Radio (FVR), which is a fast, affordable, and wide-reaching communications tool, combining indigenous and local knowledge with expert advice to create informative radio programs. The BIO project will leverage ET's relationship with FVR to raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues amongst the schemes stakeholders and wider regional listeners.

In Zambia, TCL creates spaces for information sharing in the form of community events (sports tournaments and art competitions), call-in radio programmes, sessions with the wildlife clubs in the schools, and formal meetings. TCL engages with Zambian journalists and facilitates their travel to project sites to encourage national coverage of topics related to biodiversity, protected area management, climate change impacts, etc. The BIO project will use the existing communication strategies to disseminate information on the project.

The communication strategy will also share learnings of the pilots' sites with global, public and private experts and practitioners in conservation community and nature finance community. This will include a How to Guide targeted at both buyers and sellers of biocredits. Additionally, there will be two videos/site created, one for a conservation audience and one for a nature finance audience. All videos and the How to Guide will draw on perspectives of the communities that have engaged in the scheme and buyers of the initial credits.

There will be monthly online meetings throughout the project period with ET, CG, TCL, VN and IIED to share experiences and provide a space for the pilot projects to learn from one another and monitor and review progress.

## **Q17. Change expected**

**Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, 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) and the potential to scale the approach.**

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

Within the project period, the expected output is to have "Biocredit schemes operating and increasing the amount of finance for biodiversity and conservation efforts and contributing to livelihoods in Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia), and generating an evidence base to assist scaling biocredit schemes outside of pilot countries."

Achieving this output will benefit both the sellers and buyers of biocredits.

Sellers of biocredits, namely land managers and biodiversity custodians, with a specific focus on female land managers and custodians, will benefit within the project period. The BIO project will increase the funding available for restoration efforts, including funding for community engagement. The Darwin funding will provide resources to implement novel as well as additional biodiversity monitoring devices such as camera traps and bioacoustics sensors and this will add to land managers knowledge of the status of biodiversity in the region. The consultation and planning process will actively engage female land managers and biodiversity custodians to ensure that their priorities for biodiversity management are integrated in the valuation process.

The project is designed so that already by year 3 the land managers and biodiversity custodians will benefit from the revenue generated from biocredit schemes. Increased revenue will provide further funding to restoration efforts. A benefit sharing plan will be agreed upon in Year 1 through workshops to ensure that the revenue is equally distributed based on who is doing the work of conserving and restoring biodiversity in the pilot sites. As previously noted, a minimum of 20% of the revenue will be allocated to female land managers, biodiversity custodians, head of households and led conservation organisations. Attention will be given to ensure equitable benefit sharing with marginalised groups (ex. Indigenous peoples, low-income households etc).

Again, in the longer term, Indigenous People and Local Communities will benefit from positive effects of higher levels of biodiversity such as increased food security, protection from erosion and flooding and increased wellbeing.

Buyers of biocredits, namely governments, companies, private investors and interested individuals, will also benefit from establishing a biocredits market. Regulations and social pressure for private companies to invest in nature and biodiversity are increasing. Biocredits provide a credible and traceable way to invest in biodiversity in a manner that creates tangible positive change.

Implementing and operating successful biocredit pilot schemes in the Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia) will also play a crucial role in maintaining and increasing the momentum around an international market for biocredits. The communication strategy under Output 5 of the Darwin BIO project will amplify the lessons learnt and the positive impacts of the scheme. As an emerging market, pilot schemes are key to informing advances in the global trade of biocredits.

## Q18. Pathway to change

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

The overall outcome of the project is to have a "Biocredit scheme operating and increasing the amount of finance for biodiversity and conservation efforts in Uganda and Zambia and generating an evidence base to assist scaling biocredit schemes outside of pilot countries." In doing so, the project also aims to reduce poverty among women and men in Uganda and Zambia through replicable conservation and preservation financing. This will be achieved through four outcomes defined in section 17b.

By creating the financial architecture required to connect interested buyers to conservation organisations (e.g. sellers), the pilot biocredit schemes will increase the amount of funding flowing into conservation and preservation efforts by Year 3.

Additionally, community-led project design and benefit-sharing mechanisms will ensure meaningful local participation and revenue generation to tackle both poverty (with considerations to inequality) and direct threats to species conservation.

In the long term, it is expected that the created market architecture will foster biocredits trading beyond both site locations and countries. This will be a result of Output 5 (Knowledge sharing of lessons learnt and outreach for biocredits upscaling).

## Q19. Exit Strategy

**How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding?**

**How could post-project scaling of the approach (if proven) be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?**

**How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits?**





The Darwin BIO project will create a biocredit scheme that will then operate as a self-financing scheme for its beneficiaries by Year 3. Because of this, it will be able to continue to deliver finance and associated benefit after the funding period by using the revenue generated from the biocredit scheme. With the continuation of financing, land managers will be enabled to continue the biodiversity management planned on both the pilot sites.

The project is being designed to ensure that biocredit schemes are scalable within the pilot countries, and that they can also be replicated in different countries. Activities regarding “supplying” the biocredits, that are undertaken by country leads, can be replicated elsewhere and at larger scale. This will be supported by Output 5, that focuses on knowledge sharing in order to scale up and drive the demand of biocredits. This will contribute to supporting the initiation of additional projects elsewhere in the world both during and after the project period. A post project scaling approach will likely require another round of impact investment or a funding scheme such as Darwin to provide initial funding, however, it will likely be much smaller as the demand will already be identified and the financial architecture will be trialled and functional.





The knowledge of biodiversity monitoring required in the sites in Uganda and Zambia is already available. This project will support the implementation of biodiversity monitoring devices (camera traps, bioacoustics monitors, etc). Where maintenance of bio-monitoring devices is required, it will come from the revenue that the biocredit scheme generates.

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

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 [BIO Project Tondwa GMA - Conserve map](#)  
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 pdf 100.7 KB

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 [BIO project Application Reference List](#)  
 12/12/2022  
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## Section 7 - Risk Management

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### Q20. Risk Management

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

**Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.**

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<b>Fiduciary</b> Revenue from biocredits sales lower than expected	major	possible	major	Addressing demand side with publicity material, market survey to identify demand, engaging with a planned global auction	minor
<b>Safeguarding</b> Community engagement leads to tension in the communities	moderate	unlikely	moderate	Using trusted local partners and professional community mobilisers	minor
<b>Delivery Chain</b> Technical equipment lost, stolen or damaged	moderate	possible	major	Using local partners and park rangers to monitor and regularly check technical equipment	minor
<b>Risk 4</b> Contextual Political and/or economic instability in both or either Zambia and Uganda	Insignificant	possible	minor	Shift resources from one country to the other	minor
<b>Risk 5</b> Operational Covid-19 outbreak in both or either Uganda and Zambia	minor	possible	moderate	Moving to online engagement with stakeholders	minor
<b>Risk 6</b> Operational Staff changes in both or either lead partner and partners	moderate	possible	major	Develop skills of other staff who can replace current staff	minor

## Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

### Q21. 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 Word 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.

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 [BIO project-Implementation-Timetable-](#)

 12/12/2022

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## Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

(Max 500 words)

Monitoring and evaluation are central to the project as the core activity is to monitor biodiversity index, which also will include social and economic indicators.

Therefore, the project starts in the Year 1 by conducting a baseline biophysical assessment of each pilot sites. ET and TCL will create the baseline with support from ValueNature, to ensure that the data is compatible with the VN biocredit methodology. The results from the baseline assessment will feed into community engagement discussions, and the combination of the consultation and the ecological data will lead to the creation of the biodiversity intactness score used to create a biocredit.

In Year 3, after revenue is generated from the sales of credits, another biophysical assessment will be undergone to track any improvements or maintenance (in the case of areas that are being conserved) to verify the effectiveness of the scheme. The assessment done in Year 3 will take significantly less resources because camera traps, bioacoustics sensors etc will already be deployed, though they will include another community consultation process.

The pilot schemes will be certified by Year 2 of the project; therefore, it will be partially the role of the certifier to ensure that two thirds of the revenue generated will flow to the EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation Limited. A certifier will be selected based on the standards set in this project (i.e. two thirds of revenue flowing to local level, minimum 20% flowing to women).

Once two thirds of the revenue have reached the NGOs, it will be their role to ensure that revenue is distributed as per the pre-agreed benefit sharing mechanism.

IIED will be responsible for reporting back to the Darwin Initiative based on the logframe and the included Means of Verification.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	██████████
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	█
Number of days planned for M&E	35

## Section 10 - Logical Framework

---





### Q23. Logical Framework (logframe)

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

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**

**Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.**

 [IIED BIO project Logframe](#)  
 12/12/2022  
 14:30:41  
 pdf 168.19 KB

Impact:

Biocredit schemes increase the finance reaching Indigenous People and Local Communities and relevant land managers for commitments under the CBD and the SDGs, ultimately improving livelihoods and increasing biodiversity globally.

Outcome:

Biocredit schemes increasing finance for biodiversity conservation of Pan troglodytes and Panthera Leo and livelihood improvements in Northern Albertine Rift and Tondwa Game Management Area.

### Project Outputs

---

#### Output 1:

International demand established for biocredits in Uganda and Zambia and biocredits from the pilot sites sold.

---



**Output 2:**

A supply of biocredits supporting gender responsive biodiversity conservation established in pilot sites in Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia)

---

**Output 3:**

Regulatory and monitoring architecture supports at least two thirds of funds reaching female and male local land managers, biodiversity custodians, local organisations and households.

---

**Output 4:**

Local level decision making on biodiversity conservation empowers and engages female and male Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities

---

**Output 5:**

Lessons learned shared with international conservation and biodiversity finance community at the international level to replicate biocredits in other locations and countries based on the experience learned from the BIO project.

---

**Do you require more Output fields?**

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

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.**

Activities for Output 1: International demand established for biocredits in Uganda and Zambia and buyers connected with pilot programs

1.1 Publicity material provided on potential biocredits available from pilot sites – IIED and partners

1.2 Market survey conducted to identify biocredit buyers – IIED

1.3 Biocredits submitted and sold through global auction and other sales platforms - ValueNature

Activities for Output 2: A supply of biocredits supporting gender responsive biodiversity conservation established in pilot sites in Uganda and Zambia.

2.1 Project site biophysical assessment completed through a combination of satellite imagery and desk review, with relevant ground truthing where need to identify reference sites and relevant habitats for biodiversity scoring – EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature

2.2 Project design completed for each site to determine number and location of biosensors (camera traps and bioacoustic recorders) for deployment in each habitat and relevant reference sites - EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature

2.3 Biosensors ordered and imported to project sites. Biosensors deployed and data collection completed

according to project design and data uploaded to centralised cloud storage and processing database. - EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature

2.4 All data processing and analysis completed, making use of machine learning tools for the audio and imagery files, following which the Biodiversity Intactness measure is calculated for the pilot site in comparison to the reference site. This is then completed again in Year 3. - EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature

2.5 Site characteristics are calculated from global datasets, including the IUCN STAR Metric scores, protected area status, and whether it is a Key Biodiversity Area. - ValueNature

Activities for Output 3: Regulatory and monitoring architecture supports connecting two thirds of funds reaching local land managers, biodiversity custodians, local organisations and households

3.1 Engagement in international discussion with regulation and standard developers (Biodiversity Credit Alliance, WEF, UNDP, etc) - ValueNature and IIED

3.2 Certifier and regulator agreed upon amongst project partners and pilots are enrolled in the certification and regulation schemes. - EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation Limited

Activities for Output 4: Local level decision making empowers and engages Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities

4.1 Community Visioning conducted using internationally recognised gender responsive methodology (eg Gender Action Learning System (GALS)) - EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation Limited

4.2 Site Action Planning meetings to develop management plans for specific land patches in the Northern Albertine Rift and Tondwa GMA – EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation Limited.

4.3 A landscape restoration plan is prepared as a result of the multistakeholder consultations as part of the overall collaborative framework within which the project will be operating. Conservation interventions will be technically specified to ensure that they result into the desired outcomes - ValueNature

Activities for Output 5: Lessons learned shared with international conservation and biodiversity finance community at the international level to replicate biocredits in other locations and countries based on the experience learned from the BIO project.

5.1 Inception meeting in Uganda with all partners to strengthen partnerships and network for future sharing of lessons – All partners

5.2 Development of a communications strategy for the project to engage with global public and private experts and practitioners in conservation community and nature finance community – IIED

5.3 How to Guide published - IIED

5.4 Videos produced and shown at selected webinars to both conservation and nature finance audiences - IIED

## **Section 11 - Budget and Funding**

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### **Q24. 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 all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.





- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

**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 the Lead Partner's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

---

 [IIED Darwin Initiative BIO Project proposal budget Apr23-Mar26](#)  
 12/12/2022  
 17:00:57  
 xlsx 95.07 KB

## Q25. Funding

Q25a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

- New Initiative

**Please provide details:**

This is a new initiative. Though the work does build on the research of other biocredit schemes, and theoretical discussions of the concept that is growing

Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

- Yes

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

Conserve Global is developing a pipeline of projects across southern Africa – including two potential new sites in Zambia – where it will replicate the work being done in Tondwa GMA. One such site is the 2,950 sq. km Kaputa Game Management Area, that adjoins another existing project in Tondwa GMA. Should Conserve be successful in securing the management mandate for Kaputa GMA, it will be able to expand the biocredits model across a significant part of the Nsumbu-Mweru Wantipa system, thereby unlocking significant economies of scale and providing benefits to a greater number of people. If successful, Kaputa GMA will be leased and managed by TCL, which will be able to draw on existing stakeholder networks and partnerships to deliver impact.

## 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.

N/A

## Q27. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

The BIO project leverages significant in-kind contributions, specifically pertaining to the staff time of Conserve Global and ValueNature. This will allow for more of the funding to be allocated to in-country activities such as community consultation, increased number of biodiversity sensors, and funding the time of staff working on pilot sites.

Secondly, the Darwin funding for this project will act a seed funding for a self-sustaining biocredit scheme. Therefore, not only does the project maximise value for money during the project period, each pound of the funding will also have exponential effects on biodiversity conservation and restoration and poverty reduction after the project period is over.

Lastly, due to the novelty of the biocredits market, pilot programs are invaluable in providing important lessons to one another. The communication strategy (Output 5) will ensure that lessons learned on both the setbacks and the successes of the pilot programs are shared across a wide breadth of ecologists, private and public biodiversity financing bodies and early developers of biocredit schemes

## Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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### Q28. 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

**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

---

<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with all partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked

**Please outline how you will implement and strengthen your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. If any of the responses are “no”, please indicate how it is being addressed.**

IIED’s is currently strengthening its approach to safeguarding, and want to develop an equitable approach working with partners. We are working with GCPS Consulting, who are experienced in supporting organisations review what is already in place and provide tools and approaches to strengthen, or support the implementation of, safeguarding measures. We have asked GCPS Consulting to review our existing policy, processes and training, recommend how we can build capacity on safeguarding with our staff and partners, develop a toolkit for researchers and an approach to working with partners on safeguarding.

## **Q29. Ethics**

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

IIED’s work is guided by our policy on Integrity and Ethics in Research, Partnership and Policy Engagement. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that ethical considerations inform the design and conduct of IIED research, partnerships and policy engagement activities. The policy seeks to facilitate ethical conduct and foster a commitment to meaningful collaboration and reciprocal responsibilities of all parties involved in IIED work.

Research ethics should be placed at the forefront of project planning and proposal development and guide the ongoing conduct of research and its dissemination. The following mechanisms, being implemented in FY18, are designed to support this:

Ethics & Data Protection Review Form: A project ethics & data protection review form, including a checklist of key ethical issues, must be completed by the project leader for all new projects prior to implementation.

Research Ethics Committee: All research projects involving children (under 16), or vulnerable adults must be referred to the REC for full review, as should projects where the funder or research partner requires ethics review by committee.

Peer review: Peer review of project proposals and research methodologies prior to submission to donors is already encouraged as part of the proposal development process (PDP).

## Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

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### Q30. 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 Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

#### If no, why not?

If the application is successful, in-country partners will engage with FCDO embassy or High Commission before the start of the project.

## Section 14 - Project Staff

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### Q31. Project staff

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

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Paul Steele	<b>Project Leader</b>	8	Checked
Anna Ducros	Nature economist	12	Checked
Cinzia Cimmino	Project manager	7	Checked
Ranak Maher	Project assistant	6	Checked





#### Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Rosalind Goodrich	Engagement and Communication strategy	2	Checked
Harriet Davies-Mostert	MEL and impact	2	Checked
Stuart Slabbert	Innovative Finance	1	Checked
Mark Ghau	Project manager/ecologist	9	Checked
Simon Morgan	Chief biodiversity officer	30	Checked
Pauline Nantongo Kalunda	Innovative conservation expert	15	Checked
Dianah Nalwanga	Conservation biologist	15	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	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.**

 [Darwin proposal Staff CVs](#)  
 12/12/2022  
 14:03:07  
 pdf 425.54 KB

**Have you attached all project staff CVs?**

Yes

## Section 15 - Project Partners

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### Q32. Project Partners

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

**This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.**

**The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.**

<b>Lead partner name:</b>	The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.iied.org/">https://www.iied.org/</a>
<b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b>	<p>IIED will bring to the project its long experience of managing complex multi-country initiatives connecting national partners with global processes. IIED's role in the project will be overall management and strategic coordination, evidence generation and lesson learning.</p> <p>IIED is already a leading player in developing the concept of biocredits which IIED first defined in 2020 as an approach to finance biodiversity conservation and preservation that bring financial resources to those living closest to biodiversity (Making the market work for nature). Just this week IIED published with the United Nations a path-breaking report on emerging biocredit methodologies with some key recommendations.</p>
<b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>	██████████
<b>Represented on the Project Board</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Do you have partners involved in the Project?</b>	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
<b>1. Partner Name:</b>	Conserve Global (CG)
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://conserveglobal.earth/">https://conserveglobal.earth/</a>
<b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b>	<p>Conserve's role will be to provide strategic oversight and administrative support to TCL as it undertakes on-the ground activities at the northern Zambian site in Tondwa Game Management Area. This work aligns with their central mission to build strong local institutions across Africa with robust governance, capacity and financial resilience, that are able to deliver effective management of natural landscapes beyond national parks to unlock their enduring value for people.</p> <p>Conserve focuses on establishing and capacitating in-country national entities to deliver on its project mandates, and Conserve's engagement in Tondwa is through the in-country entity Tondwa Conservation Limited (TCL).</p>



**Allocated budget:** ██████████

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

---

**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

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**2. Partner Name:** Tondwa Conservation Ltd. (TCL)

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):**

TCL is a non-profit private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Zambia in 2018 to support, co-implement and demonstrate a best-practice conservation management and community engagement model for Game Management Areas (GMAs) in Zambia. TCL has a long-term arrangement to serve as Conserve Global's in-country implementing partner in the Nsumbu-Mweru Wantipa landscape. Driving the delivery of tangible, nature-based benefits to communities living around Tondwa is key to their long-term vision in northern Zambia, and their participation in this IIED-led proposal is based on the strong potential for biocredits to unlock enormous value for people. Their involvement in Tondwa has been formally endorsed by the Nsama Community Resources Board and strengthened through partnerships with Frankfurt Zoological Society, which has a long-term ecomanagement mandate for the adjoining Nsumbu National Park, and Baobab Safaris Limited, which holds the lease for Tondwa for a remaining 12 year.

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**Allocated budget:** ██████████

---

**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

---

**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes

---

**3. Partner Name:** EcoTrust Uganda (ET)

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**Website address:** <https://ecotrust.or.ug/>

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Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

ECOTRUST is a Ugandan NGO with a mission to Conserve biological diversity and enhance social welfare by promoting innovative and sustainable environmental management. ECOTRUST's goal is to provide sustained funding for environmental conservation in Uganda and they have invested in initiatives that diversify income opportunities for sustainable natural resource management. They will be the implementing partner in this project, as one of the means of mobilizing resources for supporting the conservation of the forest corridor in the Budongo-Bugoma landscape, which is an important site for the conservation of Globally threatened species, and for hosting unique species including those restricted to the Sudan & Guinea Savanna biome as well as the Guinea-Congo Forest biome.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

ValueNature (VN)

Website address:

<https://valuenature.earth/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

ValueNature are biodiversity credit project developers and will be fulfilling this function during this project in both Uganda and Zambia with the relevant conservation partners. They will be responsible for the creation of the credits and all biodiversity indices that will be reported to each credit. their role is to therefore apply their biocredit methodology to the two biodiversity projects with the conservation partners and assist in project planning and execution. This will include directing in-country biodiversity assessment mapping, metric planning, sensor purchase, sensor deployment and data retrieval / uploads; the identification of a relevant special purpose vehicle for the project in each country; ensure that relevant management standards and plans are identified for the conservation actions; and to help identify a pathway to 30 years of permanence.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

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

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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*

---

**Allocated budget:** £0.00

---

**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  No

---

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

---

---

**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

---

**Website address:** *No Response*

---

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

---

**Allocated budget:** £0.00

---

**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

---

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

---


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
**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.**


 [BIO Proposal Letters of support combined](#)

 12/12/2022


 16:45:56

 pdf 818.67 KB

 [Cover letter Application Ref DIR29S1-1033 Bio credits Investments Operations](#)

 12/12/2022

 16:45:36

 pdf 188.44 KB

## Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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### Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
28-017	Krystyna Swiderska	Establishing a biocultural heritage territory to protect Kenya's Kaya forests
25-004	Paul Steele	Livelihood Insurance From Elephants in Kenya and Sri Lanka (LIFE)
DARNV009	Dilys Roe	Developing and testing a sustainability assessment framework for wildlife use

IWT036	Dilys Roe	Implementing park action plans for community engagement to tackle IWT
25-006	Phil Frank	Enhancing equity and effectiveness of protected areas conservation
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

**Section 17 - Certification**

---

**Certification**

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

International Institute for Environment and Development

**I apply for a grant of**



**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 project key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding Policy 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** Victoria Reynolds

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**Position in the organisation** Chief Operating Officer

---

**Signature (please upload e-signature)**

 [Victoria Reynolds esig](#)  
 09/12/2022  
 16:40:08  
 png 8.67 KB

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**Date** 09 December 2022

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**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**

 <a href="#">Trustee Report &amp; Accounts 21-22</a>	 <a href="#">Trustees Report &amp; Accounts 20-21</a>
 09/12/2022	 09/12/2022
 12:35:14	 12:35:13
 pdf 911.8 KB	 pdf 324.61 KB

**Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF**

 [IIED Safeguarding Policy \(2021\)](#)  
 12/12/2022  
 14:33:23  
 pdf 222.27 KB

## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

---

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have attached the below documents to my application</b>	
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above)	Checked
• my completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided	Checked

<b>I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 32, or an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 28.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.</b>	Checked

**We would like to keep in touch!**

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

Checked

### **Data protection and use of personal data**

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

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

Project Title: **Biocredits Investment Operations**

Implementation timetable

	Activity	# of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>International demand established for biocredits in Uganda and Zambia and biocredits from the pilot sites sold.</b>													
1.1	Publicity material provided on potential biocredits available from pilot sites	12												
1.2	Market survey conducted to identify biocredit buyers	12												
1.3	Biocredits submitted and sold through global auction and other sales platforms	12												
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>A supply of biocredits supporting gender responsive biodiversity conservation established in pilot sites in Uganda and Zambia.</b>													
2.1	Project site biophysical assessment completed through a combination of satellite imagery and desk review, with relevant ground truthing where need to identify reference sites and relevant habitats for biodiversity scoring	6												
2.2	Project design completed for each site to determine number and location of biosensors (camera traps and bioacoustic recorders) for deployment in each habitat and relevant reference sites	6												
2.3	Biosensors ordered and imported to project sites. Biosensors deployed and data collection completed according to project design and data uploaded to centralised cloud storage and processing database	9												
2.4	All data processing and analysis completed, making use of machine learning tools for the audio and imagery files, following which the Biodiversity Intactness measure is calculated for the pilot site in comparison to the reference site. This is then completed again in Year 3	6												



Project Title: **Biocredits Investment Operations**

	Activity	# of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.5	Site characteristics are calculated from global datasets, including the IUCN STAR Metric scores, protected area status, and whether it is a Key Biodiversity Area.	3												
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Regulatory and monitoring architecture supports at least two thirds of funds reaching female and male local land managers, biodiversity custodians, local organisations and households.</b>													
3.1	Engagement in international discussion with regulation and standard developers (Biodiversity Credit Alliance, WEF, UNDP, etc)	36												
3.2	Certifier and regulator agreed upon amongst project partners and pilots are enrolled in the certification and regulation schemes.	6												
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Local level decision making on biodiversity conservation empowers and engages female and male Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities</b>													
4.1	Community Visioning conducted using internationally recognised gender responsive methodology	3												
4.2	Site Action Planning meetings to develop management plans for specific land patches in the Northern Albertine Rift and Tondwa GMA	9												
4.3	A landscape restoration plan is prepared as a result of the multistakeholder consultations as part of the overall collaborative framework within which the project will be operating. Conservation interventions will be technically specified to ensure that they result into the desired outcomes	3												

Project Title: **Biocredits Investment Operations**

	Activity	# of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 5</b>	<b>Lessons learned shared with international conservation and biodiversity finance community at the international level to replicate biocredits in other locations and countries based on the experience learned from the BIO project.</b>													
5.1	Inception meeting in Uganda with all partners to strengthen partnerships and network for future sharing of lessons	1												
5.2	Development of a communications strategy for the project to engage with global public and private experts and practitioners in conservation community and nature finance community	9												
5.3	How to Guide published	6												
5.4	Videos produced and shown at selected webinars to both conservation and nature finance audiences	12												

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Biocredit schemes increase the finance reaching Indigenous People and Local Communities and relevant land managers for commitments under the CBD and the SDGs, ultimately improving livelihoods and increasing biodiversity globally.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>Biocredit schemes increasing finance for biodiversity conservation of <i>Pan troglodytes</i> and <i>Panthera Leo</i> and livelihood improvements in Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia), which generates evidence to scale up biocredits in other countries.</p>	<p>0.1 Number of <i>Pan troglodytes</i> (Eastern Chimpanzees) and <i>Panthera Leo</i> (Lions) in pilot areas of Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia) respectively, in Year 3.</p> <p>0.2 Total value of funds generated from sale of biocredits (Monetary value of target to be set in Year 1)</p> <p>0.3 Proportion of revenue distributed to local land managers, biodiversity custodians, local organisations and households to fund gender responsive inclusive biodiversity management by Year 3 (Target: Minimum two thirds of revenue)</p>	<p>0.1 Biodiversity intactness index (data from camera traps and bioacoustic sensors, and remote sensing data)</p> <p>0.2 EcoTrust and Tondwa bookkeeping entries, including Blockchain ledgers to track the flow of funds from implementation of biocredit scheme to end of project period</p> <p>0.3 Benefit sharing agreements and EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation bookkeeping entries, including Blockchain ledgers to track the flow of funds from implementation of biocredit schemes to the end of the project period</p>	<p>Provincial and national governments are committed to poverty reduction and conservation objectives</p>

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>0.4 Proportion of revenue flowing towards female land managers, female biodiversity custodians, female led local organisations and female headed households (Target 20% by Year 3)</p> <p>0.5 Instances of additional potential buyers and sellers (NGOs) contacting project teams requesting development of biocredits in other locations in Uganda and Zambia, and other countries and regions by end of project period by Year 3.</p>	<p>0.4 Benefit sharing agreements and EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation bookkeeping entries, including Blockchain ledgers to track the flow of funds from implementation of biocredit schemes to the end of the project period</p> <p>0.5 Written expressions of interest, meeting/workshop notes</p>	

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Outputs:</b> 1. International demand established for biocredits in Uganda and Zambia and biocredits from the pilot sites sold.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of private sector institutions, government officials, and individuals with improved understanding of investment opportunities provided by pilot site biocredit schemes by Year 1.</p> <p>1.2 Number of biocredits from pilot sites identified for global auction by Year 3</p> <p>1.3 Number of biocredits sold from pilot sites by Year 2.</p>	<p>1.1 Downloads of publicity material on biocredit pilot sites</p> <p>1.2 Prospectus of global auctioneers</p> <p>1.3 Receipts from biocredit transactions from both pilot sites.</p>	<p>Enough potential buyers of biocredits can be identified to match the value of biocredits being sold</p> <p>Global economic situation allows private sector to remain engaged in biocredit purchases</p> <p>Global auction of biocredits under discussion is confirmed and occurs during project period.</p>
<p>2. A supply of biocredits supporting gender responsive biodiversity conservation established in pilot sites in Northern Albertine Rift (Uganda) and the Tondwa Game Management Area (Zambia)</p>	<p>2.1 Number of units of biocredits identified to protect and improve biodiversity (quantity, value, composition) for the area identified by EcoTrust and Conserve in Year 1</p> <p>2.2 Number of biodiversity conservation activities funded by biocredits that are intersectional and gender responsive by Year 3.</p>	<p>2.1 Project documents and management plans, training/meeting attendance records, seller registration logs, site maps and GIS data.</p> <p>2.2 Gender indicators in biodiversity index.</p> <p>2.3 Activity log at both pilot sites show set up of pre-agreed</p>	<p>Political and economic stability in Uganda and Zambia remains sufficient to allow supply of biocredits from rural landowners</p>

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>2.3 Two local NGOs (EcoTrust Uganda and Tondwa Conservation Limited) are equipped to measure changes in biodiversity to create credits and are connected to market architecture to sell credits in Year 3.</p>	<p>camera traps and bioacoustic sensors for monitoring biodiversity indicators</p>	
<p><b>3.</b> Regulatory and monitoring architecture supports at least two thirds of funds reaching female and male local land managers, biodiversity custodians, local organisations and households.</p>	<p>3.1 ValueNature methodology certified according to the Global Principles (including governance structures) and Digital Standards for biocredit schemes as being developed by the Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA), and formally adopted on pilot sites by end of the project by Year 2.</p> <p>3.2 One independent third-party validation and verification body per country identified to ensure biocredit schemes are complying with Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA) global standards by Year 2.</p> <p>3.3 Extent to which the financial architecture is</p>	<p>3.1 Documents relating to financial architecture</p> <p>3.2 Certifier selected and projects are enrolled in their program.</p>	<p>International and national regulators and certifiers have capacity to review biocredit schemes</p>

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	intersectional gender responsive and inclusive by Year 3.	3.3 Documents relating to financial architecture	
4. Local level decision making on biodiversity conservation empowers and engages female and male Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities	<p>4.1 Number of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities reporting increased knowledge of biocredit and capacity for planning, managing and monitoring and reporting on biodiversity conservation actions and managing financial resources in each year.</p> <p>4.2 Proportion of project level decision making (workshops, community consultation, etc) that is done by women, members of indigenous communities, and other most vulnerable and marginalised groups of women and men each year.</p>	<p>4.1 Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities trainee perceptions survey.</p> <p>4.2 Meeting minutes</p>	Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities remain sufficiently engaged in biocredit schemes
5. Lessons learned shared with international conservation and biodiversity finance community at the international level to replicate biocredits in	5.1 Number of country participants and global experts with improved knowledge of biocredit schemes through annual	5.1 Report that includes a Global review in Year 2, with case study analysis of Uganda and Zambia sites	Useful lessons emerge from Uganda and Zambia that are of interest to the

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>other locations and countries based on the experience learned from the BIO project.</p>	<p>dialogues (Disaggregated by country, gender, indigeneity, etc) by Year 3.</p> <p>5.2 Number of lessons and recommendations through communication products that incorporate gender responsive approaches to biocredits by Year 3.</p>	<p>5.2 Dialogue attendance records, including participants list, photographs and zoom meeting screen grabs where appropriate.</p>	<p>wider conservation finance community.</p> <p>Lessons are learnt on how to create a biocredit scheme that is gender responsive</p>
<p><b>Activities</b> (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. Each activity should start a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words)</p> <p><i>Activities for Output 1: International demand established for biocredits in Uganda and Zambia and buyers connected with pilot programs</i></p> <p>1.1 Publicity material provided on potential biocredits available from pilot sites – IIED and partners</p> <p>1.2 Market survey conducted to identify biocredit buyers – IIED</p> <p>1.3 Biocredits submitted and sold through global auction and other sales platforms - ValueNature</p> <p><i>Activities for Output 2: A supply of biocredits supporting gender responsive biodiversity conservation established in pilot sites in Uganda and Zambia.</i></p>			



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<p>2.1 Project site biophysical assessment completed through a combination of satellite imagery and desk review, with relevant ground truthing where need to identify reference sites and relevant habitats for biodiversity scoring – EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature</p> <p>2.2 Project design completed for each site to determine number and location of biosensors (camera traps and bioacoustic recorders) for deployment in each habitat and relevant reference sites - EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature</p> <p>2.3 Biosensors ordered and imported to project sites. Biosensors deployed and data collection completed according to project design and data uploaded to centralised cloud storage and processing database. - EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature</p> <p>2.4 All data processing and analysis completed, making use of machine learning tools for the audio and imagery files, following which the Biodiversity Intactness measure is calculated for the pilot site in comparison to the reference site. This is then completed again in Year 3. - EcoTrust, Tondwa Conservation Limited and ValueNature</p> <p>2.5 Site characteristics are calculated from global datasets, including the IUCN STAR Metric scores, protected area status, and whether it is a Key Biodiversity Area. - ValueNature</p> <p><i>Activities for Output 3: Regulatory and monitoring architecture supports connecting two thirds of funds reaching local land managers, biodiversity custodians, local organisations and households</i></p> <p>3.1 Engagement in international discussion with regulation and standard developers (Biodiversity Credit Alliance, WEF, UNDP, etc) - ValueNature and IIED</p> <p>3.2 Certifier and regulator agreed upon amongst project partners and pilots are enrolled in the certification and regulation schemes. - EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation Limited</p>			

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><i>Activities for Output 4: Local level decision making empowers and engages Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities</i></p> <p>4.1 Community Visioning conducted using internationally recognised gender responsive methodology (eg Gender Action Learning System (GALS)) - EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation Limited</p> <p>4.2 Site Action Planning meetings to develop management plans for specific land patches in the Northern Albertine Rift and Tondwa GMA – EcoTrust and Tondwa Conservation Limited.</p> <p>4.3 A landscape restoration plan is prepared as a result of the multistakeholder consultations as part of the overall collaborative framework within which the project will be operating. Conservation interventions will be technically specified to ensure that they result into the desired outcomes - ValueNature</p> <p><i>Activities for Output 5: Lessons learned shared with international conservation and biodiversity finance community at the international level to replicate biocredits in other locations and countries based on the experience learned from the BIO project.</i></p> <p>5.1 Inception meeting in Uganda with all partners to strengthen partnerships and network for future sharing of lessons – All partners</p> <p>5.2 Development of a communications strategy for the project to engage with global public and private experts and practitioners in conservation community and nature finance community – IIED</p> <p>5.3 How to Guide published - IIED</p> <p>5.4 Videos produced and shown at selected webinars to both conservation and nature finance audiences - IIED</p>			