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# **DIR30S2\1065**

## **Community Engagement for Conservation of Mount Béro Classified Forest, Guinea.**

The project aims to create enabling conditions for local communities living around Mount Béro Classified Forest to benefit from biodiversity and/or carbon offset programmes by establishing robust, inclusive, grassroots governance and management structures and ensure effective conservation and restoration of surrounding areas, providing a platform for equitable benefit-sharing. It promotes environmentally sound agricultural practices in forest-adjacent communities. Participatory valuation of ecosystem services and education will build local awareness and commitment to forest conservation ensuring buy-in from future generations.

# DIR30S2\1065

Community Engagement for Conservation of Mount Béro Classified Forest, Guinea.

## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Liz  
**Surname** Auton  
**Organisation** BirdLife International Secretariat  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
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### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Dr  
**Name** Steeves  
**Surname** Buckland  
**Organisation** BirdLife International Secretariat  
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### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	BirdLife International Secretariat
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
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## Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary


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### Q3. Title:


Community Engagement for Conservation of Mount Béro Classified Forest, Guinea.

Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [Bero Cover Letter Final](#)

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

DIR30S1\1182

### 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

Savannas and grasslands

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#### Biome 3

Freshwater Realm (Rivers and streams)

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#### Conservation Action 1

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

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**Conservation Action2**

Conservation Designation & Planning

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**Conservation Action 3**

Education & Training

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**Threat 1**

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

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**Threat 2**

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

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**Threat 3**

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

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## Q5. Summary of project

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

The project aims to create enabling conditions for local communities living around Mount Béro Classified Forest to benefit from biodiversity and/or carbon offset programmes by establishing robust, inclusive, grassroots governance and management structures and ensure effective conservation and restoration of surrounding areas, providing a platform for equitable benefit-sharing. It promotes environmentally sound agricultural practices in forest-adjacent communities. Participatory valuation of ecosystem services and education will build local awareness and commitment to forest conservation ensuring buy-in from future generations.

## Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q6. Country(ies)

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

<b>Country 1</b>	Guinea	<b>Country 2</b>	<i>No Response</i>
<b>Country 3</b>	<i>No Response</i>	<b>Country 4</b>	<i>No Response</i>

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**Do you require more fields?**

No

### Q7. Project dates

**Start date:**

01 April 2024

**End date:**

31 March 2027

**Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):**

3 years

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## Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Amount:	£189,238.00	£236,252.00	£174,510.00	£ 600,000.00

## Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

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

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

Total: £ [REDACTED]

- Secured: Fondation L'Occitane: £ [REDACTED]

- Secured: Core funding for key staff positions (Strategic Advisor – Private Sector Engagement; Gender and Safeguards Lead).

- Pending: Rainforest Trust at least £ [REDACTED] 2024-2028) to support designation of Pic de Fon and Mount Béro as National Parks. Project is very likely to be funded but total budget reduced. In this event, we will prioritise actions taking place in Bero to make sure cofunding stays as planned.

- Medium-term: Funding from the mining sector expected and this project is creating the enabling conditions for it.

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

No

## Section 4 - Problem statement

### Q12. Problem the project is trying to address

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

Mount Bero has been a classified forest since 1952, but protection on the ground has not always been effective. Recent research by Kew Gardens and Guinee Ecologie (GE), and BirdLife in the area supported its qualification as Tropical Important Plant Area. It also hosts threatened species such as the Pygmy hippo (EN), Diana Monkey (EN), Western Chimpanzee (EN), and White-Necked rockfowl (VU).

However, the site has not been adequately policed since the 2010 coup (PAG, 2021). Although a team was reinstated in 2019, efforts were hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and 2021 coup. Field visits in 2022-2023

confirmed the efforts of the forest services on the ground but found them largely inadequate. Despite a favourable management context, there are deficiencies in outcomes, inputs and processes (IMET assessment, 2019). High population growth and underlying poverty, with more than a third of the population under the age of 16, are exacerbated by reduced productivity of cultivated land, increased pests and diseases, and operating costs associated with chemical inputs use (BirdLife, 2022). In recent years, a large herd of zebu cattle has been introduced, resulting in trampling of the grasslands (Couch, 2019). Large areas of forest were cleared for agriculture for subsistence and cash crops, and illegal logging occurred near the road.

There is interest and willingness from the Ministry to designate Mount Bero as a Protected Area (MEDD, 2023) but the challenge lies in finding a balance between law enforcement and local development while understanding ecosystem functioning. While there is a general understanding that forest degradation is harmful, there is a need for a mechanism to share benefits and develop sustainable alternatives. Although communities and authorities have agreed on a roadmap for joint management of the Classified Forest and adjacent community lands (Seredou Agreement, 2021), it has not yet been implemented.

Considering pressing threats and its high biodiversity value, BirdLife and Guinee Ecologie identified Mount Bero as one of ten priority landscapes of the BirdLife Partnership's Guinean Forests of West Africa Strategy (2023-2032). The need for restoration of the landscape and its corridors is high, but avenues for sustainable finance for long-term management are on the horizon, as Mount Bero is likely to benefit from private sector biodiversity offsets from the mining sector.

However, current management and governance structures for the Classified Forest could be a limiting factor and create delays in implementing the offset strategy. There is an urgent need to secure enabling conditions by engaging, enabling, and empowering local communities to fully benefit from the protection of Mount Bero and sustainable management of the ecological corridors surrounding it.

The project will address capacity gaps in forest services and raise awareness among local communities. It will involve communities in restoration efforts and support improved, sustainable agricultural practices. The establishment of grassroots, inclusive governance structures, will further enable informed decision-making and active participation of local communities in conservation efforts as well as benefitting from sustainable finance opportunities for the landscape from offsetting schemes solicited by private companies active in Guinee Forestiere.

## **Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions**

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### **Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements**

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

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

### **Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment**

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

National policy contributions:

The project builds on and supports existing frameworks, and ongoing dynamics for increased protection of Mount Bero:

- National Forestry Code, regulating the management of classified forests in Guinea.
- the implementation of the Béro Classified Forest Management Plan validated in 2021 by the local PA authority with support from Guinée Ecologie (GE).
- Roadmap for the establishment of the Guinean Protected Areas Network (MEDD, 2023), including the proposed Béro-Pic de Fon National Park considered as a priority landscape for designation.
- National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES), which emphasizes the need to preserve classified forests and natural reserves (Pillar 4), given their paramount role in achieving SDGs and promoting a green economy.
- Guinea's Environmental Code which ensures responsible management of wildlife and flora, protecting species, genetics, and natural habitats.
- Pastoral Code, which regulates the utilisation of natural resources for pastoral activities whilst prioritizing environmental preservation.
- Wildlife Protection Code and Hunting Regulations, underscoring the importance of protecting wildlife and their habitats, providing for special measures to safeguard species and their ecosystems.

International policy contributions:

The project is in line with Guinea's international commitments under the following conventions:

- CBD: Guinea's NBSAP, by promoting multi-stakeholder governance and community involvement in Mount Béro classified forest, outlined as essential elements of effective biodiversity management.
- National AFR100 target (i.e. restoring the productivity of deforested and degraded landscapes to improve livelihoods) of 2 million ha by 2030, which in turn contributes to the global Bonn Challenge agenda.
- SDGs, Goal 15 (Life on Land) through its focus on forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. Goal 4 (Quality Education) by integrating conservation aspects into education and capacity building of teachers.
- UNFCCC: By facilitating sustainable agricultural practices and integrating ecosystem services valuation, the project contributes to Guinea's NDC. It also indirectly supports Guinea's NAP by promoting ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Through forest restoration and the use of native/endemic tree species, it contributes to building ecosystem resilience and enhancing the capacity to adapt to climate change impacts.
- African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources: Guinea's adherence to this convention underscores its commitment to environmental protection, the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and the harmonization and coordination of related policies.
- ECOWAS Community Framework: By integrating its national environmental policy within the ECOWAS sub-regional framework and the integration policies of the African Union (NEPAD), focusing on biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and equitable benefits sharing.
- ECOWAS West Africa Forest Convergence Plan (2013), which promotes the increased capacity in institutions and local communities in support of sustainable use of resources and encouraging local communities to take responsibility for forestry resources.

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

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### **Q14. Methodology**

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

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

The approach will engage, enable, and empower local communities to be at the centre of decision-making and be the main beneficiaries of the socioeconomic, environmental, and climate benefits accruing from the protection and restoration of the Mount Béro integrated landscape.

Engagement will happen through increasing the understanding and awareness about the ecosystem value of forests by local stakeholders through participatory analysis and education. The Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment (TESSA) is designed to help communities gain a better, collective understanding of the value and beneficiaries of ecosystem services at individual sites as well as of the impacts of actual and potential changes in their state. TESSA will be rolled out to collect these locally relevant data on ecosystem service values and its associated knowledge products will be promoted as an awareness tool as well as inform offset investment priorities for sustaining and improving ecosystem services supply and provision.

The application of different scientific but easily administered protocols and methods in TESSA will also foster the local exchange of knowledge and help identify the capacity development needs of relevant governance structures and ensure provisions to enable meaningful participation from women, youth and marginalised groups. For education, capacity-building opportunities will be provided in collaboration with the Institut National de Recherche et Action Pédagogique (INRAP), for teachers to enhance their understanding of forest conservation and facilitate the integration of conservation aspects into school curricula.

Enabling will be achieved by creating, strengthening, and formalising the following decision-making structures to manage the classified forest and adjacent areas:

- Community advisory committees: Representatives from 25 villages will be selected through participatory processes and receive training to understand their roles and responsibilities. Formal structures and procedures will be established for the committee's operations, facilitating regular exchanges and discussions among members and project stakeholders.
- a Community Council comprising representatives from the community advisory committees.
- a Steering Committee, to strengthen overall governance and provide strategic guidance and oversight. A proposal outlining the committee's mandate, composition, and responsibilities will be developed in Y1.

Empowerment will be achieved by building capacity of local communities in setting up tree-nursery businesses with native species which will not only support 100 ha of restoration efforts but also bring ownership and revenues at local level. Communities will also be empowered by supporting the definition and implementation of collectively defined sustainable agriculture-focused livelihoods in 10 villages, benefiting 1,500 individuals. An agricultural assessment involving local actors in rural development will be conducted to identify appropriate interventions. Support will be provided in green value chains which may be in agroecology, small-scale livestock farming, and agroforestry with emphasis on long-term sustainability. Relevant agricultural technologies will be transferred, with support from organizations working in Guinée Forestière. Manuals will be developed to guide sustainable agricultural practices, and project technicians, rural extension workers, and community promoters from the 10 villages will be trained to disseminate this knowledge.

Effective project design has been ensured by building on the following elements:



1. The established relationship between Guinea Ecologie and the local PA authority, Nzérékoré Forestry Center (CFZ), taking stock of the historical challenges faced by the management teams in Bero and Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2021.
2. Demographic information and socio-economic activities - confirmed through a series of community meetings (2022 and June 2023).
3. Sustainable funding prospect for Bero through potential offsetting scheme partnership with the mining sector – this requires enabling conditions such as community structures & involvement in decision making.
4. Experience sharing and replication of successful approaches from other conservation NGOs (see Q26a)  
BirdLife has a close relationship with:
  - Previous collaborative identification of local forest species and socio-economic species in the core zone and pilot tree nurseries, led by Kew involving GE of 10 socio-economically valuable native species and 5 threatened native species with medicinal, subsistence, welfare, or insecticide benefits. To enhance our impact, new nurseries will be set up in chosen villages, with local committees overseeing daily operations and taking ownership over the care and financial sustainability of the nurseries supplying annual country-wide reforestation campaigns organised by the Ministry. The selection of 100 hectares of degraded areas designated for restoration will be a collaborative process.

Success stories on the project's impact will be widely disseminated. An online tool will be established for the Forest Services, providing easy access to relevant information. An informal platform of NGOs active in Guinée Forestière will be created to promote experience and resource sharing. Social media channels and digital media will be utilized to engage with a broader audience.

## Q15. Capability and Capacity

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

The main beneficiaries will be local governance structures, the local delegated environmental authority, community plant nurseries, other livelihood beneficiaries and Guinée Ecologie. Community engagement and the application of applying awareness raising tools (e.g., Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site Based Assessment) will ensure they are better equipped to manage Mount Béro's resources effectively, and that there is stronger capacity and agency to ensure meaningful FPIC, setting up foundations for a stronger platform for equitable sharing of benefits from the offsetting.

At least 250 community members (at least 40% women and 30% youth) will be involved and engaged in inclusive governance and management for Mount Bero with increased knowledge and capability in sustainable forest management.

At least 2,500 people from communities and authorities will benefit from capacity building, training and educational activities on ecosystem services which will support their engagement in local governance structures: (i) during the TESSA-based participatory workshops when concepts, principles and tools for the assessment of ecosystem services, their beneficiaries and the alternative state of sites will be shared, and (ii) during the promotion of the main TESSA study and other project results when recommendations about effective forest management and conservation will be presented to local stakeholders, including newly established community structures, and at national level through webinars and meetings with other NGOs active in Guinée Forestière.

Training will be provided to communities for habitat restoration and nature-positive livelihoods. At least 100 people (50% women) will be trained in tree nursery management and supported to maintain viable businesses through supply of national reforestation campaigns. The training of trainers' approach will provide a framework and tools for replicability. Advanced training of at least 20 community trainers will replicate training to at least 1,000 people (50% women) in sustainable agriculture and agroforestry techniques, green business models, and NTFP processing/selling, by EOP.

## Q16. Gender equality and social inclusion

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

The level of exclusion of women from decision-making or assignment to defined tasks by men (e.g., vegetable gardening, rice cultivation, child-rearing, etc.) varies depending on remoteness and religious beliefs of each community. Additionally, the youth unemployment rate is high and frustration makes young adults hesitant to participate in community life and forest conservation. Given the diverse cultural context of the area, social inclusion will be approached with cultural sensitivity and aim to respect and learn from indigenous knowledge and practices. Gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches will be promoted throughout the development of the following processes, employing methods such as gender/social category-based focus groups, to create a safe space for exchange and achieving meaningful participation of women, as well as inclusion of youth and marginalized groups:

- TESSA process: the participatory workshops will facilitate specific consultations for men, women, youth, and marginalised people to express their needs and actively contribute to the development of agroforestry and ecosystem restoration interventions and help define inclusive objectives where applicable.
- Collection and analysis of gender-specific data, which may also include other social dimensions (e.g., age, ethnicity, income, and level of education) informing project delivery.
- Active participation in decision-making bodies and forest governance structures (> 30% women). Training and support will be provided to committee members to ensure equal opportunities for participation, contribution, and fulfilment of their roles and responsibilities.
- Establishing nurseries, conducting mapping exercises, and participating in plantation initiatives.
- Equitable access (informed by needs assessments) to training and capacity-building opportunities will be provided for project technicians, rural extension workers, and community promoters, accounting for the specific needs and capabilities of individuals from different gender and social backgrounds.
- Collaboration with INRA to integrate conservation aspects into regular school curricula, emphasizing equal learning opportunities for all students.

## Q17. Change expected

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

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

The project aims to create enabling conditions for local communities to benefit from biodiversity offset programmes by establishing a robust and inclusive governance structure to ensure effective conservation of Mount Bero classified forest and restoration of surrounding areas.

#### Short term

The project will strengthen technical and organizational capacity of Guinee Ecologie, the local government, the delegated Protected Area (PA) authority, and communities in forest management through hands-on, gender and youth inclusive, and participatory learning. The methods used will also spill over to communities around other forests that the Centre is responsible for, including Ziama, Pic de Fon and Diecke.

Communities will gain increased capabilities in biomonitoring, and 1500 people will be trained and supported to undertake more sustainable and resilient agricultural techniques. We ensure that a minimum of 50% of marginalised groups including women, youth and minority groups benefit from all activities.

The restoration and promotion of at least 10 ha of sustainable agricultural land will be key to improving the income and living conditions of beneficiary communities as well as 100 ha of degraded area in the buffer zone will improve ecosystem integrity and climate resilience.

The TESSA process will also allow communities to compare the expected effects of these sustainable agroforestry and ecosystem restoration interventions on ecosystem service delivery with those of forest use and management practices that contribute to degradation.

As patrols are systematised, we anticipate enhanced biodiversity integrity and stable encounter of flagship species.

Finalisation of the KBA designation process will significantly increase international recognition of Bero's value and further support its designation as a PA and raise its profile to sustainable finance investors.

#### Long term

The sustainable management of Béro Forest will bring environmental, climate, but also socio-economic benefits to local communities, who are the key stakeholders to ensure the positive impacts of the project are sustained in the long-term.

Increased inclusivity and participation of communities in the forest's management will continue beyond the lifetime of the project, as well as their roles, responsibilities, and benefits. It will create the enabling governance conditions for communities to meaningfully engage through a strong platform for equitable benefit sharing from biodiversity finance mechanisms and lay the foundations to leverage additional sustainable resources for restoration and conservation of Mount Bero.

The improved knowledge and capacity of the communities will translate into more sustainable livelihoods, positively impacting their well-being while reducing their dependence (i.e., pressure) on forests for subsistence.

Finally, we hypothesize that there will be an increase in soil fertility and macrofaunal diversity in the 100 ha under restoration, leading to enhanced farming productivity and biodiversity. This, in turn, is expected to contribute to an increase in the monetary benefits for local communities by providing them with improved agricultural yields and a healthier ecosystem.

#### Potential to scale the approach

The project contributes to the BirdLife Forest conservation strategy for the Guinean forests of West Africa hotspot. Mount Béro is part of the Lofa-Gola-Mano complex, which is a transboundary priority corridor for conservation with high replication potential at hotspot level.

## Q18. Pathway to change

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

The project acknowledges that strong community buy-in and ownership is paramount for effective forest management and conservation, as well as to unlock sustainable finance opportunities (outcome). It will build on already existing awareness on the importance of forest integrity for ecosystem services provision (e.g., rainfall/water availability linked to forest clearance for agriculture) to increase the knowledge of 7,500 riparian community members through participatory and educational processes (output 4). This understanding will also materialize through hands-on, direct involvement of communities, local authorities, and the delegated Protected Area agency in managing Mount Bero classified forest (output 1) and restoring 100 ha of degraded areas in the buffer zone contiguous to the core zone with endemic trees and 20 ha of agroforestry systems (Output 3). Shifts towards more sustainable behaviours will entail knowledge transfer and technical support in improved agricultural techniques, reaching at least 1,500 people (output 2). Experience transfer and knowledge exchange will support replication to other classified forests in Guinea, as well as in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot (output 5).

Restored integrity of critical biodiversity habitats facilitated by local stakeholders and supported by sustainable finance mechanisms will provide long-term environmental, climate, and socio-economic benefits to local communities (impact).

## Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

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

Local communities will sustain benefits through:

- Substantial investment in human capital and emphasis on communities empowerment will be key for sustainable resource management, by building their capacity on different fronts: equitable and inclusive governance, agriculture, biomonitoring, value chains, etc.
- Preparing for long-term financing mechanism via the development of an ensuing forest carbon and biodiversity offset projects (if the feasibility study confirms the potential), and sustained income from the green value chains operations.





Knowledge & data sharing will be facilitated through:

- At site: An online platform for CFZ that captures reports and assessments from various sources and protocol to systematically upload data will be established, including private sectors and NGOs.
- Regional: Annual webinars for conservation stakeholders, including local and international NGOs operating in the Guinée Forestière region.
- A regional learning platform as part of the GFWA GEF Regional project.
- Global: Update of the KBA database.

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

- Landscape scaling: the threats and pressures facing Béro are similar to the ones facing other forests (e.g., Pic de Fon, Diecke, Ziama) the project will generate a very useful baseline and lessons learned in terms of behaviour change.
- Replication scaling: BirdLife's Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA) strategy (2023-2032) includes 10 priority sites, including Bero and the Lofa-Gola-Mano-Nimba complex and learnings will be shared across the hotspot through BirdLife's regional role as GEF Executing Agency and as CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Systems scaling: KBA designation will support advocacy efforts towards protected area designation.
- Capacitation scaling: building local capacity for improved governance and more sustainable livelihoods will already benefit communities in itself but also create enabling conditions for private sector offsets, further ensuring long-term support to communities and site conservation.

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

-  [Darwin R30 Bero Annexes St2](#)
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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.**

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<b>Fiduciary</b> Funds are not used for intended purposes.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Relationships with any project partner is covered by a detailed contract with clear expectations. Contracts with sub-grantees include provisions on money laundering and corruption.	Minor

<b>Safeguarding</b>	Members of the marginalised groups are not involved in the project and potentially resulting in their exclusion and lack of benefits.	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	A comprehensive and inclusive approach will actively seek the participation of marginalized groups in project activities. This will involve targeted outreach, awareness campaigns, and tailored engagement strategies to ensure that marginalized communities are involved in and receive the benefits of the project, thus safeguarding against any unintended harm or exclusion.	Minor
<b>Delivery Chain</b>	One or more of the partners involved in the activity either become non-operational or discontinue their participation in the program.	Moderate	Rare	Moderate	The project will establish clear partnership agreements and contingency plans in collaboration with partners. Regular communication and feedback mechanisms will be put in place to identify and address any issues promptly.	Moderate
<b>Risk 4</b>	Insufficient community engagement and buy-in, leading to limited project impact. The risk of not effectively engaging and gaining the support of local communities, potentially resulting in reduced project effectiveness and impact.	Moderate	Rare	Moderate	The project will employ a comprehensive community engagement strategy. This includes conducting community consultations, raising awareness about the project's benefits, and actively involving local stakeholders in decision-making processes. It will also emphasize the importance of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) to ensure community ownership and support.	Minor
<b>Risk 5</b>	The local communities may lack the knowledge, skills, or resources to maintain the community nurseries as self-sustaining enterprises. Without proper training and support, these nurseries may struggle to operate effectively and generate income.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	An agreement will be established to integrate community nurseries into the tree planting campaigns, providing a sustainable source of income. Additionally, the project will conduct regular training sessions for local communities to build their capacity in nursery management and tree planting, ensuring long-term viability.	Minor

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**Risk 6**

Private sector offsetting does not materialize jeopardizing sustainable finance prospects. The mining sector chooses not to support Mount Bero Classified Forest as part of their offsetting strategy, which could impact prospect for long-term sustainable finance for management and conservation of Bero and sustainable livelihood support.

Minor

Rare

Minor

The project builds on established long-term collaboration and partnership with mining sector company which already flagged Bero as a potential site in their offset strategy. Ongoing engagement and communications suggest it will materialize, and continued advocacy will maintain momentum.

Minor

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## Q21. Project sensitivities

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

Yes

**Please provide brief details.**

Publishing precise data on the locations of rare or endangered species could potentially increase threats to these species. Poaching, illegal logging, or habitat destruction might be more likely if such information were widely available. Furthermore, given the project's focus on enhancing conservation efforts and law enforcement in classified forests, there may be concerns about the safety and security of project staff.


## Section 8 - Workplan


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### Q22. Workplan

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

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## Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q23. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

The logical framework that is part of this application is the basis for the dashboard that the project will use to track progress towards its objectives during implementation. The dashboard will provide a real-time view of key indicators, enabling the project team to identify and address any challenges or emerging opportunities early on.

At the beginning of the project, baseline data will be collected for all key indicators. These baselines will serve as a benchmark against which to assess progress over time and inform adaptive management decisions as needed.

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system will also be put in place, with a detailed manual outlining the following:

- Definition and conceptualization of each key indicator
- Data collection protocol for each indicator, including specific methods, sampling procedures, and quality assurance measures
- Clear and concise interpretation of indicator values, including thresholds and targets
- Data flow and communication procedures from the field to the project reporting system
- Data quality assurance and control measures at different levels

These elements are essential to ensure that all project personnel involved in data collection, analysis, and reporting have a shared understanding of how key indicators should be informed. This is critical for the reliability and credibility of the monitoring and evaluation system.

Specific examples of monitoring and evaluation activities include:

- Using SMART software to analyze patrol data to track infractions within the classified forest and evaluate patrol efficiency
- Using the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) to assess protected area management effectiveness
- Conducting a combination of remote sensing analysis and ground-truthing work to monitor forest loss and track progress in restored areas
- Conducting field surveys to investigate survival rate of planted species.
- Comparing soil samples collected before and after the project starts to monitor soil fertility changes, particularly at sites where sustainable practices have been adopted
- Conducting pre- and post-training assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of the training program in improving the teaching practices of project staff and community promoters
- Conducting baseline and end-of-project socioeconomic assessments and household surveys to measure the impact of the project's intervention on the well-being of the target population
- Using TESSA to investigate changes in awareness of the value of ecosystem services provided by the Mount Béro forest

The M&E plan will be used to track progress towards the project's objectives and identify any challenges or emerging opportunities early on. The project manager, who has a rich experience implementing and monitoring forest conservation projects, will also be responsible for conducting regular M&E reviews and providing feedback to the project team.

**Total project budget for M&E (£)**

£ [REDACTED]

**(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**



Total project budget for M&E (%)	■
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	55

## Section 10 - Logical Framework

### Q24. Logical Framework (logframe)

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

- 🔗 [BCF-St2-and-Single-Stage-Logical-Framework-Template-Apr23-final](#)
- 📅 24/11/2023
- 🕒 16:51:51
- 📄 pdf 161.62 KB

#### Impact:

Mount Béro Classified Forest's long-term conservation is ensured through engagement of local stakeholders in protecting and restoring critical biodiversity habitats, promoting sustainable agriculture, and unlocking of sustainable finance opportunities.

#### Outcome:

Inclusive management foundations for Mount Béro Classified Forest are established, creating enabling conditions for private sector offsetting and sustainable agriculture promotion, and benefiting 1,500 people from 10 adjacent rural communities.

#### Project Outputs

##### Output 1:

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Structure for Béro Classified Forest are secured, including the engagement of 250 representatives (30% women and youth) from 10 adjacent communities.

##### Output 2:

Sustainable agriculture livelihood interventions implemented in 10 adjacent villages benefiting 1,500 people, while facilitating knowledge transfer and capacity building to extend these sustainable practices beyond the targeted villages.

##### Output 3:

100 ha of degraded areas in Mount Béro Classified Forest and in direct periphery (within the buffer zone) actively restored using native/endemic trees, 10 ha under piloted Assisted Natural Regeneration, and more than 7,000 socio-economically valuable tree species planted in the surrounding areas.

---

**Output 4:**

Increased awareness of 2,500 community members on the ecosystem services provided by Mount Béro through participatory analysis and educational programs.

---

**Output 5:**

Success stories and evidence-based interventions on ecosystem services preservation support private sector offsetting strategy roll out and are widely disseminated in the Guinée Forestière region and the wider Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA) biodiversity hotspot.

---

**Do you require more Output fields?**

No

**Activities**

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

0.1 Implement mainstream activities

0.1.1 Launch the project in the Guinée Forestière region.

0.1.2 Realise the baseline and EOP socio-economical surveys oin the targeted villages.

0.1.3 Support utilisation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to inform and guide patrolling activities and monitor efforts with the conservation management authorities.

0.1.4 Implement the Integrated Management Effective Tool at EOP.

1.1 Creation/Strengthening and Formalization of Community Advisory Committees and Management Council

1.1.1 Select representatives from 25 villages through participatory processes to form community advisory committees.

1.1.2 Provide training and support to committee members regarding their roles and responsibilities.

1.1.3 Establish formal structures and procedures for committee operations.

1.1.4 Facilitate regular exchanges and discussions among committee members and project stakeholders.

1.2.1 Establish a Management Council with representation from the 25 community advisory committees.

1.2.2 Formalize the Community Advisory Committees and Management Council.

1.3 Creation of a Steering Committee:

1.3.1 Develop a proposal outlining the committee's mandate, composition, and responsibilities.

1.3.2 Advocate for the implementation of the steering committee.

1.3.3 Facilitate the establishment of the steering committee.

2.1 Conduct an agricultural assessment involving local actors in rural development.

2.2 Transfer appropriate agricultural technologies, potentially with support from organizations like Fauna & Flora/GRET already involved in neighbouring landscape (10-year experience in the Zياما Classified Forest).

2.3 Develop manuals to guide sustainable agricultural practices.

2.4 Train project technicians, rural extension workers, and community promoters from 10 villages to disseminate knowledge.

2.5 Provide basic support in agroecology, small-scale livestock farming, and agroforestry to the 10 villages.

3.1 Collaborate with local communities and forest services to establish nurseries using native/endemic tree species and socio-economically valuable species (This includes participatory exercises for seed collection.).

3.2 Conduct mapping exercises to identify potential areas for restoration, involving and seeking buy-in from local communities.

3.3 Promote collaborative plantation initiatives involving forest services and communities.

- 3.4 Distribute and support planting more than tree species of socio-economic value (providing timber, fruits, medicinal properties, or other benefits to local communities) in the surrounding areas.
  - 3.5 Develop mechanisms for ongoing monitoring of restored areas and planted trees beyond the project duration (post-planting care, including regular maintenance activities such as watering, weeding, and protection from pests and diseases).
  - 3.6 Documenting the entire restoration process, including activities undertaken, challenges faced, and lessons learned.
  - 3.7 Conduct advocacy with Ministry and CFZ to have community tree nurseries as suppliers of annual reforestation campaigns.
- 
- 4.1 Rolling-out the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment (TESSA).
    - 4.1.1 Collect locally relevant data to generate information on ecosystem service values.
    - 4.1.2 Publish the main TESSA study and associated knowledge products e.g., on the links between forest management practices and specific ecosystem services
  - 4.2 Promote the TESSA study as an awareness tool for adult populations.
  - 4.3 Support Education Sector and Capacity Building:
    - 4.3.1 Collaborate with the INRA to integrate conservation aspects into regular school subjects.
    - 4.3.2 Provide capacity-building opportunities for teachers to enhance their understanding of forest conservation and its integration into the curriculum.
- 
- 5.1 Establish an online tool hosted by CFZ, supporting its capitalisation and developing a protocol for systematic upload of reports and assessments to ensure consistency and accessibility.
  - 5.2 Organize annual webinars specifically targeted at conservation stakeholders operating in the Guinée Forestière region.
  - 5.3 Share project lessons and best practices at local/national events (including through targeted advocacy meetings) and with stakeholders active in the GFWA hotspot through side-events at regional events.
  - 5.4 Share TESSA results on priorities for sustaining and improving ecosystem services supply and provision to company active in the area.
  - 5.5 Ensure social media presence for the project to engage with a wider audience regularly sharing updates, success stories, and evidence-based interventions.
  - 5.6 Engage with media outlets to share project achievements and stories, publish articles, create audio-visual content, and produce news reports related to the project.


## Section 11 - Budget and Funding


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
### Q25. Budget


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

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 [BCF-22nov23-final](#)

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### Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

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

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

- Development of existing/past activities

**Please provide details:**

This project directly draws valuable synergies from:

- Our partnership with Kew consolidated by a MoU signed in November 2023 and lessons drawn from previous projects jointly implemented by Kew and GE. The previous Darwin project (2016-2019, 23-002) conducted in collaboration with Kew, identified Mount Bero as an Important Plant Area and promoted the conservation of the flora, and subsequent projects funded by CEPF (2021-2022) and GCBC (2022-2024) supported the piloting of village tree nurseries growing threatened trees for reforestation and the inclusion of plants in the management and development plans.
- Similar approaches in Ziama Classified Forest over the last 10 years by Fauna and Flora International and recent inclusion of GE to support community engagement in wider ecological corridors (funded by AFD & Rio Tinto), through carbon offsets and implementation of Nature Based Solutions.
- RSPB & CEPF-funded KBA National Coordination Group (NCG) establishment by GE, as project will support finalizing proposal of Bero as KBA, significantly increasing the international recognition of Bero and supporting PA designation.
- BirdLife/GE-led project from Fondation L'Occitane (2023-2025) which is paving the way by supporting comprehensive inventories, a biodiversity offset pre-feasibility study, concrete action for improved management and quick wins for sustainable livelihoods.

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

- Yes

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

The project will build synergies with the following programmes:

- Kew-led Darwin Capability and Capacity (2024-2026, pending), involving Guinee Ecologie, that aims to develop a business model for tree nurseries.
- BirdLife-led Rainforest Trust (2024-2026, pending) to officially designate the proposed Pic de Fon - Mont Béro National Park, encompassing the two Classified Forests, and establish a robust and effective management structure.
- Simandou Nature-based Solutions (NbS), Prefeasibility Assessment: Béro Classified Forest has been identified as one of the five highest priority NbS sites and one of the four preferred potential biodiversity offset sites in the Rio Tinto 2016 Offset Strategy.
- BirdLife-led CI-GEF Guinean Forests Regional Coordination and Learning (2024-2029) which will promote

knowledge sharing, lesson exchange, and capacity building in forest management and restoration in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Guinea Bissau.

- Directly related to the above, IUCN-GEF Guinea Child Project “Strengthening restoration and conservation of the ecological corridor of Mount Nimba (Bossou) and Ziama NP” in the same area, for which BirdLife is leading the writing of the full proposal document.

- Biotope/BirdLife/GE World Bank (2024-2029, pending) to strengthen institutional capacities of the Office Guinéen des Parcs Nationaux et Réserves de Faunes (OGPNRF).

## Q27. Value for Money

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

This project provides good value for money as it does not reinvent the wheel and builds on successful engagement and lessons learned of other partner organisations such as Kew and will directly synergise and collaborate with Kew during implementation for activities related to community tree nurseries (engagement, set up, maintenance). This previous sensitization to the importance of the use of native species and real endorsement by communities is an essential foundation to this project.

It builds on frameworks established under GE’s leadership: KBA National Coordination Group (NCG) set up endorsed by the Ministry in 2022 with support from RSPB and CEPF. The KBA designation process will be completed based on missing quantitative data, raising the profile for protection of Bero (inc. through sustainable finance).

The project is part of a wider programme and strategy for the landscape adopted by BirdLife and Guinée Ecologie (Guinean Forests of West Africa Strategy (GFWA), 2023-2032, see annex 1) and uses match funding from Fondation L’Occitane and in-kind contribution for staff costs, including the Project Manager and Strategic Advisor supporting negotiations with the private sector for carbon and biodiversity offsets, and Gender and Safeguards Lead as well as for restoration outcomes.

Other funding if secured will amplify and consolidate wins from this Darwin project, and support replication in nearby classified forests (Pic de Fon, Diecke) and other priority landscapes. BirdLife’s role as Executing Agency for a GEF-Conservation International regional project over the next 5 years will support knowledge sharing across the GFWA hotspot.

## Q28. Capital items

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

Capital equipment accounts for 3.6% of the Darwin request. The items, including vehicles and IT equipment, will be acquired by our partners, Guinée Ecologie, and these items will remain under the ownership and priority of the local NGO for long-term sustainability.

## Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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## Q29. Safeguarding

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

**Please upload the following required policies:**

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

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

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

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

An updated Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct, in line with UK Charity Commission guidelines, was adopted by BirdLife International's Global Council in 2020. The BirdLife team will support the establishment of suitable policies and procedures for Guinee Ecologie in relation to safeguarding. We will work closely with BirdLife's Legal and Risk Management team at project initiation to operationalize the policy within the team, including with partners on the ground.

The BirdLife Partnership has adopted socio-cultural safeguard Positions and Guidance that are rooted in international best practices and guide our work around Conservation and Human Rights, Conservation and Gender, and Working with Indigenous Peoples. BirdLife has developed flexible training to build awareness and understanding within our Partners to integrate rights and social issues into conservation (INTRINSIC), and to monitor project impacts on governance, livelihoods and wellbeing (PRISM).

BirdLife's Quality Assurance System monitors BirdLife Partnership criteria and includes questions related to Partner safeguarding policies. A baseline from GE was collected in 2021. Where capacity needs are identified for other partners, during project inception or implementation, training will be given to ensure project partners have the capacity to implement the BirdLife Safeguarding policy and social safeguards frameworks.

## Q30. Ethics

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

The project will meet all relevant legal obligations, follow ethical principles of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice, and apply social safeguards principles in accordance with BirdLife's social assessment framework for projects. In the framework of match-funding Fondation L'Occitane project, BirdLife will be upholding the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as cornerstone of local community engagement, to ensure

that communities are actively involved in shaping the project, are well-informed about its objectives and potential impacts, and have the opportunity to voice their concerns and preferences. By obtaining FPIC, we aim to build a foundation of trust, respect, and mutual understanding between BirdLife and the communities involved in the project.

BirdLife has policies relevant to UK legal and ethical obligations, including staff behaviour and conduct; data protection; risk; hospitality and bribery; and equal opportunities. The BirdLife Partnership is committed to a rights-based approach to conservation, is a founder member of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (<http://www.thecihr.org/>) and has an agreed position on conservation and human rights in line with current international best practices and Environmental & Social Safeguards frameworks, and core project staff are mandated to develop capacity and support implementation of this position within the Partnership.

## Section 13 - British embassy or high commission engagement

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### Q31. British embassy or high commission engagement


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


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


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [UK Ambassador Guinea John Marshall](#)

 24/11/2023

 15:32:37

 pdf 172.29 KB

## Section 14 - Project Staff

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### Q32. Project staff

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


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Steeves Buckland	<b>Project Leader</b>	30	Checked
Jean-Baptiste Deffontaines	Strategic Advisor Private Sector Engagement	5	Checked
Billy Fairburn	Gender and Safeguards Lead	10	Checked
Stefano Barchiesi	Ecosystem Services expert	9	Checked


### Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Mariama Savané	Bero Project Manager	100	Checked
Mamadou Saliou Diallo	Technical Advisor	10	Checked
Bernard Monemou	Field Supervisor - Livelihood	100	Checked
Jeannot Simbiano	Field Supervisor - Biodiversity	100	Checked
Kadiatou Barry	Environmental Awareness Officer	20	Checked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked

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

 [Bero AllCVs](#)

 24/11/2023

 15:35:59

 pdf 1.37 MB

### Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

## Section 15 - Project Partners

### Q33. Project Partners

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

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

Lead partner name: BirdLife International

Website address: <https://www.birdlife.org/>



---

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

BirdLife International, through its office in Dakar, Senegal, will coordinate overall project implementation, M&E, financial & technical reporting, provide technical assistance in rolling out TESSA, and support capacity building to GE in strategic partnerships and advocacy with international organisations, financial institutions and corporates; transferring knowledge across the BirdLife Partnership in the framework of its Guinean Forests of West Africa Strategy (2023-2032) and through its longstanding coordination role in the biodiversity hotspot; linking to regional policies, fora and conventions.

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** £ [REDACTED]

---

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

---

**Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?**  Yes

---

**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Guinée Ecologie

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**Website address:** <https://www.guineeecologie.net/>

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

Guinée Ecologie (GE) will be responsible for national project coordination and implementation at Mount Bero classified forest and in the 10 riparian communities, through its local office in Nzerekore; coordinate advocacy and capacity building for communities, national, local authorities and the N'Nzérékoré Forestry Center (CFZ, delegated Protected Area agency). GE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CFZ in 2021, which will ensure that best practices can be replicated across Guinee Forestiere.

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** £ [REDACTED]

---

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

---

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

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**2. Partner Name:** *No Response*

---

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**Website address:** *No Response*

---

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

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

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

---

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

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**3. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

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

---

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

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**4. Partner Name:** *No Response*

---

**Website address:** *No Response*

---

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

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**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

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---

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

---

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

---

**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

---

**Website address:** *No Response*

---

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

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

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

---

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

---

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

---

**Website address:** *No Response*

---

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

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

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

---


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


---


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


*No Response*

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

 [Bero-Letters](#)

 24/11/2023

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 pdf 3.15 MB

## Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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### Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
30-012	Alex Ngari	A community approach to waterbird resource management, Chia Lagoon, Malawi
IWTEV010	Fadzai Matsvimbo	Behaviour change approaches to address belief-based use of vultures
29-013	Fadzai Matsvimbo	An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti
29-009	Tabea Zwimpfer	Empowering Cabo Verde communities towards responsible practices in artisanal fisheries
DARCC003	Barbara Campos	Build capacity and capability to regulate hunting and protect biodiversity
29-005	Steve Cranwell	Safeguarding Rennell Island livelihoods and biodiversity from invasive species.

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

Yes

## Section 17 - Certification

---

### Q.35 Certification

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

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

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

BirdLife International

I apply for a grant of

£600,000.00

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

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

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

Checked

**Name** Martin Harper

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**Position in the organisation** Chief Executive Officer

---

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


 [Signed MH-29](#)  
 24/11/2023  
 16:06:58  
 pdf 27.23 KB


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**Date** 24 November 2023


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Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.


 [BirdLife International 2020 Financial Statements - signed V2](#)


 24/11/2023


 15:44:38

 pdf 1.9 MB

 [BirdLife International 2021 Financial Statements Final](#)


 24/11/2023

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
 pdf 1.52 MB

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





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 [Whistleblowing Policy ISSUE 2 10 March 2020 \(2\)](#)  
 24/11/2023  
 15:45:29  
 pdf 416.92 KB

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 [BirdLife staff code of conduct ISSUE 1 9 December 2020 \(1\)](#)  
 24/11/2023  
 15:45:15  
 pdf 215.93 KB

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 [BirdLife safeguarding policy ISSUE 1 9 December 2020](#)  
 24/11/2023  
 15:45:11  
 pdf 246.04 KB

## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance” and “Standard Indicator Guidance”.</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a copy of the Lead Partner’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.</li></ul>	Checked

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

### We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

### Data protection and use of personal data

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

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

Project Title: Community Engagement for Conservation of Mount Béro Classified Forest, Guinea.

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Mount Béro Classified Forest’s long-term conservation is ensured through engagement of local stakeholders in protecting and restoring critical biodiversity habitats, promoting sustainable agriculture, and unlocking of sustainable finance opportunities.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words)</p> <p>Inclusive management foundations for Mount Béro Classified Forest are established, creating enabling conditions for private sector offsetting and sustainable agriculture promotion, and benefiting 1,500 people from 10 adjacent rural communities.</p>	<p>0.1 Increase patrolling efforts by 10% annually from project start to project end, as informed by the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART).</p> <p>0.2 Improve the Integrated Management Effective Tool (IMET) score to 50% by project end. Baseline score (2019): 39.31%.</p> <p>0.3 Achieve a 1% increase in forest coverage by project end, specifically within the classified forest area.</p> <p>0.4 Maintain zero hectare of canopy cover loss in the buffer zone. Baseline: to be defined in 2023 based on 2020-2021 NASA data.</p> <p>0.5 Biodiversity and carbon offset enabling conditions are established and fulfilled by project end.</p>	<p>0.1 SMART report(s)</p> <p>0.2 Integrated Management Effective Tool assessment</p> <p>0.3 &amp; 0.4 Satellite Imagery NASA <a href="https://mangrovescience.engine.app/view/guinea-lcluc-explorer">https://mangrovescience.engine.app/view/guinea-lcluc-explorer</a></p> <p>0.5 Private sectors offset plans and/or percentage of enabling conditions versus criteria set by private sector</p> <p>0.6 Baseline and EOP Biomonitoring data obtained during patrols, using camera traps and conducting faunal surveys.</p>	<p>The political situation remains stable, ensuring a smooth and uninterrupted democratic transition with a certain degree of continuity.</p> <p>The teams assigned to the Béro Forest at the Nzérékoré Forest Center will be maintained throughout the project duration, or the transition will occur gradually without significant disruptions.</p> <p>NASA will continue providing satellite images for Guinea in the coming years, allowing free access to updated and reliable data for monitoring purposes.</p>



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	<p>0.6 Stable encounter rate of native fauna particularly key flagship species such as chimpanzees, forest buffalo by EOP.</p> <p>0.7 Forest-friendly, sustainable agricultural practices directly benefit 1,500 people (50% women) living around Béro, leading to acknowledged income increase and/or revenue staggering by EOP.</p> <p>0.8 Increased recognition of the international value of Mount Bero Classified Forest through its designation as Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).</p>	<p>0.7 Baseline and EOP socioeconomic assessment and household surveys.</p> <p>0.8 Proposal submitted to the KBA Secretariat through the KBA National Coordination Group (NCG) established under Guinee Ecologie's leadership.</p>	<p>Mining companies follow through with their current commitment to offsetting their environmental impacts by investing in the conservation of the Béro Classified Forest.</p> <p>The government continues to prioritize the conservation of classified forests and takes proactive measures to ensure their preservation, including the protection and designation of a network of protected areas.</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p><b>1. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Structure for Béro Classified Forest are secured, including the engagement of 250 representatives (30% women and youth) from 10 adjacent communities.</b></p>	<p>1.1 Community members (at least 40% women and 30% youth) participating in Community Advisory Committees. Baseline: 0 Project milestones: 100 people in year 1, 250 in year 2, 250 in year 3) <b>[DI-B07]</b></p> <p>1.2 Committee members (30% women and 30% youth) are participating in Béro Classified Forest Management Council. Baseline: 0 (Project target 50 people by year 2 i.e., 2 representatives per communities) <b>[DI-B07]</b></p> <p>1.3 Committee members received training through 4 half-day sessions and support through continuous accompaniment</p>	<p>1.1 Attendance records, Community Advisory Committees establishment report, minutes of community meetings (gender-disaggregated data), acts of creation (formal)</p> <p>1.2 Attendance records, Béro Classified Forest Management Council establishment report, minutes of Council meetings (gender-disaggregated data), act of creation (formal)</p> <p>1.3 Training reports (gender-disaggregated data)</p>	<p>Government remains committed in integrating the communities in the governance structure.</p> <p>The participatory selection and training of community representatives ensures a fair, inclusive, and effective, representation of the local communities.</p>

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	<p>regarding their roles and responsibilities. (Project target 100% by year 2) <b>[DI-A01]</b></p> <p>1.4 Key stakeholders including community representatives, local and central authorities (30% women) have established and endorsed participation in Béro Classified Forest Steering Committee (Project target 100% by year 2). Baseline: 0. <b>[DI-B05]</b></p>	<p>1.4 Béro Classified Forest Steering Committee minutes/reports, endorsement letter from a third party (Guinean Office of Parks and Wildlife Reserves and/or Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development).</p>	
<p><b>2. Sustainable agriculture livelihood interventions implemented in 10 adjacent villages benefiting 1,500 people, while facilitating knowledge transfer and capacity building to extend these sustainable practices beyond the targeted villages.</b></p>	<p>2.1 Agricultural assessment and associated knowledge products published and endorsed by the end of Y1. <b>[DI-C01]</b></p> <p>2.2 Project technicians, rural extension workers, and community promoters capable of promoting sustainable agriculture (at least 50% women and youth) following a week-long training. (Project target 20 people trained by year 2) <b>[DI-A01]</b></p> <p>2.3 Project technicians, rural extension workers, and community promoters from 10 villages trained reporting to have delivered further training to at least 1,000 beneficiaries (at least 50% women and youth) by EOP. <b>[DI-A05]</b></p> <p>2.4 Proportion of Economic Interest Groups (IEG) established and functional at project end (Project target of at least 10 groups of minimum 50 beneficiaries (at least 50% women and youth) with 100% self-sustained by project end) <b>[DI-A10]</b></p>	<p>2.1 Agricultural assessment report and Nzérékoré Forest Center endorsement letter and any other mean of endorsement e.g., preamble from prefectural authority.</p> <p>2.2 Training reports (age and gender-disaggregated data) including post-course feedback.</p> <p>2.3 Post-course 6-months surveys (using mobile social platform)</p> <p>2.4 IEG registration (e.g., cocoa, coffee, rice farming, market gardening, poultry, aquaculture, etc) and membership list (gender-disaggregated data); annual General Assembly report and simplified annual financial/accounting report.</p>	<p>There are no major climate events or political upheavals influencing the production and markets of agricultural products.</p> <p>At least 20 project technicians, rural extension workers, and community promoters are available and actively participate in training, demonstrating an interest in implementing their learning in the field, with a ratio of 1:50 beneficiaries in terms of support/continuous training.</p> <p>Beneficiaries are convinced by the techniques taught, with a replication potential of approximately 1 to 5.</p>

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	<p>2.5 1,500 smallholder farmers (at least 50% women) reporting the adoption of sustainable, forest-friendly agricultural practices by project end <b>[DI-B10]</b></p> <p>2.6 20 ha of improved, sustainable agriculture practices under agro-forestry systems benefitting people to be more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends <b>[DI-D10]</b></p>	<p>2.5 Baseline and EOP socioeconomic assessments, disaggregated by gender and age (household surveys).</p> <p>2.6 Satellite imagery, photos, reports on sustainable agriculture practices uptake.</p>	<p>The trend and interest in higher-quality products that adhere to social and environmental standards continue to evolve positively.</p>
<p><b>3. 100 ha of degraded areas in Mount Béro Classified Forest and in direct periphery (within the buffer zone) actively restored using native/endemic trees, 10 ha under piloted Assisted Natural Regeneration, and more than 7,000 socio-economically valuable tree species planted in the surrounding areas.</b></p>	<p>3.1 10 community tree nurseries established and self-managed by groups of at least 10 members (at least 50% women and 50% youth) in 10 villages (Project milestones: 5 in year 1, 10 in year 2, 10 in year 3) with replication potentialized through exchange visits with other 15 villages.</p> <p>3.2 100 ha of degraded or converted ecosystems under active restoration by project end (Project milestones: 25 in year 1, 50 in year 2, 100 in year 3) <b>[DI-D12]</b></p> <p>3.3 10 ha of degraded or converted ecosystems under piloted Assisted Natural Regeneration by project end (Project milestones: 10 in year, with maintenance and monitoring of success in Y2 and Y3) <b>[DI-D12]</b></p> <p>3.4 Advocacy conducted to integrate community tree nurseries into annual reforestation campaigns, contributing to their sustainability as businesses.</p>	<p>3.1 Photos, tree nursery inventories, survival rate records.</p> <p>3.2 and 3.3 Satellite imagery (compared with participatory mapping of areas under restoration on the ground).</p> <p>3.4 Agreement signed with CFZ on supplying national reforestation campaigns with trees coming from the Bero adjacent nurseries.</p>	<p>There are no major climatic events influencing plant mortality in the nursery or after active restoration. Fires are not a limiting factor, and fire management (including early fires and firebreaks) in restoration areas is considered in the restoration management costs per hectare and is annually ensured in sensitive areas. Communities maintain an interest in cash crop cultivation within agroforestry systems.</p>

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<p><b>4. Increased awareness of 2,500 community members on the ecosystem services provided by Mount Béro through participatory analysis and educational programs.</b></p>	<p>4.1 Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment and associated knowledge products published and endorsed (by the Nzérékoré Forest Center) by project end <b>[DI-C01]</b></p> <p>4.2 1,500 beneficiaries (at least 50% of women and 50% youth) with increased awareness of the value of ecosystem services provided by Mount Béro forest by the end of year 2</p> <p>4.3 25 teachers trained in integrating forest conservation into school curriculum reporting to have used the new approach to at least 1,000 pupils by the end of the project <b>[DI-A05]</b></p>	<p>4.1 Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment report, progress report and Nzérékoré Forest Center endorsement letter and any other means of endorsement e.g., preamble from prefectural authority.</p> <p>4.2 Surveys before and after participatory TESSA (Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site Based Assessment) implementation demonstrating a change in perception on the value of ecosystem services provided by Mount Béro forest.</p> <p>4.3 Training course reports (age and gender-disaggregated data) with post course 6-months surveys (using mobile social platform).</p>	<p>The targeted beneficiaries will actively participate in and respond positively to the awareness-raising activities, resulting in increased awareness of ecosystem services.</p> <p>The new approach to integrating forest conservation into the school curriculum will be well-received by the teachers.</p>
<p><b>5. Success stories and evidence-based interventions on ecosystem services preservation support private sector offsetting strategy roll out and are widely disseminated in the Guinée Forestière region and the wider Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA) biodiversity hotspot.</b></p>	<p>5.1 Forest Service online database established and accessible, capturing reports/assessments from Private Sectors/NGO sourced resources/data with protocol established for systematic upload (Project milestones: database established in year 1, 20 reports available in year 2, 30 in year 3) <b>[DI-C16]</b></p> <p>5.2 Annual webinars for conservation stakeholders of active local and international NGO and other conservation stakeholders operating in the Guinée</p>	<p>5.1 Forest Service online database link.</p> <p>5.2 Webinars records, attendees list disaggregated by gender and types of stakeholder (baseline</p>	<p>Stakeholders, including private sectors and NGOs, will actively participate by submitting their reports and data to the dedicated database.</p> <p>The webinars, which will attract over 20 attendees, ensuring a substantial audience and participation, will provide valuable knowledge sharing,</p>

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	<p>Forestière region with over 20 attendees (50% women) <b>[DI-C13]</b></p> <p>5.3 Project lessons shared with stakeholders active in the Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA) hotspot in the margins of at least 1 regional event (side-event).</p> <p>5.4 Results from TESSA studies shared with at least one private sector company active in Guinee Forestiere to inform offset investment priorities for sustaining and improving ecosystem services supply.</p> <p>5.4 Social Media presence with over 3,000 engagement per year <b>[DI-C12]</b></p> <p>5.5 Number of Media related activities, including articles, audio-visual, and news report (Project milestones: 5 in year 1, 2 in year 2, 5 in year 3) <b>[DI-C15]</b></p>	<p>scoping of stakeholders to be refined at project start).</p> <p>5.3 Event report, outreach material.</p> <p>5.4 Advocacy outcomes on private sector offset strategy.</p> <p>5.5 Social media impressions per platform.</p> <p>5.6 References, links, impressions, click through rates.</p>	<p>capacity building, and networking opportunities for conservation stakeholders.</p>
<p>0.1 Implement mainstream activities</p> <p>0.1.1 Launch the project in the Guinée Forestière region.</p> <p>0.1.2 Realise the baseline and EOP socio-economical surveys oin the targeted villages.</p> <p>0.1.3 Support utilisation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to inform and guide patrolling activities and monitor efforts with the conservation management authorities.</p> <p>0.1.4 Implement the Integrated Management Effective Tool at EOP.</p> <p><b>Output 1. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Governance Structure for Béro Classified Forest are secured, including the engagement of 250 representatives (30% women and youth) from 10 adjacent communities.</b></p> <p>1.1 Creation/Strengthening and Formalization of Community Advisory Committees and Management Council</p>			

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- 1.1.1 Select representatives from 25 villages through participatory processes to form community advisory committees.
- 1.1.2 Provide training and support to committee members regarding their roles and responsibilities.
- 1.1.3 Establish formal structures and procedures for committee operations.
- 1.1.4 Facilitate regular exchanges and discussions among committee members and project stakeholders.
- 1.2.1 Establish a Management Council with representation from the 25 community advisory committees.
- 1.2.2 Formalize the Community Advisory Committees and Management Council.
- 1.3 Creation of a Steering Committee:
  - 1.3.1 Develop a proposal outlining the committee's mandate, composition, and responsibilities.
  - 1.3.2 Advocate for the implementation of the steering committee.
  - 1.3.3 Facilitate the establishment of the steering committee.

**Output 2. Sustainable agriculture livelihood interventions implemented in 10 adjacent villages benefitting 1,500 people, while facilitating knowledge transfer and capacity building to extend these sustainable practices beyond the targeted villages.**

- 2.1 Conduct an agricultural assessment involving local actors in rural development.
- 2.2 Transfer appropriate agricultural technologies, potentially with support from organizations like Fauna & Flora/GRET already involved in neighbouring landscape (10-year experience in the Ziama Classified Forest).
- 2.3 Develop manuals to guide sustainable agricultural practices.
- 2.4 Train project technicians, rural extension workers, and community promoters from 10 villages to disseminate knowledge.
- 2.5 Provide basic support in agroecology, small-scale livestock farming, and agroforestry to the 10 villages.

**Output 3. 100 ha of degraded areas in Mount Béro Classified Forest and in direct periphery (within the buffer zone) actively restored using native/endemic trees, 10 ha under piloted Assisted Natural Regeneration, and more than 7,000 socio-economically valuable tree species planted in the surrounding areas.**

- 3.1 Collaborate with local communities and forest services to establish nurseries using native/endemic tree species and socio-economically valuable species (This includes participatory exercises for seed collection.).
- 3.2 Conduct mapping exercises to identify potential areas for restoration, involving and seeking buy-in from local communities.
- 3.3 Promote collaborative plantation initiatives involving forest services and communities.
- 3.4 Distribute and support planting more than tree species of socio-economic value (providing timber, fruits, medicinal properties, or other benefits to local communities) in the surrounding areas.
- 3.5 Develop mechanisms for ongoing monitoring of restored areas and planted trees beyond the project duration (post-planting care, including regular maintenance activities such as watering, weeding, and protection from pests and diseases).

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- 3.6 Documenting the entire restoration process, including activities undertaken, challenges faced, and lessons learned.
- 3.7 Conduct advocacy with Ministry and CFZ to have community tree nurseries as suppliers of annual reforestation campaigns.

**Output 4. Increased awareness of 7,500 community members on the ecosystem services provided by Mount Béro through participatory analysis and educational programs.**

- 4.1 Rolling-out the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment (TESSA).
  - 4.1.1 Collect locally relevant data to generate information on ecosystem service (ES) values.
  - 4.1.2 Publish the main TESSA study and associated knowledge products e.g., links between forest management practices and specific ES
- 4.2 Promote the TESSA study as an awareness tool for adult populations.
- 4.3 Support Education Sector and Capacity Building:
  - 4.3.1 Collaborate with the INRA to integrate conservation aspects into regular school subjects.
  - 4.3.2 Build capacity of teachers to enhance their understanding of forest conservation and its integration into the curriculum.

**Output 5. Success stories and evidence-based interventions on ecosystem services preservation support private sector offsetting strategy roll out and are widely disseminated in the Guinée Forestière region and the wider Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA) biodiversity hotspot.**

- 5.1 Establish an online tool hosted by CFZ, supporting its capitalisation and developing a protocol for systematic upload of reports and assessments to ensure consistency and accessibility.
- 5.2 Organize annual webinars specifically targeted at conservation stakeholders operating in the Guinée Forestière region.
- 5.3 Share project lessons and best practices at local/national events (including through targeted advocacy meetings) and with stakeholders active in the GFWA hotspot through side-events at regional events.
- 5.4 Share TESSA results on priorities for sustaining and improving ecosystem services supply and provision to private company active in the area.
- 5.5 Ensure social media presence to engage with a wide audience regularly sharing updates, success stories, evidence-based interventions.
- 5.6 Engage with media outlets to share project achievements/stories, publish articles, create audio-visual content, and produce news reports.