Applicant: **Rasoalinoro, Lovaniaina**
Organisation: **Money for Madagascar**
Funding Sought: **£792,618.00**

DIR31S2\1050

Locally Led Environmental Stewardship to Protect Madagascar's Forests and Communities

The continued destruction of Madagascar's highland forests by subsistence farmers demands effective intervention. This project empowers Malagasy communities around the Tsinjoarivo-Ambalaomby Protected Area to establish and manage environmental stewardship agreements. By attracting impact investment and fostering local buy-in, it aims to drive reforestation, natural forest restoration, and sustainable agroecology. This will enhance food security and livelihoods, addressing both environmental and socio-economic challenges for lasting impact.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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DIR31S2\1050

Locally Led Environmental Stewardship to Protect Madagascar’s Forests and Communities

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Address	[redacted]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Organisation**
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Phone (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Website	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Project title

Locally Led Environmental Stewardship to Protect Madagascar’s Forests and Communities

Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

MfM Cover Letter
29/11/2024
13:24:54
pdf 74.31 KB

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR31S1\1123

DIR31S1\1727

Q4. Response to Stage 1 feedback

You must explicitly set out how and where you have addressed all the comments/feedback in the application form: briefly restating the feedback point, then clearly setting out how you have responded to it in the application.

1. Addressing delivery uncertainties: community institutions, equity, funding mechanics
To promote equity and fairness in project delivery, we will implement a blockchain-enabled data and payment system, ensuring transparent and traceable records for transactions, milestones, and ecological impacts. This fosters trust between impact investors and community institutions. Sadabe will serve as the legally accountable

intermediary, facilitating compliance, managing funds, and ensuring equitable distribution. Contracts will be co-designed with communities, integrating traditional governance structures and drafted in accessible language. Sadabe animators, trained in Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), will use participatory methods to develop agreements reflecting community priorities. Pilot agreements will build trust and refine terms. Capacity-building programs will enhance financial literacy and governance skills to ensure community institutions can manage responsibilities effectively.

Politics and Mechanics of Funding

• Receiving Funding: Initial investments will flow from impact investors to Sadabe, which will pre-finance beta credit, early-stage commitments to ecological outcomes.

• Disbursing Funds: Sadabe will oversee equitable distribution to community institutions, using blockchain technology for secure, transparent transactions. Local stewardship committees, trained in budgeting and financial management, will verify allocations through quarterly reports.

The Sharamentsa model1, pioneered by the Achuar Nation in the Amazon, serves as a blueprint. This successful pilot leverages biodiversity credits to fund conservation efforts, integrating traditional ecological knowledge with robust governance. In Madagascar, we will adopt similar practices to:

• Provide upfront funding for early conservation initiatives.

• Align project goals with traditional governance structures.

• Establish transparent credit issuance and monitoring systems.

By issuing beta credits, Sadabe will build trust with investors while enabling adaptive learning. Independent evaluations will validate credits, ensuring outcomes meet standards. This approach creates scalable, transparent frameworks for conservation financing.

2. Securing impact investment and addressing investor benefits

Our stewardship credit model is designed to attract impact investors focused on ecological and social outcomes over short-term financial returns. We are exploring a partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE), which could benefit from contributions to climate action, enhanced student recruitment, and research opportunities.

The project emphasises measurable outcomes validated by robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems. Blockchain technology underpins these systems, ensuring transparency for transactions and impacts, thereby mitigating risks and building investor confidence.

Though early-stage sequestration potential is modest, the project's scalable frameworks align with global demand for biodiversity conservation. Partnerships between MfM, local communities, and governmental bodies will ensure equitable benefit-sharing and compliance with investor priorities. Initial activities will focus on pilot implementation, establishing governance structures and methodologies to prepare for scaling into larger ecological zones and markets.

3. Managing delayed or reduced investment funding

Our framework is flexible, adapting to varying funding levels while ensuring progress even if investments are delayed or reduced. The focus remains on establishing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), emphasizing foundational elements like governance structures and MRV systems. Lessons from the Sharamentsa model will guide early activities to develop critical components supporting long-term growth.

Initial grant funding will support community governance, data collection, and ecosystem monitoring, providing a foundation for incremental scaling. This ensures resilience and progress toward ecological and community goals regardless of funding levels.

Each funding tier supports incremental development, maintaining adaptability while sustaining momentum. By positioning Madagascar as a pilot project, we can continuously refine methodologies and governance systems, ensuring alignment with long-term objectives and scalability.

4. Ethical framework and integrity of credits

To maintain the integrity of biodiversity credits, we will implement transparent calculations, verification against international standards, and regular independent audits. Credits will be directly tied to measurable biodiversity improvements, with community-owned marketplaces reducing reliance on third parties and ensuring local control over revenue.

Workshops and meetings will ensure community understanding and engagement with the credit system, building trust and clarity. To address the controversial nature of biodiversity credits, we will emphasize

transparency, community involvement, and long-term environmental benefits. These safeguards reinforce our commitment to ethical conservation, fostering confidence among stakeholders.

5. Assumption on Controversial Nature and Output on Sharing Findings/Lessons

The project acknowledges potential controversies, particularly regarding local community involvement in stewardship agreements and the implementation of regenerative agricultural practices. Differing views may arise about land use, resource management, and integrating traditional practices with modern conservation methods. To address these concerns, we will engage with local stakeholders through consultations, ensuring transparency and addressing any raised issues.

• The project will also share its findings and lessons learned with key stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, and government bodies, through reports, workshops, and online platforms. This will promote the dissemination of best practices and support the model's replication or adaptation in other regions.

Logframe Strengthening:
1. Changes to ensure the human component is captured.

We have strengthened the human component by incorporating gender and inclusion-focused indicators:

Output 1 tracks female participation in training (target: 50% female participation).
Output 2.1 sets a target 50% female participation in committees.
Output 2.2 includes a target 40% female participation in community meetings.

2. Baselines and Interim Targets for Outputs

Baselines have been added for all relevant outputs. Interim targets are now included to allow for consistent tracking of progress over time:
Output 1: 500 farmers trained in Year 1, increasing to 1,000 by Year 3.

3. Indicator for Output 1

The indicators for Output 1 have been updated:

Number of workshops conducted (target: 50 by project end).
Number of farmers trained (target: 1,000, with at least 50% female participation).

4. Gender Target for Output 2.1,includes gender and inclusion targets:

Percentage of female participation in committees (target: 50%).
Percentage of vulnerable/excluded persons included in decision-making processes (target: 20%).

5. Clarification on Community Groups and Participation in Output 2.2

Number of community groups formed (target: 15).
Number of members per group (target: 30 members, with at least 40% women and 20% from vulnerable groups).
Percentage of meeting attendance (target: 75% attendance rate).

We have introduced a new indicator to track perceived wellbeing and empowerment:

Percentage of beneficiaries reporting improved wellbeing and empowerment (target: 80% of participants reporting positive changes in wellbeing as a result of project activities).

Q5. 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

Biome 2

No Response

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Conservation Action2

Land / Water Management

Conservation Action 3

Awareness Raising

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

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

Threat 3

No Response

Q6. 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 continued destruction of Madagascar's highland forests by subsistence farmers demands effective intervention. This project empowers Malagasy communities around the Tsinjoarivo-Ambalaomby Protected Area to establish and manage environmental stewardship agreements. By attracting impact investment and fostering local buy-in, it aims to drive reforestation, natural forest restoration, and sustainable agroecology. This will enhance food security and livelihoods, addressing both environmental and socio-economic challenges for lasting impact.

Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

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

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

Do you require more fields?

⦿ No

If you are proposing to work in an Upper Middle Income Country (see Annex A), please demonstrate your case for support with reference to one or more of the criteria in Section 2.8.

No Response

Q8. Project dates

Start date:	**End date:**	**Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):**
01 April 2025	31 March 2030	5 years

Q9. Budget summary

Year:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total request £
Amount:	£186,674.00	£127,752.00	£159,002.00	£158,085.00	£161,105.00	£ 792,618.00

Q10. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

⦿ Yes

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

Q11. 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?

Partners have committed to match funding through pre-funded activities that are integral to the project's outcome:
1) Money for Madagascar will support the development of agricultural activities ([redacted]
2) UWE will develop and deliver MEL-focused training and capacity building via additional field school activities and creation of training materials [redacted]

3) Sadabe will support the costs of 12 local monitoring assistants [redacted]
4) Regen Development Network will cover 50% of their salary costs ([redacted].

Q12. Have you received, applied for, or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for your proposed project or similar project?

⦿ No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

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

Madagascar, a globally significant biodiversity hotspot, faces an alarming deforestation rate nine times higher than that of the Congo Basin. This environmental crisis, combined with extreme poverty, food insecurity, and reliance on subsistence farming, creates a complex, multidimensional problem that the project aims to address2. The Tsinjoarivo-Ambalaomby Protected Area (TAPA), a newly designated 26,500-hectare site in Madagascar's Central Highlands, exemplifies these challenges. It harbours exceptional biodiversity, including critically endangered species such as the Diademed Sifaka and Sibree's Dwarf Lemur, alongside unique tenrec populations. However, at the current deforestation rate, this forest is projected to disappear entirely within 20 years, threatening both biodiversity and local livelihoods.

The primary drivers of deforestation in TAPA are inefficient and unsustainable agricultural practices. Local households, dependent on subsistence farming, clear land to meet basic needs but remain trapped in poverty due to low agricultural productivity and degraded soils3,4. Essential food crops like rice, cassava, and sweet potatoes yield insufficient harvests to sustain households year-round. Furthermore, slash-and-burn practices persist due to a lack of investment in agricultural inputs, soil conservation, and irrigation infrastructure. Climate shocks, such as erratic rainfall and increasing cyclone intensity, exacerbate these vulnerabilities.

Despite national policies that delegate TAPA's management to community organisations (VOIs) under Madagascar's Gelose Law, these groups lack the resources, training, and technical capacity to fulfil their responsibilities effectively5,6. This governance gap, combined with limited long-term finance, constrains efforts to conserve biodiversity and improve livelihoods.

The creation of TAPA also impacts 1100 local households, which are partially or wholly dependent on its resources. Without sustainable interventions, these families face declining living standards, further incentivising environmentally harmful practices. There is an urgent need for mechanisms that integrate improved livelihoods with biodiversity conservation, empowering communities as long-term custodians of the forest.

The project draws on pilot data and existing partnerships to address these challenges. By implementing an environmental stewardship scheme, the project will provide reliable, long-term finance, support reforestation, and promote agroecological techniques to reduce agricultural pressure on the land. For example, reforesting 1,600 hectares within TAPA's buffer zone could sequester 200,000 tonnes of carbon and expand habitat for endemic species, while also creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods through agroforestry and non-timber forest products.

Ultimately, this project will enhance community capacity to manage natural resources sustainably while addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss and poverty. It emphasises community-centred conservation governance, ensuring local ownership, equitable benefits, and resilience to future shocks. This integrated approach will transform TAPA into a model for achieving harmonious coexistence between people and the environment.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. 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)
- ☑ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- ☑ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ☑ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q14b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

The project aligns with Madagascar's Nationally Determined Contributions. Mitigation actions include implementing conservation and climate-smart agriculture, promoting arboriculture, reforesting for sustainable timber and indigenous species conservation, adopting agroforestry, and enhancing forest monitoring. Adaptation actions include raising awareness about climate change and environmental degradation, developing resilient agriculture, piloting "climate-smart agriculture," and restoring natural habitats, including forests.
This project will contribute to 11 of the 20 objectives in the current Madagascar's Biodiversity Action Plan (2015-25), the national policy response to the International Convention on Biodiversity Conservation:
#1: Policymakers and 65% of the population aware of biodiversity's value and measures to protect it sustainably. #3: Positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources developed and applied. #4: Stakeholders implement rational resource management plans, maintaining the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits. #5: Ecosystem and habitat loss reduced. #7: Agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry areas managed sustainably. #11: 10% of terrestrial ecosystems of particular biodiversity importance and ecosystem services conserved in ecologically representative systems and managed effectively. #12: Extinction of endangered species reduced, and conservation status improved. #14: Ecosystem services, such as water supply, and those contributing to health, livelihoods, and well-being, are protected and restored with equitable access ensured for all, considering gender. #15: The adaptive capacity of ecosystems and the contribution of biodiversity to mitigate and adapt to climate change are strengthened, including restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems and combating desertification. #19: Traditional sustainable use of biodiversity and their contribution to conservation are respected and preserved. #19: Knowledge relating to biodiversity, its values, its functioning, and its status shared with decision-makers.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, GESI & Exit Strategy

Q15. 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.).**

This project integrates global evidence on biodiversity finance, endorsed by institutions like the WEF and UN, and highlights the growing impact of private investment in nature-based solutions (currently estimated at $35 billion

annually). Research consistently shows that channelling funding directly to local communities, particularly women and youth, significantly enhances biodiversity outcomes by strengthening their roles as stewards of the environment7.
Regen provides a proven model for success, having developed biodiversity credits in collaboration with indigenous communities in Brazil and Ecuador. Their achievements inform our Biodiversity Stewardship methodology and highlight this approach's viability.
Locally, Sadabe's community-driven reforestation plan, covering 800 hectares, reflects their commitment to sustainable development and ensures traditional knowledge shapes project design8. Findings from MfM's situational analysis of Sadabe's work in TAPA highlight dynamic agroforestry as a promising land management tool9. Data from UWE suggest that reforesting this scale could sequester 100,000 tonnes of carbon, expand habitats for 11 threatened lemur species, and create economic opportunities through non-timber forest products.
Building on this foundation, the project will establish a high-integrity stewardship scheme that channels sustained financing to farmers, empowering them as environmental stewards. Local voices will guide the co-development and implementation of practices, ensuring both environmental and community benefits.
Work Paackage 1: Building Capacity for Sustainable Agriculture (lead: MfM)
o Evaluate current sustainable agricultural practices to identify strengths and areas for improvement. Initiate Dynamic Agroforestry (DAF) trials to assess scalability in local contexts.
o Provide Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) training to 1,000 farming families at demonstration farms, focusing on sustainable gardening and restorative methods.
o Select 300 farmers who adopt at least 75% of CSA techniques for personalised consultations and home-based DAF training, helping them implement and adapt these practices effectively.
o Create platforms for local entrepreneurs to access markets for sustainable agricultural products, fostering innovation and economic growth in farming communities.
Work Package 2: Community Co-production of an Environmental Stewardship Scheme (MfM and Sadabe)
o Delivers a series of training and consultation events that build knowledge and capacity of stakeholder groups enabling effective co-development of stewardship options.
o Co-develops stewardship options and required funding levels through community workshops.
o Designs legal structures, including contract durations and monitoring frameworks, that allow for long-term financial agreements to be enacted, outlining responsibilities of all parties.
o Trials implementation of stewardship options within selected VOIs instigating environmental rehabilitation and reforestation across 800 hectares of the 1600 buffer zone.
Work Package 3: Developing Stewardship Scheme Financing Mechanism (Regen Network)
o Engages with potential funders through advisory consultations.
o Supports the development of legal frameworks for financing agreements.
o Supports the trailing of scheme implementation.
o Collaborates with financial and investment managers to secure agreements with impact investors.
Work Package 4: Define Verification Standards & Training (Sadabe and UWE)
o Develops and tests in-field metrics for land-users, VOIs, and Sadabe to verify actions taken.
o Verifies the accuracy of drone-based and bioacoustic survey methods for measuring environmental outcomes.
o Publishes detailed verification methodologies for reporting both land-user actions and environmental outcomes.
o Creates training modules for Malagasy students on ecosystem service monitoring and verification.
The project will be managed collaboratively by MfM, Sadabe, VOIs, Universities, Regen Network, and regional and national governmental organisations. MfM, a Malagasy-led organisation with offices in Antananarivo and the UK, will oversee project delivery, management, and quality assurance, including donor reporting, financial management, and GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) assessments. MfM will also establish an ethical framework for the credits scheme.
A diverse Project Management Team (PMT) will be formed, ensuring clear roles, representing community voices, and fostering local leadership. A comprehensive Project Implementation and Monitoring Plan (PIMP) will include transparent financial tracking and reliable field-based data collection systems.
Regular coordination meetings with the PMT and community representatives will ensure alignment, encourage

feedback, and promote adaptive management. Training and capacity building for staff and community leaders will strengthen skills and ownership. Annual progress reports will sustain trust and transparency.
This project incorporates lessons from successful global and local initiatives. The Regen Network's biodiversity credits model shows the viability of sustainable financing mechanisms co-developed with communities. Sadabe's reforestation efforts and MfM's situational analysis confirm dynamic agroforestry's effectiveness and market integration opportunities. Challenges, like unclear benefit-sharing mechanisms, will be addressed through capacity-building and governance activities.
Dynamic agroforestry enhances biodiversity while strengthening livelihoods. Innovative monitoring methods, such as drone-based and bioacoustic tools, ensure accurate data collection and build trust. Evidence shows locally led approaches achieve sustainable conservation outcomes. Centering community voices and fostering inclusive governance ensures adaptability and commitment to long-term environmental stewardship.

Q16. 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 project will strengthen the capability and capacity of local and national partners by providing targeted training, resources, and infrastructure, building a foundation for sustainable, community-led conservation. Through practical skill-building in sustainable agriculture, environmental stewardship, and biodiversity monitoring, local organisations and stakeholders, such as community organisations (VOIs), Sadabe, and Malagasy students, will develop critical expertise. Training sessions and hands-on guidance will equip community members to adopt sustainable practices that enhance food security and conserve forest ecosystems, while also learning to engage effectively with investors and manage funding.
The project emphasises inclusivity through Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations, ensuring women, youth, and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and benefit from economic and environmental gains. This approach aims to empower often-underrepresented groups, fostering leadership and increasing resilience within communities.
Capacity-building activities also include developing governance and legal skills for VOIs and local partners, enabling them to manage stewardship agreements independently and ensure community ownership over conservation initiatives. National partners gain expertise in biodiversity finance mechanisms, supporting future engagement with investors and promoting sustained environmental and financial resilience.
Post-project, these strengthened capabilities will allow local partners to independently lead and expand conservation efforts. Knowledge and skills embedded within the community and national institutions will reduce reliance on external support, establish ongoing stewardship of natural resources, and open pathways for future sustainable development. By building this local capacity, the project provides long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits, positioning Madagascar as a model for community-driven conservation and resilience in a biodiversity hotspot.

Q17. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be disadvantaged or 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 ensure meaningful participation for all those engaged.

Studies show that incorporating local experts and wider communities into conservation efforts, research, and decision-making is crucial for effective biodiversity conservation. However, women in rural Madagascar often face specific barriers that reduce their participation in community-level decision-making. These challenges include 1) limited experience in public speaking compared to men and boys, 2) logistical constraints when

meetings are held outside their villages, and 3) societal expectations that women prioritize domestic duties over community engagement.
To address these barriers and promote equality among diverse genders and social backgrounds, this project integrates GESI principles into all phases of design and implementation, ensuring equitable participation and meaningful engagement.

To achieve this, the project will take targeted actions, including:

• Meetings and training sessions will be held within community centres or other accessible locations, reducing the need for travel. We will also schedule these sessions at times that do not conflict with peak agricultural seasons or domestic responsibilities, ensuring that community members can participate without additional burdens.
• The project will offer dedicated training in literacy, public speaking, and leadership for women, preparing them to articulate their needs and participate confidently in decision-making. This targeted support will help women take on greater roles within community organisations, ensuring their voices are integral to stewardship design and other initiatives.
• Training programmes will be designed to include women and marginalised groups, providing them with access to skills development and pathways to employment or entrepreneurial ventures. By diversifying income sources and strengthening local economies, the project aims to support sustainable and inclusive development.

These actions create an environment in which all individuals, regardless of gender or social background, can meaningfully participate and benefit. Ultimately, this inclusive approach will create a foundation for community-driven conservation and sustainable development in Madagascar, setting an example for equitable and effective biodiversity stewardship.

Q18. Change expected

Detail the expected changes and benefits 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.

Biodiversity
The project will establish stewardship agreements enabling 1,000 farmers to receive training and resources for sustainable forest management within the TAPA buffer zone. By incentivising regenerative agriculture, the project will prevent encroachment into forests and encourage reforestation of 800 hectares, expanding high-altitude rainforest habitat for eleven endangered lemur species.

This enhanced habitat will support lemurs and other unique species, preserving biodiversity at a critical ecological site. The approach aims to sequester 100,000 tonnes of carbon in soils and vegetation over thirty years, reducing emissions and improving soil health. Sustainable practices will promote carbon sequestration, rehabilitate soils and watersheds, and train farmers in climate-smart agriculture to build resilience against extreme weather.

Multidimensional Poverty Reduction
In the short term, farmers and their families will see direct improvements in food security and nutrition from increased crop productivity,and diversity, thanks to agroecological training and better crop management. Improved yields in both subsistence and cash crops will directly increase household income, raising living standards. By the end of the project, households will also gain the option to invest income from the stewardship

scheme in community-defined priorities, such as healthcare, education, or shared agricultural equipment, empowering them to enhance local resilience further. Long-term poverty reduction will come from the sustained economic benefits of regenerative agriculture, which will reduce input costs, stabilise income, and protect livelihoods against climate volatility. The focus on community-owned resources and decisions, including cooperatives and equipment for shared use, will promote inclusive economic development, especially for women and underrepresented groups. Inclusive governance will ensure that the benefits from natural resources are shared equitably, with an estimated 1,000 households gaining a greater voice in local resource management.
Beneficiaries
• 10 community associations (VOIs) will enhance their capacity to manage local natural resources and protect communities.
• 30 inclusive training and consultation workshops (three in each VOI), targeting 500 community members, to: 1) Build understanding of the stewardship scheme and discuss options, rewards, and verification requirements. 2) Discuss and agree on appropriate scheme methodologies. 3) Identify up to 20 stewardship options, funding levels, and contract time frames.
• 1,000 farmers will adopt nature-positive management practices, gaining knowledge, visual resources, and skills for sustainable ecosystem management.
• By the end of the project, structures will be in place to allow 2,000 households within the 14,500 TAPA buffer zone will be able to apply for an environmental stewardship agreement.
• A minimum of 100 Malagasy students have been trained in biodiversity, ecosystem service and poverty reduction monitoring techniques building in-country capacity for the development of further stewardship schemes elsewhere in the country.

The project promotes gender equality and inclusion by providing literacy and leadership training, empowering women to engage in stewardship. Adapted schedules ensure equitable access. It aims to sustainably manage forests, benefiting conservation, climate mitigation, and communities, while scaling efforts attract impact-first investors to support natural capital restoration.

Q19. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change.

This project empowers local farmers to become stewards of Madagascar's high-altitude forests by equipping them with sustainable practices (Output 1), fostering environmentally friendly land management. A collaboratively designed stewardship scheme (Output 2) ensures local ownership and addresses community needs.
A sustainable funding mechanism (Output 3), including the sale of biodiversity credits, incentivises farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices by making it more beneficial than continuing with unsustainable methods. This makes forest conservation economically advantageous and sustainable in the long term, preserving its value intact or restored.
A robust monitoring system (Output 4) tracks progress, ensuring an investment-ready scheme (Outcome) for scaling in other regions. Ultimately, this approach will lead to sustainable forest management and enhanced community well-being, securing biodiversity and mitigating climate change impacts.
In the long term (Impact), the scheme will sustainably manage vital forests, leveraging credits from the Stewardship scheme to make sustainable practices more beneficial than destructive methods. This ensures ongoing forest preservation and community prosperity for future generations.

Q20. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q20a. 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?

During the project, we will strengthen community associations (VOIs) and local partners in stewardship and regenerative agriculture, embedding these practices into daily routines to ensure lasting impact. Training will be

participatory, blending theory with hands-on practice, and materials will be co-developed and retained by communities for ongoing use and adaptation.
Partnerships with local agricultural services and research institutions will ensure continued support, knowledge-sharing, and updates for farmers and communities. A “train-the-trainer” model will empower local trainers to sustain knowledge transfer, reducing reliance on external expertise.
Project data, including ecological, agricultural, and socio-economic outcomes, will be compiled into an accessible online portal and shared with NGOs, government agencies, and research bodies. Documentation, case studies, and technical reports will also be publicly available to promote transparency and facilitate replication. These strategies will ensure the project’s benefits are sustained and accessible for scaling and adaptation.

Q20b. 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?

Our approach has significant potential for scaling through landscape replication, capacitation, and system change. By demonstrating successful stewardship agreements and regenerative agriculture, we create a replicable model adaptable to other biodiverse regions in Madagascar. Capacitation efforts: training local communities, VOIs, and students, build a foundation of Malagasy expertise to support long-term biodiversity and agroecological monitoring.
To facilitate system change, we will engage with local stakeholders to integrate locally managed stewardship into regional conservation and development frameworks. Barriers like funding constraints can be mitigated by transitioning to impact investments and environmental credits, while capacity differences will be addressed by creating a standardised training curriculum for broader community application. This approach enables sustainable, community-led conservation efforts, reduces poverty, and enhances climate resilience, making it a scalable model for Madagascar’s unique ecosystems and elsewhere.

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

References-merged
29/11/2024
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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q21. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 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, two Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk

Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated). Mismanagement of funds by local partners due to lack of capacity or oversight mechanisms	High	Medium	High	Conduct financial training, implement robust monitoring, and use third-party audits. Establish clear fund disbursement protocols and performance-based funding agreements.	Medium
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. Exploitation or abuse of vulnerable community members by project staff or external stakeholders.	High	Low	Medium	Ensure the safeguarding policy is actively adhered to by staff and implemented by partners. Conduct periodic audits, provide regular training, and maintain anonymous reporting channels.	Low
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. Inexperienced students on the field schools at risk of injury and illness	Low	Medium	Medium	All field school activities are fully risk-assessed by experienced staff from Sadabe and UWE. Full H&S training provided on site.	Low
Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model Delays in delivery of project inputs (e.g., seeds, tools) to communities due to logistical challenges.	Medium	Medium	Medium	Develop a robust supply chain plan, pre-identify alternative suppliers, and establish agreements with local providers to mitigate delays.	Low
Risk 5 Financial Risk: Difficulty in securing long-term investment, leading to funding gaps and project delays	High	Medium	High	Diversify funding sources, demonstrate proof of concept through pilot programmes, and maintain transparent communication with potential investors	Medium
Risk 6 Technological Risk: Blockchain-enabled systems face technical adoption challenges or data integrity issues	Medium	Low	Medium	Partner with technical experts, provide training to all stakeholders, and develop contingency plans to address technical failures or adoption resistance.	Low

Risk 7 Social Risk: Resistance from community members to adopt agroforestry due to cultural or economic concerns	Medium	Medium	Medium	Conduct participatory consultations, offer incentives, and engage trusted community leaders to advocate for agroforestry benefits	Low

Q22. 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.

Yes, there are sensitivities related to the publication of detailed species location data, which could increase threats to vulnerable species from poaching or illegal activities. Additionally, sharing information on community-based conservation efforts could unintentionally expose local communities to risk, especially in regions with ongoing political or social instability. To mitigate these risks, sensitive data will be shared only with trusted partners and stakeholders, and appropriate safeguards will be put in place to ensure the security of both staff and community members involved in the project.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q23. Workplan

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

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the performance 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 M&E process is fully integrated into the project's activities, emphasizing the measurement of both positive and negative impacts to ensure alignment with the overarching goals of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and community wellbeing.
M&E will be overseen by the Project Manager (PM) and supported by the M&E Officer and technical experts.

Together, they will ensure the effective implementation of the M&E framework, which includes data collection, analysis, and reporting. Data will be collected through a range of methods, including field visits, household surveys, drone-based monitoring, and bioacoustic surveys.
This project adopts an adaptive management approach, using M&E findings to guide decision-making and refine activities as needed. Regular reviews of data on key performance indicators (KPIs) for biodiversity, climate resilience, and community wellbeing will inform necessary adjustments to ensure the project's objectives are achieved. Stakeholders, including local communities, project partners, and funders, will be regularly engaged in the review process to promote transparency and accountability.

M&E Framework
The M&E framework is designed to measure the following:

• Biodiversity Indicators: Forest cover, species diversity, and carbon sequestration will be tracked using drone-based surveys and bioacoustic monitoring.
• Community Wellbeing Indicators: Household surveys and focus groups will assess improvements in livelihoods, food security, and income, as well as perceptions of wellbeing and empowerment.
• Deforestation and Restoration Metrics: Forest cover changes will be monitored through drone imagery and Global Forest Watch data, evaluating the impact of reforestation and land restoration efforts.
• Data collection will also focus on project outputs, such as the number of farmer training sessions conducted, community committees established, and impact investment contracts signed. All data will be stored in an online database, updated regularly for efficient access and analysis.

Frequency and Reporting
Quarterly Reports: Provide detailed insights into biodiversity and community wellbeing outcomes, ensuring regular progress updates for stakeholders.
Annual Reports: Present comprehensive performance evaluations, including lessons learned and adaptive changes made to the project.
Budget and Effort
The total budget for M&E activities is approximately [redacted] covering costs such as data collection tools, analytical software, and capacity-building initiatives. The project also dedicates approximately 1,573 person-days to M&E over the five-year duration, allocated as follows:

7% of two MEAL advisors' time (36.4 person-days annually, totalling 182 days).
100% of the Project and MEAL Manager's time (260 person-days annually, totalling 1,300 days).
7% of the MEAL Officer's time (18.2 person-days annually, totalling 91 days).
This structured approach to M&E ensures that project activities are effectively tracked and assessed, with findings feeding directly into management decisions. By integrating M&E into the project's lifecycle, the initiative ensures that outcomes are measured, negative impacts are mitigated, and successes are built upon, fostering sustained biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and community empowerment.

Total project budget for M&E (£) **(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**	[redacted]
Total project budget for M&E (%) **(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**	[redacted]
Number of days planned for M&E	1,573

Section 10 - Logical Framework & Standard Indicators

Q25a. 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.

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Impact:

Madagascar's unique high-altitude forests and adjacent agricultural lands are sustainably and locally stewarded with resultant improvements in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem function and services, climate change mitigation and community wellbeing.

Outcome:

A locally-owned Environmental Stewardship Scheme, funded by the sale of ecosystem credits, improves biodiversity, climate resilience and community wellbeing (increased income and access to resources and services) in TAPA.

Project Outputs
Output 1: At least 800 smallholder farmers within TAPA benefit from implementing suitable regenerative agricultural and land management techniques
Output 2: An environmental stewardship scheme, which actively engages communities in the decision-making processes is coproduced.
Output 3: A sustainable funding mechanism for the Stewardship Scheme is developed.
Output 4: Robust systems are created to monitor and evaluate the impact of the stewardship scheme on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem service provision and poverty reduction.
Output 5: Project management systems support effective implementation and community engagement

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.

Project management, monitoring & evaluation:
0.1 Formation of Project Management Committee and development of policies, code of conduct, ethical practices and processes
0.2 New staff are recruited.
0.3 Operational Project Management Team (PMT), which represents all project partners, meets monthly.
0.4 PMT develops and enacts a Project Implementation and Monitoring Plan (PIMP), which encompasses the design, delivery and communication of project activities, timely reporting and administration by all partners.
0.5 Biannual reviews of skills and capabilities of project staff and community leaders identify areas of good practice as well as weaknesses/difficulties that could impact their ability to support effective project delivery. Training needs are identified and delivered.
0.6 Quarterly consultation meetings held between representatives from the PMT and the wider TAPA community. Regular review and adaptation of the project approach to ensure it aligns with community realities (including experiences of most vulnerable groups) and responds to their feedback.
0.7 In-country workshop with all project partners, community representatives, funders and external contributors to define the scope for refining the methodology further and expanding the stewardship scheme beyond the project site.
0.8 Regular assessment of risks and development of rapid adaptive management measures

Project activities to deliver outputs:
1.1 Analysis and evaluation of the impact, the yield, the nutritional and financial value of current traditional agricultural techniques compared to novel agro-ecological practices amongst the TAPA farmers through the review of MfM situational analysis, literature review and via community consultations with adequate gender participation.
1.2 Design of inclusive training (i.e. considering appropriate literacy levels, language, times and locations) on regenerative agriculture and key GESI principles.
1.3 Monthly training workshops and field demonstrations on basic regenerative practices including five key climate-smart agriculture techniques and on key GESI principles at the 12 TAPA centres (2 Sadabe main centres and 10 VOI centres) for 1000 farmers.
1.4 Farm visits from Sadabe's agricultural technicians offer support and advice on the effective implementation of regenerative agricultural techniques on a minimum of 200 farms.
1.5 Annual review of the training curriculum to update and include novel techniques and to ensure adapted gender equality and social inclusion. Refresher training of delivery staff.
1.6 Train and support inclusive Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) in each VOI to serve as 'base groups' for stewardship activities.
1.7 Via a community-led process, select 300 appropriate 'champion farmers' from the VSLAs who will receive personalised training and support on their land which enables them to implement and demonstrate dynamic agroforestry (DAF). Ongoing support and advice is provided by Sadabe agricultural advisors.
1.8 Monthly community-led peer learning sessions amongst 'champion farmers' are facilitated. Champion farmers each influence and support, on average, 1-2 community members. This leads to a further 500 households adopting DAF and other regenerative agricultural techniques.
1.9 Create 'green enterprise spaces' at 2 Sadabe training centres, which can be offered to entrepreneurs living within the 10 VOIs to trial their novel value-added agricultural and NTFP products (e.g. essential oils, sweet potato flour, soap, tofu), and explore potential markets for surplus goods.
1.10 Conduct market research to identify potential buyers for most significant value-added products developed in the green enterprise spaces.
1.11 Training provided to VSLA groups in each VOI on simple techniques to add value to basic agricultural produce from the regenerative agricultural practices, as well as provision of access to essential resources (tools, materials, information)
1.12 Annual networking events and product showcases to bring together potential buyers with producers and their products, as well as relevant supporting institutions, and to identify buyers for value- added products.
2.1 Training for Money for Madagascar, Sadabe, VOI and regional governmental (DREDD) representatives in developing environmental scheme methodologies and options, drawing on lessons learned from the

Sharamentsa model.
2.2 A workshop, facilitated by MfM and Regen Network, identifies the training resources and consultation schedules required for farmers to be adequately trained in principles of stewardship and stewardship options. The workshop outputs outline the structure and delivery of training and consultation activities which will enable genuine community co-production of environmental stewardship scheme.

2.3 Provide training to workshop facilitators and trainers from Sadabe on gender-sensitive and inclusive facilitation techniques to encourage participation and voice opinions from all.

2.4 Community consultations and focus groups in each of the 10 VOIs to explain the stewardship concept, to build understanding of the proposed environmental stewardship scheme, to enable equitable discussion of scheme options and rewards and allow opportunity for initial feedback on the stewardship scheme

2.5 A series of community workshops, which demonstrate GESI-responsiveness, are held to co-develop a menu of environmental stewardship options. For each option, the requisite funding levels and length of required stewardship contract is identified.

2.6 Stewardship options identified in the community workshops are published in a draft stewardship manual. The manual is peer-reviewed by the 300 champion farmers who are informed by their experiences in implementing agroecological practices. Feedback and preferences are collated and used to create the final version of the options manual.

2.7 Local stewardship scheme management committees are created within each VOI, ensuring the representation of diverse voices. Responsibilities for managing local stewardship agreements and training needs are identified and delivered.

2.8 Demonstrations of how stewardship options and agreements can be implemented are provided by initiating restoration and reforestation activities across 800 hectares of the buffer zone. These provide opportunities for action-oriented learning for local management committees and communities/VOIs.

2.9 Examples of legal agreements for stewardship, including those used in the Sharamentsa model, are reviewed. Project-specific contract templates are designed, drafted and peer-reviewed via an expert panel accessed via Regen Network. This enables the development of robust, transparent and accessible legal agreements determining responsibilities of scheme managers and farmers, as well as detailing the durations of activities and monitoring responsibilities.

2.10 Implementation of a societally inclusive feedback mechanism that enables iterative improvements of the stewardship scheme design.

2.11 The results of the trial, and lessons learned, are shared with regional and national stakeholders and authorities. Enables direct input into national-level advice on compensation mechanisms.

2.12 Regular updates to impact investors, government and community members provided via online media releases.

3.1 In-depth market research with a minimum of five potential investors conducted by Regen Network, who are market leaders in the development of environmental credit scheme, to determine requirements for investment.

3.2 Review and adaptation of Regen Network's existing legal agreements, which determine the responsibilities of scheme managers and investors. Activities undertaken in collaboration with Sadabe and UWE as initial investor.
.
3.3 Baseline evaluation of land use and value of ecosystem service provision across a total of 800 hectares of

land in the TAPA buffer zone which has already been identified as available for habitat restoration and regenerative agricultural practices.

3.4 The identified impact investor (UWE) makes catalytic impact-first investment to initiate habitat restoration and regenerative agricultural practices on 800 hectares of land within the TAPA buffer zone.

3.5 Production of draft stewardship scheme investment methodology.

3.6 Internal and external reviews of stewardship scheme methodology undertaken, includes consultation with at least one initial investor (UWE).

3.7 Project registration and setup in the Regen Ledger creates metadata, collects and stores documentation, compiles material for project page. Mint credits to be sold to investors.

3.8 Global market promotion and initial sales of credits to investors.

4.1 A one-day online workshop is held to review verification methods currently used in other schemes and pilot data already produced by UWE and UA (University of Antananarivo). From this, an options paper detailing methods for verifying the actions and outcomes undertaken in the TAPA stewardship scheme is produced which guides subsequent creation of monitoring framework.

4.2 Testing and validation of suite of in-field metrics for use by farmers, VOIs and Sadabe to verify that management actions have been undertaken.

4.3 Acquisition, analysis and ground-truthing of remotely sensed environmental data (satellite, drone and bioacoustic). Results allow for a robust and repeatable method for verifying changes in carbon and biodiversity values.

4.4 Socio-economic survey methods are designed, trialled and, through feedback, modified so as to provide reliable data on household food production, land use, economic activity and education within each VOI. GESI is an integral element of data collected.

4.5 Socio-economic data are collected using methods developed in activity 4.4.

4.6 Each year, a minimum of twenty University of Antananarivo (UA) students and local community members trained in environmental and socio-economic surveys methods.
4.7 Online monitoring data repository developed and populated with data required to monitor KPIs of environmental stewardship agreements.

4.8 Outcome-verification data (i.e. impacts on biodiversity, carbon and poverty alleviation) are combined with action-verification data (i.e. inventories of stewardship tasks undertaken) to provide clear analyses of actions and outputs of stewardship scheme which can be reported back to funders.

4.9 Academic modules are created to enable collaborative provision between UA and UWE. Students enrolled on courses at both institutions are taught about the functioning and monitoring of the stewardship scheme so that UA students have the knowledge and capacity to design and deliver ecosystem assessment surveys in other areas of Madagascar, and UWE students can advocate for greater financial input from UK institutions to support environmental stewardship

Q25b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
DI-D01a: Area under Sustainable Management Practices	Outcome indicator 0.3 and Output indicator 1.1	560	*No Response*
DI-D01b: Area improved through restoration	Outcome indicator 0.3 and output indicator 1.2	240	100% indigenous species restoration
DI-D03: Number of people with enhanced livelihoods	Output 1/ indicators 1.2 and 1.3	800	400 women 160 representing other marginalised groups
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
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No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

If you cannot identify three Standard Indicators you can report against, please justify this here.

No Response

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q26. 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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Q27. 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.

Q27a. 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 builds on existing activities in TAPA, including community-driven reforestation efforts led by Sadabe and agroforestry initiatives informed by MfM's situational analysis. Sadabe has developed a reforestation plan covering 1,600 hectares in collaboration with local communities, integrating traditional knowledge and dynamic agroforestry to improve soil health and diversify livelihoods. This project would enable plan implementation and deliver finance to fulfil TAPA sustainable land management requirements.

This project also leverages findings from UWE research, demonstrating the potential of such initiatives to sequester carbon and expand habitats for lemurs and other endemic species. Additionally, it incorporates biodiversity stewardship models developed by the Regen Development Network, whose proven success in biodiversity credit schemes informs our methodology.

By aligning with national priorities outlined in Madagascar's Biodiversity Action Plan and leveraging global insights into biodiversity finance, this project represents a natural evolution of prior activities, scaling up impact while addressing key gaps such as sustainable financing, technical capacity-building, and community-led governance.

Q27b. 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.

Sadabe and other stakeholders are engaged in reforestation and conservation in TAPA. However, this project is complementary, focusing on scalable financing mechanisms, such as biodiversity credits, and integrating climate-smart agriculture with conservation.

Unlike existing initiatives, our work incorporates a stewardship scheme designed to ensure long-term financial sustainability and community ownership. We will collaborate with existing stakeholders, ensuring alignment and mutual benefit by sharing lessons learned, leveraging complementary strengths, and avoiding duplication. Regular coordination meetings and shared monitoring frameworks will reinforce synergies, ensuring a cohesive approach to biodiversity conservation and community development.

Q28. 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 delivers strong value for money by maximising impact spent through an integrated approach that combines environmental conservation, economic resilience, and social equity.

We will leverage local resources and partnerships to minimize costs, sourcing materials and expertise locally

whenever possible to support the economy and reduce overheads. Additionally, the project capitalises on existing community networks, reducing the need for new infrastructure.

The project's model of training community members and local students to monitor biodiversity and implement climate-smart practices ensures that skills and knowledge remain within the community, creating lasting impacts with minimal recurring costs. By building the capacity of local organisations, we reduce reliance on external support over time, enhancing self-sufficiency.

Our approach directly supports biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and poverty reduction, addressing these interconnected challenges through agroecological training, stewardship agreements, and resource management. Clear, measurable targets allow us to demonstrate progress and adapt for maximum impact.

The project prioritises inclusivity, engaging vulnerable groups, particularly women and low-income farmers, by creating accessible training and resources to help them achieve equitable outcomes. This focus on marginalised groups promotes fair benefit distribution, empowering them to be environmental stewards and economic contributors.

Overall, this project represents the best feasible use of funds by combining conservation with social and economic benefits, ensuring that both biodiversity and local communities thrive long-term.

Q29. 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.

Upon completion of the project, all capital items purchased with Darwin Initiative funding will remain with the implementing partners, MfM and Sadabe. This will ensure the continued sustainability of the project activities, supporting the long-term impact of the MfM's Resilient Forests and Livelihoods Programme beyond the five-year timeframe.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q30. 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 operation.

Please outline how your project will ensure:

(a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how they can 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 also meet these standards and policies.

Indicate which minimum standard protocol your project follows and how you meet those minimum standards, i.e. CAPSEAH, CHS, IASC MOS-PSEA. If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans to address this.

(a) Awareness of Safeguarding Commitment and Reporting Mechanisms
Our safeguarding policy is shared with staff, implementing partners, and beneficiaries through onboarding sessions, accessible materials (e.g., posters, leaflets), and community briefings. Confidential reporting mechanisms include an anonymous hotline and email managed by a designated safeguarding focal point. Clear guidance on raising concerns is provided, ensuring inclusivity through translation and advocacy support where needed.
(b) Investigations, Records, and Disciplinary Procedures
All concerns are promptly investigated by trained safeguarding personnel, following principles of confidentiality, impartiality, and respect. Cases are recorded in a secure system, accessible only to authorized staff. Disciplinary actions, when allegations are upheld, range from warnings to contract termination, with serious cases referred to legal authorities in line with national and international law.
(c) Ensuring Partner Compliance
Implementing partners are required to meet or exceed our safeguarding standards as part of due diligence. This is enforced through safeguarding clauses in contracts, training workshops, and compliance monitoring.
Minimum Standards
Our project aligns with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and the IASC Minimum Operating Standards for PSEA (MOS-PSEA), ensuring accountability, robust complaint-handling systems, and a survivor-centred approach to addressing safeguarding issues.
We are committed to continuous improvement, including expanding staff and partner training, strengthening feedback mechanisms, and conducting annual policy reviews to ensure safeguarding practices remain effective and up to date.

Defra recommend you appoint a safeguarding focal point to ensure the project's PSEAH work is taken forward. This can be a separate member of staff or a current member of staff who spends a proportionate amount of time for safeguarding and PSEAH activities. Please name this individual here - this person should also be included in your overall staff list at Q33 and in your budget.

[redacted]

Q31. Ethics

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

Our project is committed to upholding the highest standards of ethical practice, ensuring compliance with all legal and ethical obligations across participating countries and organisations. We follow international best practices for sharing benefits from the use of resources and traditional knowledge.
We prioritise strong leadership and active participation from Malagasy communities and local organisations, ensuring their perspectives and knowledge are integrated throughout the project to enhance the well-being of those directly impacted. Traditional knowledge is valued alongside international scientific methods to achieve a balanced, culturally sensitive approach.
The rights, privacy, and safety of all individuals impacted by the project are paramount. Our safeguarding policy provides a safe environment for all beneficiaries, staff, and partners, with clear procedures for reporting and addressing safeguarding concerns. The project follows the principles of Prior Informed Consent (PIC), ensuring communities understand and agree to the use of their knowledge and resources.
We are committed to transparency and credibility, adopting an open-source approach to share information and providing inclusive training for local communities. These measures ensure ethical, inclusive, and impactful outcomes for all those engaged in or affected by the project.

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q32. 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 and attach details of any advice you have received from them. Please note that some embassies or high commissions may not be able to respond to you but your project will not be penalised for a lack of response.

⦿ Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

support letter MfM Nov 2024 UK Embassy
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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q33. 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?
Christiane Randrianarisoa	**Project Leader**	11	Checked
Lovanianina Raoalinoro	CEO + Safeguarding Lead	2	Checked
Tovonanahary Rasolofoharivelo	Head of Operations	2	Checked
Lou Such	Head of Project Partnerships and Donor Relations	2	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⦿ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Riana Andrisoa Hary	Co Head of Programmes and Meal	7	Checked
Mark Steer	Principle Scientist	6	Checked
Pete Maxfield	Drone Specialist	4	Checked
Jean Luc Raharison Fanomezantsoa	Executive Director	68	Checked

Joe Tahina Rasamoelinarivo	Project Lead	68	Checked
Ned Horning	Principle Scientist, Lead Development	7	Checked
Rebecca Harman	Partnerships and Grants Manager	4	Checked
Tica Lubin	Registry Programme Operator	5	Checked

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

Combined CVs
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pdf 940.19 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

⦿ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q34. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Organisation 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 Organisation name:	Money for Madagascar
Website address:	https://moneyformadagascar.org/
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	MfM is the lead organisation for this project due to its deep-rooted presence in Madagascar and its proven track record in implementing community-led development initiatives. MfM brings significant expertise in managing complex, multi-stakeholder projects that address both environmental and social outcomes. As the lead, MfM will oversee overall project delivery, ensuring high-quality implementation, financial management, donor reporting, and adherence to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) principles. MfM's capacity includes strong governance systems, experienced project management staff, and robust local partnerships, which will be crucial for coordinating activities across different work packages. MfM's experience in environmental stewardship and community engagement ensures effective communication with local stakeholders and leadership in capacity-building efforts.
International/In-country Partner:	⦿ International

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 Organisation?	⦿ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⦿ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Sadabe
Website address:	https://sadabe.org/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Sadabe is a Malagasy organisation focused on sustainable community development and conservation. Their expertise in conservation and land restoration, as well as their strong relationships with local communities, make them a key partner in this project. MfM and Sadabe have worked together for 2 years. Sadabe will co-lead the development and implementation of the environmental stewardship framework, including the community-driven design of the stewardship scheme. They will be responsible for conducting local consultations, facilitating community workshops, and ensuring that stewardship practices align with local needs and values. Sadabe will also oversee the implementation of the reforestation and agroforestry activities within the buffer zone, specifically managing the 1,600 hectares targeted for restoration. Sadabe has provided crucial input into the project's design, particularly in terms of understanding local conservation needs and ensuring that traditional knowledge is integrated into the project. They have also helped define the 1,600-hectare area for reforestation, drawing from their extensive experience in sustainable land management.
International/In-country Partner:	⦿ In-country
Allocated budget:	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	⦿ Yes

2. Partner Name:	University of West of England (UWE) + University of Antananarivo

Website address:	www.uwe.ac.uk
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	(Max 200 words) Both UWE and the University of Antananarivo bring academic and scientific expertise to the project, especially in the areas of environmental monitoring, data collection, and ecosystem service validation. UWE will develop and refine the monitoring and verification methods, including drone-based and bioacoustic surveys to measure environmental outcomes. The University of Antananarivo will play a key role in training Malagasy students and local stakeholders in ecosystem service monitoring and environmental validation, helping to build long-term local capacity for data collection and analysis. UWE has contributed to the project's design by providing evidence from their previous work on monitoring biodiversity and environmental health, which has shaped the verification and monitoring methodologies. UWE is also a potential impact investor in the project, recognising the opportunity to support the initiative financially. Their investment would not only contribute to the sustainability of the project but also align with their institutional commitment to environmental impact and responsible investment practices. This role further strengthens the project's financial foundation, ensuring that it has access to both academic expertise and dedicated funding for long-term success.
International/In-country Partner:	⊙ International
Allocated budget:	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	⊙ Yes

3. Partner Name:	Regen Network
Website address:	https://app.regen.network/

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Regen Network brings significant expertise in ecological finance and blockchain-based verification systems to the project. As an international leader in these fields, their value lies in their ability to develop and operationalise an environmental stewardship credit scheme tailored to the specific needs of the TAPA context. Their role in overseeing the creation, promotion, and launch of this scheme will ensure that it is transparent, accountable, and aligned with best practices for ecological contracting and crediting. Regen Network has a robust infrastructure, including a blockchain-enabled verification system that has been successfully employed in multiple international projects. Their proven capacity in ecological finance and commitment to empowering local communities with the tools for ecological management ensures they are a key partner in delivering the project's objectives.
International/In-country Partner:	⦿ International
Allocated budget:	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	⦿ Yes

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*
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

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.

Combined Support Letters
02/12/2024
15:35:33
pdf 5.86 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Organisation 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)?

⊙ No

If no, please provide the below information on the Lead Organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 1986
What is the legal status of your organisation?	⊙ NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	Money for Madagascar is primarily funded through a combination of private donations, grants, and fundraising campaigns. MfM receives support from individuals, trusts, foundations, and corporate partnerships. Additionally, MfM also benefits from specific project-based funding or government grants.

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

Aims	Money for Madagascar (MfM) works to reduce poverty and protect the environment through sustainable, community-led initiatives. Their mission focuses on improving livelihoods, education, and health, and promoting environmental conservation in Madagascar. MfM strives to empower local communities by supporting their development needs while ensuring long-term, sustainable change.
Activities	MfM implements projects in education, healthcare, water access, and reforestation. We build schools, provide essential services to communities, and promote sustainable agriculture. We also run projects in sustainable livelihoods and strengthening community resilience, particularly in rural and marginalised areas.
Achievements	MfM has directly supported over 19,000 beneficiaries, including 562 vulnerable children with essential care services. MfM has improved 90 schools with infrastructure, training, and resources. We have provided meals to 9,000 children, trained 6,000+ farmers in sustainable agriculture, and planted 37,500 trees for reforestation and land restoration.

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

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

Contract/Project 1 Title	Education for Life
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[redacted]

Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	From 2021 to present (3 years)
Role of organisation in project	MfM plays a central role in implementing the Education for Life programme, providing critical funding, resources, and expertise. We work closely with local communities, parents, teachers, and community leaders to ensure the sustainability of the educational initiatives.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The Education for Life programme in rural Madagascar aims to improve educational access, quality, and outcomes by addressing key barriers to learning and well-being. The project enhances teaching through tailored training and resource libraries stocked with books, teaching aids, and where possible, solar-powered tools. To support student success and focus, it provides nutritious school lunches and empowers parents to aid their children's education through literacy classes, income-generating activities, and organic farming. Improved school facilities including fresh water access, clean latrines, and kitchen gardens, promote attendance by fostering good hygiene, nutrition, and a healthy learning environment.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Emma Johnson, Adsum Foundation [redacted]

Contract/Project 2 Title	Solar United Madagascar
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[redacted]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	From July 2022 to present (2 years, 4 months)
Role of organisation in project	MfM leads digital learning in the Solar United project, implementing solar Light Libraries and providing solar-powered educational resources to rural students. MfM ensures access to sustainable learning materials while supporting the installation and management of solar energy infrastructure at schools, promoting modern education and renewable energy solutions.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The Solar United Madagascar project aims to provide affordable solar energy solutions to rural Malagasy communities, with a focus on improving educational outcomes through off-grid energy access. The project aims to enhance education, reduce reliance on harmful fuels, and support sustainable energy practices by providing solar lighting, digital learning tools, and solar cooking solutions.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Aeonian Foundation [redacted]

Contract/Project 3 Title	Resilient Forests and Livelihoods
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[redacted]

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	From 2021 to present (3 years)
Role of organisation in project	MfM leads the Resilient Forests and Livelihoods Project by empowering forest-reliant communities to adopt sustainable practices and restore ecosystems. Through partnerships with NGOs, researchers, and funders, MfM combines conservation and development, focusing on reforestation, climate resilience, and nature-based solutions to ensure biodiversity preservation and community sustainability.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The project empowers Malagasy farming communities through needs-driven consultations, capacity-building, and education in financial literacy and climate-smart agriculture. It establishes sustainable initiatives like revolving seed loans and community savings groups to bolster livelihoods and reduce forest dependency. Conservation goals include forest restoration, dynamic agroforestry, and renewable energy promotion. Farmers gain access to sustainable income sources, improved markets, and land security to decrease environmental degradation. Collaborations with local stakeholders create social contracts to harmonize human and environmental needs. The project fosters nutritional education and health awareness, aiming for resilient communities, enhanced biodiversity, and a sustainable future for Madagascar's ecosystems.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Rainer Dolch [redacted]

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

⊙ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

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

Money for Madagascar

I apply for a grant of

£792,619.00

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	Lovaniaina Rasoalinoro
Position in the organisation	Chief Executive Officer
Signature (please upload e-signature)	LR scanned signature 02/12/2024 15:26:22 jpg 12.46 KB
Date	02 December 2024

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

Accounts Merged
02/12/2024
10:04:33
pdf 1.01 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF. Optionally you can also upload your Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan here.

Policies Merged
02/12/2024
09:58:14
pdf 366.24 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

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

The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual **(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).**	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: **• a cover letter from the Lead Organisation**	Checked
• **a completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".**	Checked
• **a budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.**	Checked
• **a completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a copy of the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 30).**	Checked
• **a copy of the Lead Organisation's** Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan **(Question 30)**	Unchecked
• **1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 33, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.**	Checked
• **a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 34, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.**	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
The 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 Biodiversity Challenge Funds. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our regular 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 organisation, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Locally Led Environmental Stewardship to Protect Madagascar's Forests and Communities

Project Summary	SMART Indicators (including disaggregated targets)	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Madagascar's unique high-altitude forests and adjacent agricultural lands are sustainably and locally stewarded with resultant improvements in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem function and services, climate change mitigation and community wellbeing. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: A locally-owned Environmental Stewardship Scheme, funded by the sale of ecosystem credits, improves biodiversity, climate resilience and community wellbeing (increased income and access to resources and services) in TAPA. (Max 30 words)	By March 2030: 0.1 An environmental stewardship scheme has been co-produced and published by community groups and Sadabe. The scheme details different land management options; rewards that land users can receive for their implementation and how the scheme can be managed in a transparent and equitable manner.	0.1.1 The details of the stewardship scheme options, rewards and agreements have been published. 0.1.2 High integrity ecosystem credits, underpinned by solid legal agreements and verification methodologies are available for purchase to global customers. 0.1.3 The implementation of stewardship agreements and management plans are being demonstrated across 800 hectares of the TAPA buffer zone.	• There is a functioning market for biodiversity and ecosystem credits. • The stewardship scheme can be developed and communicated in such a way as to allay possible concerns from credit buyers and other stakeholders about the efficacy and moral-basis of ecosystem credit schemes. • The initial impact investment will catalyse further purchasers to buy ecosystem credits. • Potential political, economic, or social instability at the national level

			will not have an overly negative impact on local ability to manage stewardship scheme in TAPA.
	0.2 The stewardship scheme has attracted at least one initial impact investment that underpins the demonstration of the stewardship scheme and, if continued, equates to an income of at least £1 million over 25 years.	0.2.1 Impact investment has been received from UWE or another investor with agreements for further investment beyond the timescale of the project.	• The stewardship scheme has the capacity to increase sense of wellbeing and empowerment for community members • Increasing frequency of natural hazards (e.g. cyclones and wildfires) will not cause extensive damage to stewardship-enabled crops and forests in the project area.
	0.3 Regenerative agricultural practices, forest restoration and reforestation have been implemented on a minimum of 800 hectares of degraded land throughout the TAPA buffer zone to provide tangible examples of the stewardship scheme options. These are providing tangible evidence of: a) active carbon sequestration (target: net sequestration of 3000 tonnes from 70% of target sites by 2030, which demonstrates activities are on course to directly sequester 100,000 tonnes by 2060) b) biodiversity enhancements (target: statistically significant shift in species assemblage towards forest related species of bird and	0.3.1 The results of robust and validated environmental survey techniques, which include analysis of drone-derived and bioacoustic data, demonstrate increase in native tree heights and forest species within targeted areas. Carbon monitoring data, derived from the surveys, combined with modelling, provides evidence for expected impact of restoration and reforestation on carbon sequestration and storage. 0.3.2 Community surveys and focus group meetings	• Remote sensing data such as the Global Forest Watch platform (https://www.globalforestwatch.org/) continues to provide high-resolution data to augment local data acquisition activities. • There is no significant human migration into the project area, which would put pressure on the remaining forest and restoration zones. • Implementation of restoration activities leads to an average long-term carbon sequestration of 125 tonnes per hectare.

	amphibian,at at least 70% of targeted sites).	provide evidence of increased agricultural productivity.	
		0.3.3 Numbers of local community members regularly engaging with 'green enterprise' spaces and developing new goods for market.	
	0.4 At least 1,000 individuals (50% women) report perceived increase in well-being and empowerment as defined by key BCF indicators.	0.4.1 Community surveys and focus group meetings provide evidence of increases in: the perceived security of livelihoods, the perceived certainty in the continued availability of natural resources, enhanced perception of collective action and cooperation, and enhanced access to credit markets.	
	By 2050:		
	0.5 Sustainable land management practices, initiated and enabled by stewardship agreements, are creating significant social and environmental	0.5.1 Monitoring and evaluation evidence, gathered routinely as part of the	

	gains throughout the 14,500-hectare TAPA buffer zone.	stewardship scheme clearly indicates social and environmental gains compared to the 2025 baseline.	
Outputs: **1. At least 800 smallholder farmers within TAPA benefit from implementing suitable regenerative agricultural and land management techniques**	1.1 By March 2027, 1000 farmers (50% women) have attended at least 85% of training sessions on key regenerative agricultural techniques. 1.2 By March 2030 a minimum of 800 households have successfully implemented at least 4 key regenerative agricultural practices and land management techniques on their land. They report experiencing increased income (target 5% increase compared to baseline- to be measured) and/or food security(at least 30% increase in dietary diversity score against baseline-to be measured) as a result of developing regenerative/climate smart agricultural practices.	1.1.1 Published curricula of 12 workshop sessions. 1.1.2 Records of training sessions and workshops attended by farmers on regenerative practices (Target: 1,000 farmers, target: 50% women) 1.2.1 Regular household surveys and community feedback sessions assess the adoption and results of regenerative agricultural practices. 1.2.2 On-site visits by Sadabe's agriculture advisory staff verify implementation of techniques.	• Smallholder farmers in the TAPA region will continue to be open and willing to adopt regenerative agricultural practices. • Training sessions and workshops are designed to be practical, relevant, and culturally appropriate, ensuring farmers can easily understand and implement the techniques and from this training, farmers retain and correctly apply the knowledge and skills gained from training sessions in their daily agricultural practices. • The climatic conditions in TAPA remain favourable for implementing regenerative agricultural practices without severe weather disruptions.

		1.2.3 Photos- before/after photos to show changes in farming practices and land use.	
	1.3 By March 2030, at least 40 households (4 from each VOI) are actively participating in novel income-generating activities, assisted by Sadabe's 'green enterprise spaces' **Current Baseline**: 260 households practising some regenerative agricultural techniques following training at Sadabe-run centres. These will become the project's 'champion farmers'. **Interim target:** 500 households by March 2027	1.3.1 Numbers of local community members engaged with 'green enterprise sites' and creating sustainable products for sale within and beyond the TAPA region.	
2. **An environmental stewardship scheme, which actively engages communities in the decision-**	2.1 By April 2026, at least 10 VOI-based Village Savings and	2.1.1 Meeting minutes and attendance records	• Continuous support and facilitation are provided by the

making processes is coproduced.	Loans Associations (VSLA) committees conduct monthly decision-making meetings for the environmental stewardship scheme. Target for female participation: 50% of committee members should be women. Target for vulnerable/excluded persons: 20% of committee members should represent vulnerable/excluded groups (e.g. youth, marginalised communities) 2.2 By April 2029, stewardship scheme options and associated payments have been determined and agreed by 10 VOI-based VSLA committees.	2.1.2 Records showing the establishment of each community led committee 2.1.3 Community feedback surveys to assess engagement and satisfaction in decision-making process 2.1.4 Facilitator reports detailing participation. 2.1.5 Photos showing the committee meetings and activities 2.2.1 Detailed descriptions of stewardship options and their allied payment rates have been published. 2.2.2 Feedback from community groups on draft options. 2.2.3 Training materials produced in multiple accessible formats,	partners to guide the decision-making processes and the development of stewardship options. • Local and national government policies continue to support community-led environmental stewardship initiatives. • The concept of environmental stewardship is culturally acceptable and aligns with local values and practices. • The allied payment rates for stewardship options are perceived as fair and sufficient to incentivise community participation. Economic benefits from the stewardship scheme outweigh any potential costs or losses for community members, encouraging sustained involvement.

		detailing the stewardship scheme options and rewards.	
	2.3 By March 2030, the scheme has been tested on 800 hectares of demonstration areas,and is ready to be rolled out to all land users in the 14,500 hectare TAPA buffer zone. **Current Baseline**: Sadabe has good relationships with all 10 VOIs which coincide with the TAPA buffer zone and have experience in providing training in sustainable agricultural techniques and novel financial mechanisms.	2.3.1 Stewardship Scheme contracts and agreements from each VOI showing options selected by participating households and agreed remuneration. 2.3.2 Template legal agreements between Sadabe, VOIs and individual land users are agreed.	
3. A sustainable funding mechanism for the Stewardship Scheme is developed.	3.1 By March 2027, contracts signed with at least one impact investor which demonstrate the transparent flow of finance from western organisations to TAPA to support ecosystem stewardship.	3.1.1 High-integrity, financial and reporting agreements have been developed.	• Discussions with previously identified impact investor (UWE) progress as expected and result in agreement for initial funding.

	3.2 By March 2030, the sale of ecosystem credits via the Regen Network's Ledger is a key part of a diversified funding portfolio with at least three different funding sources (e.g., grants, community contributions, and private sector investments). This is primed to secure sufficient support to enable sustained environmental stewardship across 14,500 hectares of land. **Current Baseline**: To our knowledge, there are no similar schemes currently running in Madagascar. Examples of successful, locally-managed ecosystem credit schemes from South America, developed in association with Regen Network, provide a lot of the underpinning knowledge and methods proposed in this project.	3.1.2 Funding agreements signed and delivered. 3.2.1 Fully validated ecosystem credits are for sale to a global audience via the Regen Ledger 3.2.2 Annual financial statements demonstrate the total funds secured and their sources.	• Impact investors and funding organisations are interested in and see value in investing in the Stewardship Scheme. • The terms and conditions of funding agreements are mutually agreeable to all parties involved. • The value and demand for ecosystem credits and other ecosystem services remain stable or increase.
4. Robust systems are created to monitor and evaluate the impact of the stewardship scheme on biodiversity	4.1 By April 2027, a draft Stewardship scheme Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) methodology	4.1.1 Draft M&E methodologies published outlining the KPIs.	• Pilot data from drone and bioacoustic surveys showing that these can provide effective

conservation, ecosystem service provision and poverty reduction.	has been developed and validated by academic partners, including key performance indicators (KPIs) for the stewardship scheme's outcomes for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem service provision and poverty reduction.	4.1.2 Records of meetings with stakeholders where the M&E framework was discussed and validated.	measures of environmental integrity are shown to be truly effective. • A core set of monitoring equipment can be maintained for the duration of the project without becoming damaged or irreparably faulty. • Students and staff can be provided with the necessary skills and training to effectively implement the M&E methods and populate the database. • Community members and project staff consistently provide accurate and timely data when required.
	4.2 By April 2028, an online M&E database is operational with at least 80% of monitoring data entered and regularly updated.	4.2.1 Online M&E database created and maintained by UWE and UA staff and students working in partnership. 4.2.2 Reports on the data being inputted.	
	4.3 By April 2029, annual M&E reports are shared with stakeholders and impact investors with documented evidence of data-driven decision-making in project implementation.	4.3.1 Annual M&E reports provided to funder(s), detailing KPIs on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem service provision and poverty reduction.	

	4.4. By April 2030, a minimum of 100 Malagasy students have received training in monitoring methodologies including the use of drone-based and bioacoustic analysis techniques. **Current Baseline**: UWE and University of Antananarivo (UA) have been developing and testing monitoring protocols in collaboration with Sadabe since 2016. A combination of remote-sensing technologies which include drone-derived photogrammetry and bioacoustics show great promise for providing a robust environmental reporting system. Socio-economic data is already regularly collected by anthropologists from UA and will form the basis of poverty reduction monitoring schemes.	4.4.1 Numbers of Malagasy students attending in-field training activities and contributing to the ongoing monitoring of the environmental outcomes created by the project, 4.4.2 Online training resources have been created by UWE and UA staff, based on the stewardship scheme monitoring methodology. These are forming the basis for developing jointly-delivered online accredited learning courses.	

Project Title: Locally Led Environmental Stewardship to Protect Madagascar's Forests and Communities

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

Project management, monitoring & evaluation:

0.1 Formation of Project Management Committee and development of policies, code of conduct, ethical practices and processes
0.2 New staff are recruited.
0.3 Operational Project Management Team (PMT), which represents all project partners, meets monthly.
0.4 PMT develops and enacts a Project Implementation and Monitoring Plan (PIMP), which encompasses the design, delivery and communication of project activities, timely reporting and administration by all partners.
0.5 Biannual reviews of skills and capabilities of project staff and community leaders identify areas of good practice as well as weaknesses/difficulties that could impact their ability to support effective project delivery. Training needs are identified and delivered.
0.6 Quarterly consultation meetings held between representatives from the PMT and the wider TAPA community. Regular review and adaptation of the project approach to ensure it aligns with community realities (including experiences of most vulnerable groups) and responds to their feedback.
0.7 In-country workshop with all project partners, community representatives, funders and external contributors to define the scope for refining the methodology further and expanding the stewardship scheme beyond the project site.
0.8 Regular assessment of risks and development of rapid adaptive management measures

Project activities to deliver outputs:

1.1 Analysis and evaluation of the impact, the yield, the nutritional and financial value of current traditional agricultural techniques compared to novel agro-ecological practices amongst the TAPA farmers through the review of MfM situational analysis, literature review and via community consultations with adequate gender participation.
1.2 Design of inclusive training (i.e. considering appropriate literacy levels, language, times and locations) on regenerative agriculture and key GESI principles.
1.3 Monthly training workshops and field demonstrations on basic regenerative practices including five key climate-smart agriculture techniques and on key GESI principles at the 12 TAPA centres (2 Sadabe main centres and 10 VOI centres) for 1000 farmers.
1.4 Farm visits from Sadabe's agricultural technicians offer support and advice on the effective implementation of regenerative agricultural techniques on a minimum of 200 farms.
1.5 Annual review of the training curriculum to update and include novel techniques and to ensure adapted gender equality and social inclusion. Refresher training of delivery staff.
1.6 Train and support inclusive Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) in each VOI to serve as 'base groups' for stewardship activities.

1.7 Via a community-led process, select 300 appropriate 'champion farmers' from the VSLAs who will receive personalised training and support on their land which enables them to implement and demonstrate dynamic agroforestry (DAF). Ongoing support and advice is provided by Sadabe agricultural advisors.

1.8 Monthly community-led peer learning sessions amongst 'champion farmers' are facilitated. Champion farmers each influence and support, on average, 1-2 community members. This leads to a further 500 households adopting DAF and other regenerative agricultural techniques.

1.9 Create 'green enterprise spaces' at 2 Sadabe training centres, which can be offered to entrepreneurs living within the 10 VOIs to trial their novel value-added agricultural and NTFP products (e.g. essential oils, sweet potato flour, soap, tofu), and explore potential markets for surplus goods.

1.10 Conduct market research to identify potential buyers for most significant value-added products developed in the green enterprise spaces.

1.11 Training provided to VSLA groups in each VOI on simple techniques to add value to basic agricultural produce from the regenerative agricultural practices, as well as provision of access to essential resources (tools, materials, information)

1.12 Annual networking events and product showcases to bring together potential buyers with producers and their products, as well as relevant supporting institutions, and to identify buyers for value- added products.

2.1 Training for Money for Madagascar, Sadabe, VOI and regional governmental (DREDD) representatives in developing environmental scheme methodologies and options, drawing on lessons learned from the Sharamentsa model.

2.2 A workshop, facilitated by MfM and Regen Network, identifies the training resources and consultation schedules required for farmers to be adequately trained in principles of stewardship and stewardship options. The workshop outputs outline the structure and delivery of training and consultation activities which will enable genuine community co-production of environmental stewardship scheme.

2.3 Provide training to workshop facilitators and trainers from Sadabe on gender-sensitive and inclusive facilitation techniques to encourage participation and voice opinions from all.

2.4 Community consultations and focus groups in each of the 10 VOIs to explain the stewardship concept, to build understanding of the proposed environmental stewardship scheme, to enable equitable discussion of scheme options and rewards and allow opportunity for initial feedback on the stewardship scheme

2.5 A series of community workshops, which demonstrate GESI-responsiveness, are held to co-develop a menu of environmental stewardship options. For each option, the requisite funding levels and length of required stewardship contract is identified.

2.6 Stewardship options identified in the community workshops are published in a draft stewardship manual. The manual is peer-reviewed by the 300 champion farmers who are informed by their experiences in implementing agroecological practices. Feedback and preferences are collated and used to create the final version of the options manual.

2.7 Local stewardship scheme management committees are created within each VOI, ensuring the representation of diverse voices. Responsibilities for managing local stewardship agreements and training needs are identified and delivered.

2.8 Demonstrations of how stewardship options and agreements can be implemented are provided by initiating restoration and reforestation activities across 800 hectares of the buffer zone. These provide opportunities for action-oriented learning for local management committees and communities/VOIs.

2.9 Examples of legal agreements for stewardship, including those used in the Sharamentsa model, are reviewed. Project-specific contract templates are designed, drafted and peer-reviewed via an expert panel accessed via Regen Network. This enables the development of robust, transparent and accessible legal agreements determining responsibilities of scheme managers and farmers, as well as detailing the durations of activities and monitoring responsibilities.

2.10 Implementation of a societally inclusive feedback mechanism that enables iterative improvements of the stewardship scheme design.

2.11 The results of the trial, and lessons learned, are shared with regional and national stakeholders and authorities. Enables direct input into national-level advice on compensation mechanisms.

2.12 Regular updates to impact investors, government and community members provided via online media releases.

3.1 In-depth market research with a minimum of five potential investors conducted by Regen Network, who are market leaders in the development of environmental credit scheme, to determine requirements for investment.

3.2 Review and adaptation of Regen Network's existing legal agreements, which determine the responsibilities of scheme managers and investors. Activities undertaken in collaboration with Sadabe and UWE as initial investor.

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3.3 Baseline evaluation of land use and value of ecosystem service provision across a total of 800 hectares of land in the TAPA buffer zone which has already been identified as available for habitat restoration and regenerative agricultural practices.

3.4 The identified impact investor (UWE) makes catalytic impact-first investment to initiate habitat restoration and regenerative agricultural practices on 800 hectares of land within the TAPA buffer zone.

3.5 Production of draft stewardship scheme investment methodology.

3.6 Internal and external reviews of stewardship scheme methodology undertaken, includes consultation with at least one initial investor (UWE).

3.7 Project registration and setup in the Regen Ledger creates metadata, collects and stores documentation, compiles material for project page. Mint credits to be sold to investors.

3.8 Global market promotion and initial sales of credits to investors.

4.1 A one-day online workshop is held to review verification methods currently used in other schemes and pilot data already produced by UWE and UA (University of Antananarivo). From this, an options paper detailing methods for verifying the actions and outcomes undertaken in the TAPA stewardship scheme is produced which guides subsequent creation of monitoring framework.

4.2 Testing and validation of suite of in-field metrics for use by farmers, VOIs and Sadabe to verify that management actions have been undertaken.

4.3 Acquisition, analysis and ground-truthing of remotely sensed environmental data (satellite, drone and bioacoustic). Results allow for a robust and repeatable method for verifying changes in carbon and biodiversity values.

4.4 Socio-economic survey methods are designed, trialled and, through feedback, modified so as to provide reliable data on household food production, land use, economic activity and education within each VOI. GESI is an integral element of data collected.

4.5 Socio-economic data are collected using methods developed in activity 4.4.

4.6 Each year, a minimum of twenty University of Antananarivo (UA) students and local community members trained in environmental and socio-economic surveys methods.

4.7 Online monitoring data repository developed and populated with data required to monitor KPIs of environmental stewardship agreements.

4.8 Outcome-verification data (i.e. impacts on biodiversity, carbon and poverty alleviation) are combined with action-verification data (i.e. inventories of stewardship tasks undertaken) to provide clear analyses of actions and outputs of stewardship scheme which can be reported back to funders.

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4.9 Academic modules are created to enable collaborative provision between UA and UWE. Students enrolled on courses at both institutions are taught about the functioning and monitoring of the stewardship scheme so that UA students have the knowledge and capacity to design and deliver ecosystem assessment surveys in other areas of Madagascar, and UWE students can advocate for greater financial input from UK institutions to support environmental stewardship