

Application form for Darwin Initiative Main Project Round 31 – Stage 2

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Please consider all personal information you are sharing with your application and remove if not necessary - this includes content of additional materials submitted in support of your application, such as CVs.

NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM WILL BE DEEMED INELIGIBLE. SUBMISSION MUST BE VIA FLEXI-GRANT - bcfs.flexigrant.com

Submit on [Flexi-Grant](#) by **23:59 GMT Monday 2nd December 2024**

Please read the guidance available on the [Darwin Initiative website](#) before completing this form.

Q1. Lead applicant contact details Notification of results will be to the lead applicant. Please also add contact details for the Project Leader if this is different from the lead applicant.	Lead Applicant: IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands Foundation (IUCN NL) Maartje Hilterman
Q2. Lead Organisation contact details This is the organisation that will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project.	Project Leader (if different): N/A in portal
Q3. Project title (Max 10 words) Indigenous Leadership for Biodiversity Protection in Philippines' Last Ecological Frontier	
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.

(Max 1,000 words)

1. The proposal has limited discussion on engagement with government authorities and major economic actors.

→ We have designed interventions that target these stakeholders and addressed this question in Q15. We also provide a short explanation here.

At the landscape level, the project partners have strong relations with relevant government authorities, including the provincial and municipal governments. We engage them via meetings, workshops and (multi-stakeholder) dialogues. We also work through government-created special bodies for CSO participation and engagement, such as the Provincial Development Council, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), Provincial Mining Regulatory Board and National Anti-Poverty Commission NGO Sectoral Council. Through these bodies, we voice the aspirations and concerns of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs), advocating for the protection of biodiversity and the rights of IP&LCs. This includes supporting the effective implementation of existing policies, plans, and standards designed to protect biodiversity and uphold the rights of IP&LCs.

At the national level, government engagement takes place through meetings, dialogues and collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, particularly the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) on the declaration of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs). We work with BMB in the realisation of the NBSAP 2024-2040, including the Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IPBSAP). We work with the Forest Management Bureau (FMB)-DENR, the agency that controls resource use permits. For the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP), we work with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

At the landscape level, we promote tripartite engagement among government, the extractive sector and civil society, which has proven to be an effective platform for dialogue and collaborative action. Our experience points to the importance of strengthening the enabling role of government institutions in putting into practice the existing legal and policy frameworks for biodiversity and community protection.

At the international level, we engage investors, financial institutions and progressive sectoral standard setting institutions like the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) to promote robust ESG standards in mineral supply chain policies and encourage companies to commit to deforestation-free nickel supply chains. We facilitate dialogue on ESG safeguards, compliance rules and demands related to resource extraction and provide local stakeholders with tailored information to support effective dialogue with Palawan authorities, mining companies and downstream buyers.

2. Greater understanding is required of the mechanisms through which Indigenous Peoples can engage in, and potentially shape, decisions affecting resource extraction activities within KBAs.

→ We have clarified this in our Theory of Change (see References annex [1]) and in Q19.

Our mutually reinforcing pathways for change (targeting both IP&LCs, government agencies and extractive companies) reinforce IPs power of influence, particularly through their right to Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). For example, in March–April 2024, Indigenous leaders and community members in Isugod, Quezon, Palawan, actively participated in discussions regarding proposed developments in their area, expressing their perspectives through community consultations and a petition that reflected their priorities for sustainable resource management and cultural heritage protection.

3. How are you building on past activities? What are the lessons learnt? What will you do differently and/or stop doing?

→ Our interventions/activities are built on new and progressive insight from running programmes (see Q27a). We have further addressed this question in Q15

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. More information is needed on the potential livelihood options and associated market chains.

→ We have addressed this in Q18.

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are vital to the livelihoods of IPs in the Philippines, particularly in Palawan. Traditional livelihoods from NTFPs include resources such as the high-value Almaciga resin (*A. dammara*), forest honey, rattan, and pandan leaves. Value addition is implemented to enhance the worth of these resources by improving quality through harvesting techniques, classification, processing, design, functionality/usability and by ensuring direct links to markets. The sustainable use and management of NTFPs, alongside agroforestry development, not only boosts income and improves food security for IPs but also fosters their commitment to forest conservation and protection.

6. The logframe should be strengthened.

→ We have strengthened the logframe to include SMART and context-specific indicators, baselines, targets and temporal bounds.

7. Please consider the language and approach of what the word 'lobbying' means.

→ Our approach focuses on constructive engagement, evidence-based advocacy, information sharing and dialogue with stakeholders. Lobbying activities are not part of our intervention strategy.

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.

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. Please note that this wording may be published and used to promote your project.

(Max 80 words)

The project works towards inclusive biodiversity protection in two Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Palawan (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve) the Philippines. The KBAs are subject to ongoing and planned development activities, highlighting the importance of sustainable land-use planning to safeguard biodiversity. While policies to protect them are in place, there are opportunities to enhance their effective implementation on the ground. The project targets IUCN Red-Listed species, e.g. the Forest Product *Agathis dammara*, strengthens IPs' (women) leadership, enhances green livelihoods, revives indigenous knowledge and pushes for implementation of policies and (inter)national agreements for biodiversity protection.

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? You may add more rows if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

Country 1: Philippines	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

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.

(Max 100 words)

n.a.

Q8. Project dates

Start date: 01.04.2025	End date: 31.03.2029	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months): 4 years
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Q9. Budget summary

Darwin Initiative funding request (1 Apr – 31 Mar)	2025/26 ■■■■■■■■■■	2026/27 ■■■■■■■■■■	2027/28 ■■■■■■■■■■	2028/29 ■■■■■■■■■■	2029/30 ■■■■■■■■■■	Total request £ 777,365
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Q10. Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget. If none is proposed, please explain why?

(Max 150 words)

n.a.

The partners propose matched funding from current programmes. The proposed project will build on these programmes in Palawan.

-From the Green Livelihoods Alliance, Forests for a Just Future Programme:

- by IUCN NL - ■■■■■■ for supporting IP&LCs' safety & security and for promoting high-bar ESG standards in 2025.
- By NTFP-EP Philippines (NTFP-EP), ELAC, IDEAS - ■■■■■■ for strengthening IPs&LCs in their forest governance and livelihoods in 2025.

-From Bottom Line! Programme of IUCN NL - ■■■■■■ for engaging investors (BMR) in 2025, and ■■■■■■ for emergency support.

- From Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action Programme of Both ENDS ■■■■■■ for knowledge exchange at regional level in 2025.

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?

(Max 100 words)

n.a.

Q12. Have you received, applied for, or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for your proposed project or similar project? If yes, give details. If you have received, applied for or plan to apply with similar projects, explain how your activities are distinct and complementary. Note that you cannot apply to OCEAN or any of the Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) with the same project. (150 words): N/A	No
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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**.

For example, what are the causes of biodiversity loss, preventing conservation, and/or keeping people in multi-dimensional poverty that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify the need for your project? Please **cite the evidence** you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document).

(Max 500 words)

Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range (VAMR) and Bulanjao Mountain Range (BMR) [4] are subject to development pressures, which may affect their biodiversity [5,6,7]. Increasing forest clearance highlights the importance of measures to safeguard biodiversity[8,9]. The Palawan Biosphere Reserve is a biodiversity hotspot with high levels of endemism [10]. Its remaining forests, including in VAMR and BMR lie in IPs' Ancestral Domains (ADs).

Palawan is home to 39% of the country's wildlife, including IUCN Red-Listed species, e.g. the Almaciga tree *Agathis dammara* (also known as *A.philippinensis*) and *Koompassia excelsa*. Their resin and honey respectively are popular Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). Almaciga resin, also known as Manila copal, is traditionally used in religious ceremonies and as an additive in industrial products like varnish and linoleum, as well as to start fires, for caulking boats and to fumigate against mosquitoes. Palawan is also home to the critically endangered Palawan pangolin *Manis culionensis*, the Palawan hornbill *Anthracoceros marchei* and many other endemic species [11,12]. The island is also endowed with significant nickel deposits.

Our longstanding experience in Palawan has identified that, while the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan (SEP) [13] and the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) provide a strong policy foundation for integrated development and conservation, ensuring an effective balance between economic development, biodiversity protection, and the rights of IP&LCs that have lived in, used and sustainably governed the areas for generation, remains an ongoing challenge.

In Southern VAMR, recent approvals of four exploration permits and the ongoing review of additional applications highlight the need for careful environmental planning and safeguards. [14]. BMR's forest, including identified High Conservation Value

Areas, faces increasing pressure by expanding resource development[15]. Strengthening the implementation of existing policies will be key to ensuring effective protection of the KBAs. In addition, the 2025 Provincial Ordinance No. 3646 in Palawan imposes a 50-year moratorium on endorsements of new mining applications and expansion into new areas by existing firms.

The forest fulfils important roles for the IPs and downstream communities, such as water and food provisioning and cultural values. IPs, and particularly women, are directly affected by the threats to their NTFP-based livelihoods and cultural heritage. Indigenous knowledge systems are under pressure. IPs are often among the poorest groups, and some IP leaders view mining as a possible pathway for local economic improvement. Downstream farmers and fishing communities equally depend on the forest for their livelihoods, and have raised concerns that mining activities, with potential impacts on forests, water, soil, and air, affects their food security and public health..

The KBAs are part of ECAN, but evolving policy and development decisions mean that designated 'no-go zones' may be reassessed, underscoring the importance of ensuring effective protection for biodiversity. Efforts by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) to place VAMR under a common management regime are ongoing, highlighting the importance of coordinated management for biodiversity conservation.

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. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	No
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	No
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	No
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)	No
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Yes
Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)	Yes

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.

(Max 500 words)

The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), underpinning the Philippines' commitment to the CBD, was updated in 2024 ahead of COP16, to align with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets. This project contributes to 11 of the 23 targets:

1. Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss [we contribute through project Outputs 1, 2, 3]
2. Restore 30% of degraded systems [Outputs 1, 2, 3]
3. Conserve and protect land, waters, and seas [Outputs 1, 2, 3]
5. Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species [Outputs 1, 2]
8. Minimise the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience [Outputs 1, 2, 3, 4]
10. Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry [Outputs 1, 2]
11. Restore, maintain, and enhance resilience and stability of ecosystems and habitats, including those communities dependent on biodiversity [Outputs 1, 2]
14. Integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level [Outputs 1, 3, 4]
20. Strengthen capacity building, technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity [Outputs 1, 2, 3, 4]
22. Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all [Outputs 1, 3, 4]
23. Ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach for biodiversity action [all Outputs]

In updating the PBSAP, IP organisations and CSOs collaborated to create the **IPBSAP**. This initiative fosters inclusive biodiversity policies and actions recognizing IPs' rights, responsibilities and contributions to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, benefit-sharing, ensuring justice and protecting environmental human rights defenders. Through Indigenous roundtable discussions, shared strategies and priorities were developed, emphasising Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) to enhance the PBSAP and support IP&LC participation in achieving KMGBF goals. The IPBSAP was presented to the Philippine government and is highlighted in the abridged PBSAP.

Our interventions aim towards successful implementation of these policies through Pathway 1 of our ToC: Strengthen voice, skills and rights of IPs in and around the 2 KBAs, and through Pathway 2: Advocate for (local) government and company compliance to biodiversity protection and IP rights policies.

The project further contributes to:

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, specifically the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration On Forests And Land Use (Philippines is a signatory), as we protect high-biodiversity, old-growth rainforests.
- Philippines National Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), as we safeguard tenure rights and FPIC.

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as we promote (indigenous) women's and girls' equal rights, and enhance women's participation and influence in natural resource management.
- The Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act, known as Republic Act No. 11995 (see Q4.4)
- SDGs 1, 5-6, 13, 15-17, by reducing threats to biodiversity, promoting sustainable use of natural resources and integration of biodiversity in policy frameworks in a gender responsive way, thereby contributing to poverty reduction, gender equality and the protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems.

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 the **main activities** will be and where these will take place.
- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

(Max 750 words – this may be a repeat from Stage 1, but please review and strengthen as necessary)

We build on lessons learnt through joint partner involvement in:

1. *Forests for a Just Future (2021-2025) and Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (2016-2020)*
 - IP&LCs are more likely to engage in advocacy if it offers tangible improvements of their situation, such as tenure or livelihood security. We address this through Output 2.
 - we must enhance government and company engagement in multi-stakeholder settings, alongside strengthening IPs. We address this through the 2 pathways of our ToC.
 - it is important to involve (downstream) non-IP farmers and fishers whose livelihoods are affected by the mining. We include them in activities.
2. *Global Alliance for Green Gender Action (2021-2025)*
 - we must strengthen collaboration with Asia-wide and international women's networks to build evidence and advocate for responsible mining and a just energy transition. We address this through Output 4.
3. *Fair Green and Global Alliance (2021-2025)*
 - we need to further enhance Indigenous knowledge to promote sustainability in supply chains, dialogues with mining companies and action research on critical minerals. We address this through Output 4.

4. *Bottom Line! A fair and successful energy transition (2023-2025)*

- it is important to compare mining's societal benefits with other land uses and advocate for no-go zones, while bringing local cases to international fora and engaging stakeholders internationally to drive local change.

We have incorporated these learnings from a proven approach into our ToC. The project works along 2 Pathways that target the actors crucial to bringing about change: 1: Strengthen the voices, skills and rights of IP&LCs in and around the 2 KBAs; 2: Advocate for (local) government & company compliance to biodiversity protection and IP rights' policies. We conduct activities (A) for the different stakeholders, that involve:

IP&LCs

- Capacity strengthening (A1.1)
- Documentation and transmission of IKSP (A1.2)
- The establishment of ICCAs (A1.3).
- Ancestral land titling and planning (A1.4)
- Gender-sensitive analyses led by women (A1.1)
- Enhancing community-based, biodiversity-friendly livelihoods (A2.1)
- Resource & biodiversity management planning, monitoring, protection (A2.2)
- Facilitating joint learning and exchange and peer support to IPs and women's groups. (A4.3)

National and local government agencies

- Advocating for the protection of the KBAs and IP rights (A3.2)
- Facilitating IP&LC participation in decision-making and governance (A3.1)
- Conducting High Conservation Value Area (HCVA) assessment in VARM (A3.3)
- Review of policy and legal documents to inform dialogue(A3.2)
- Dialogue with government agencies (A3.2)
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote responsible mineral governance and ESG safeguards that support both biodiversity conservation and community well-being. (A4.1)

Mining companies, (international) investors and standard-setting institutions

- Influencing mining companies to ensure adherence to robust ESG safeguards and standards (A4.2)
- Developing factsheets and briefing papers (A4.2)
- Participating in national and Palawan-level multi-stakeholder platforms (A4.1)
- Engaging financial sector to leverage influence (A4.2)
- Learning and knowledge exchange. (A4.3)

IUCN NL will lead the project and advocate at different levels for robust ESG (in particular: biodiversity and Indigenous and environmental human rights) safeguards in nickel supply chains. We engage Dutch investors in Palawan mining industries and standard setting institutions and make use of HCVA assessments. We bring the case of Palawan to international fora, organise learning exchanges and raise global awareness.

NTFP-EP Philippines supports community-based, women- and youth-led NTFP enterprises and strengthens IKSPs for biodiversity conservation. NTFP-EP focuses on scaling enterprises, improving profitability and enhancing market linkages. NTFP-EP

aids securing Indigenous land tenure, forest governance, and establishing ICCAs critical for biodiversity and cultural conservation.

IDEAS collaborates with grassroots IP groups to secure Ancestral Domain (AD) titles and formulate or update ADSDPPs, ensuring resource access and advancing IP rights. IDEAS promotes agroforestry farming systems to address food security, income and sustainability through diversified production systems, complemented by product development and/ trading.

ELAC advocates for environmental rights and equitable natural resource access, offering legal assistance, education and capability building, focusing on policy advocacy and local government engagement. ELAC engages with government agencies, private entities and local communities through engagement and dialogues to ensure effective implementation of environmental justice laws.

Both ENDS targets financial institutions, mining companies, standard-setting organisations and downstream buyers, facilitating dialogue on best ESG practice in nickel mining and responsibility between the Philippines and Indonesia. It supports local communities with negotiations and amplifies their voices in decision-making, ensuring a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach.

The Project Management Team (PMT), led by the Project Leader (PL) at IUCN NL, oversees the project. The PMT includes all project partners and meets at project beginning, mid-term and end, and monthly online. The PMT manages strategic alignment, troubleshooting, work allocation and reporting. The PL is responsible for donor reporting, supported by the M&E expert.

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 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.

(Max 300 words)

The project strengthens the capacities and agency of IPs, including women and youth. We provide training, technical support, coaching, mentoring, knowledge products and other capacity-building. We focus on leadership at the landscape/territorial level in and around the KBAs, developing and implementing ADSDPPs, forest & biodiversity protection enforcement, policy advocacy, and IKSP for youth. We capacitate IP leaders to serve as IP Mandatory Representatives at various local governance levels. We train IP women and men on community-based enterprise development and market access for high-value NTFPs, such as Almaciga resin. This includes agroforestry practices that promote biodiversity and climate-resilient agriculture using a gender-sensitive approach. We strengthen capacities of non-IP downstream farmers (women and men), equipping them to engage in evidence-based policy advocacy, actively participate in decision-making spaces, and collaborate in movement building alongside IPs.

A key aspect of leadership building is strengthening the voice and agency of IP women and men in decision-making, enabling them to participate meaningfully in policy processes that affect their lives and livelihoods. For this, we capacitate the relevant government agencies on IP rights, customs and practices to enhance their engagement with IP&LCs in decision-making processes.

Since peer-to-peer learning is central, we organise learning sessions and exchange visits with IPs from the two target landscapes, as well as from other mining landscapes, including from Indonesia. Also the network Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) provides peer support to local women groups in the two KBAs.

IUCN NL and Both Ends provide technical support to local CSOs on international legal frameworks, standards and best ESG practices to enable effective dialogue with stakeholders such as local government authorities, mining companies and downstream actors.

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.

(Max 300 words)

The partners have a strong understanding of the GESI context in Palawan. NTFP EP-Philippines/ELAC/IDEAS have been working with IP&LCs and specifically with women and marginalised groups in Palawan for 20 years. Despite the passage of the IPRA, IPs are among the most marginalised groups in the country. They have limited access to education, healthcare, and clean water. They have traditional livelihoods, but traders often take advantage of them and violence and human rights abuse towards IPs, particularly women, is common. Women's voices are insufficiently heard in decision-making.

Through our activities, this project will strengthen women's influence within local natural resource governance systems and policy dialogues, and support women's economic empowerment. We will commence with a gender-sensitive analysis led by women, to deepen our understanding of GESI in relation to access and control over resources, assets and livelihood opportunities and access to information and knowledge transfer. A safe and inclusive programming risk analysis will be conducted and mitigation measures will be put in place and monitored.

We have disaggregated the indicators for several of the project outcomes to show exactly how we intend to ensure that equitable outcomes are achieved for women.

As far as the project team is concerned, IUCN NL always applies a gender balance and is committed to equal opportunities in the recruitment of project staff. IUCN NL's project lead is female and so is the M&E coordinator at NTFP-EP. We believe the composition of female and male staff involved in the project implementation will enable us to sensitively manage any gender related issues as they arise.

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.

(Max 500 words)

Impact

The project enhances indigenous leadership and forest governance in the 2 KBAs, addressing biodiversity threats through strengthened governance and enforcement of existing environmental protections. By the end of the project, these undervalued KBAs will have gained strengthened governance and legal protections, with reduced biodiversity loss and degradation, strengthened indigenous leadership and biodiversity governance, and improved livelihood security for IPs and downstream farmers. Indigenous governance structures, IKSPs and sustainable green livelihoods have also been strengthened.

Short term

The project will empower at least 4,200 IPs (2,275 women, 1,925 men) by enhancing their capacities and knowledge for active participation in the sustainable governance of their Ancestral Domains (AD). This includes securing tenure rights through the granting of Certificate of AD Title and the endorsement of their AD sustainable development and protection plans (ADSDPP). At least 13 IP-led NTFP-based and agro-forestry enterprises have been established and 775 IPs (400 women, 375 men) have increased economic resilience, making them less vulnerable. 235 IP youth have enhanced their IKSP.

Given that most target IPs in VAMR and BMR are also upland (subsistence) farmers, promoting diversified and integrated (plant-animal) agroforestry systems is essential. These nature-friendly, sustainable production systems support food security and market opportunities while complementing low-impact, forest-based and non-timber livelihood activities. By linking agroforestry systems to markets and value-added enterprises, such as processing/transforming raw materials like banana, root crops, coconut, grains, and fruits into value-added products, the project will enhance the economic value of agricultural products, fostering the growth of a dynamic local economy. This agroforestry-based approach complements forest-based livelihoods, helping to reduce pressure on remaining forests and their biodiversity.

The ADSDPPs and ICCA establishment have led to the sustainable IP governance of at least 55,000 hectares of high-biodiverse forest. Enforcement of existing laws and policies, and the development of at least 8 new provincial and/or local government unit's resolutions strengthens protection of the KBAs through improved governance and compliance with Philippine environmental laws.

Longer term

The project is expected to strengthen Indigenous governance and enforce existing environmental/biodiversity protections. 35,000 hectares of forest in VAMR are not only sustainably managed under ADSDPPs, but have also been placed under a common management regime led by at least 3 municipalities and with backing from the Provincial Government and PCSD, and 20,000 hectares in BMR have gained permanent protection through a PCSD resolution. 300,250 farmers living downstream benefit from the continued flow of clean water originating from the forest.

Amid growing global demand for critical minerals and increasing mineral development activity in the Philippines, this project provides a timely opportunity to reinforce ESG safeguards that protect biodiversity and sustain Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods

Q19. Pathway to change

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

(Max 200 words)

Increased IPs' capacities, knowledge systems, rights, livelihood security and income will lead to stronger IP-led forest governance and protection, reflected in their ancestral domain management plans and newly established ICCA(s). This, in turn, leads to biodiversity protection. The focus on high-value NTFPs and water forms a strong incentive to protect the forest. Additionally, this makes the sometimes divided IPs take a more deliberative approach when considering mining in their ADs.

In parallel, legal compliance and enforcement of existing laws will ensure protection of old-growth and other natural forests and wildlife habitats. Additional local/provincial regulations put an extra layer of 'formal' protection on the KBAs, with strong participation by the IPs including women and youth. This is underpinned by participative biodiversity studies.

Given the global demand for nickel in technologies such as electric vehicle batteries, the project works with mining companies, investors, and downstream partners to strengthen ESG practices and ensure high environmental and social standards including a greater protection of KBAs, old-growth forests, watersheds and local food production areas.

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?

(Max 150 words)

The proposed interventions, such as capacity strengthening, tenurial security, management planning and policy advocacy, aim to increase agency of IP&LCs, enabling them to sustain their livelihood and protect their forests.

Baseline indicators have been defined for the project's impact and outputs. Post-funding, the baseline will serve as a foundation for both immediate short-term interventions and long-term actions. M&E will track progress against the baseline and at the project's end we will assess success, learn from challenges, and provide evidence for sustaining, scaling, and replicating in other areas.

The consortium's three local partners are firmly and sustainably established in Palawan. Their continued presence and work in the KBAs will ensure that the knowledge and skills that have been accumulated among the IP&LCs will remain available for further replication.

We will disseminate findings through community forums, digital platforms and/or reports to make our data accessible to others.

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?

(Max 150 words)

Replication and scaling potential lies in IPs&LCs' expanding outreach to similar groups, attracting support from public authorities and conservation stakeholders, and leveraging funding for biodiversity-friendly livelihoods like NTFPs and agroforestry farming systems. On a landscape level, there is potential to double ICCA coverage in both areas.

The project will increase awareness of the need to protect biodiversity and IPs' rights in mineral supply chains and with increasing mining pressure on forests globally, our approach demonstrates a pathway that CSOs and IP&LCs can adapt to support biodiversity and community governance beyond this project. Our project is timely in light of the newly published UN Guiding Principles on Critical Energy Transition Minerals [17].

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.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the template provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if recommended for funding. **Do not attach to your application.**

Risk Description	Impact	Probability ¹	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated).					
[50 words] The misuse of funds is a risk in any project when organising activities, and if funds are not used for items defined in the contract.	Major	Unlikely	Major	[50 words] Comprehensive and effective operating internal controls are in place in all partner organisations. IUCN NL's anti-fraud policy and stringent financial procedures are maintained throughout the project. These include review of effectiveness of internal control systems and regular (2x per year) financial reporting.	Minor
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff.					
[50 words] Beneficiaries and project staff may be compromised when working in contexts where SEAH policies and safeguarding procedures are not known or considered a norm.	Major	Unlikely	Major	[50 words] All partners have documented safeguarding policies on SEAH, including grievance mechanisms, reporting and investigating procedures and support for survivors, victims, and whistleblowers. IUCN NL shares its policies with all project staff at the start of the project and highlights the SEAH focal point during activities.	Minor
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff.					
[50 words] Security concerns in the context of this project may include a) harassment from government officials and agencies, such as red-tagging. This can cause fund freeze; b) accidents and crimes such as robbery or hold ups.	Major	Unlikely	Moderate	[50 words] The consortium has Security Protocols. These are shared at the start of the project and the staff are sensitised to them. Security analysis takes place regularly and dialogue is held with security agencies if necessary. IUCN NL staff has undergone security training.	Moderate
Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model.					

¹ Likelihood: Almost certain (>80%), Likely (>50%<80%), Possible (>20%<50%), Unlikely (>5%<20%), Rare (<5%)

[50 words] The authorities do not comply with their mandate to act favorably to protect vital forest ecosystems and recognise IP rights over their territories.	Major	Likely	Major	[50 words] Strengthen collective negotiation strategy backed up by legal and technical bases Sustain linkages with agency “Champions” to help build a case for the IPs and Ecosystems Initiate legal (administrative and judicial) actions to compel authorities to perform their mandates	Moderate
Risk 5					
[50 words] Mid-term elections in May 2025 may lead to further downgrading of ECAN zones	Major	Likely	Major	[50 words] With increased knowledge and skills, IP&LCs are able to push for pro-IP biodiversity, human rights, and gender-transformative agendas, supporting candidates aligned with them. Project partners will monitor developments and engage with Palawan and national level government stakeholders to advocate for biodiversity conservation aligned with the NBSAP and IPBSAP.	Moderate
Risk 6					
[50 words] The entry of mining projects in the different Ancestral Domains could lead to polarisation among the Indigenous communities.	Major	Likely	Major	[50 words] Project partners will continue to organise and build the capacities of IPs and women and youth in particular, supporting their role in safeguarding biodiversity and sustainable management of their territories.	Moderate
Risk 7 Contextual					

[50 words] In recent years, the Philippines, including Palawan, has experienced strong typhoons and intense weather events that brought torrential rains, floods and landslides, causing loss of lives and property. Severe weather impacts the living conditions and livelihood of the IP&LCs, especially women.	Major	Likely	Major	[50 words] Disaster Risk Reduction capacity building will be conducted to partner communities to prepare them for such events. Communities will be linked up with groups providing relief assistance in times of calamities. Assist IP farmers to avail of crop/animal insurance subsidy of the government	Moderate
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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.). Please note your response to this question won't influence the outcome of your application.

Yes

If yes, please provide brief details

(Max 100 words) IP&LCs in VAMR and BMR have experienced challenges arising from development and extractive activities, highlighting the importance of effective, inclusive consultation processes. Past irregularities in the conduct of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and other engagement mechanisms have made some community members cautious about interventions from government, private sector, and CSOs. Project partners are working to strengthen participatory approaches and community engagement, including multi-stakeholder dialogues, to address community concerns and support sustainable, locally appropriate development and conservation outcomes.

Q23. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template to show the intended workplan for your project ready for upload on Flexi-Grant.

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out.

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 (see Finance Guidance).

(Max 500 words)

For this project we provide an experienced M&E expert who is based at NTFP-EP in the Philippines, who will work alongside the whole project team in an integrated manner to ensure that activities, results and impacts feed the delivery of the project on an ongoing basis.

The M&E expert has a large experience in the M&E of complex programmes, such as the Forests for a Just Future Programme of the Green Livelihood Alliance. 7% of the total budget will be dedicated to M&E, through a M&E expert based in the Philippines. We will procure the services of an external consultant for mid- and end-term evaluation. M&E expertise is also well-embedded at IUCN NL, as we have been carrying out major programmes containing large M&E components for many years.

In year 1, the M&E expert together with the Project Leader will develop and deliver an M&E plan for the whole project, which will be discussed (and amended if necessary) with the entire project team at a PMT meeting.

Monitoring

Throughout the project the M&E expert will routinely collect data (disaggregated by gender and indigenous status, age and disability) from the project by means of:

- regular (online) meetings with the team
- a monthly activity & quarterly output monitoring template
- the output monitoring system will be based on the logical framework and comply with the indicators and means of verification selected to monitor this project.
- data collection based on 'outcome harvesting' principles, based on the ToC.

Data

The data collected by the M&E expert includes:

- content data, according to project indicators, using the means of verification set in the logframe
- context data, in close cooperation with all partners, keeping an eye on any risks and developments that may need adaptive management, or even reporting
- activities and output data
- stakeholder monitoring, ensuring that the necessary stakeholders are involved in the project.

Evaluation

The M&E expert evaluates the activities and monitoring results on a quarterly basis, making a synthesis in a short report that is shared with the team. This encourages learning within the team. She uses the output and outcome indicators for this. At the end of year 2 a light mid-term review, and at the end of the programme an end evaluation will be conducted, which is also to be a learning document.

Learning

The project organises regular learning events as part of regular reflection, to analyze data collaboratively, uncover trends, and foster dialogue. We document success stories and experiences for deeper insights and disseminate findings through accessible formats like community forums, reports, or digital platforms.

Adaptive management

Timely and consistent M&E allows the team to pre-empt whether change of course may be necessary in the project. This is especially helpful for projects that may have security issues that need to be carefully monitored and may involve adaptive management.

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

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.

Refer to the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance** and the **Standard Indicators Guidance** when developing your logframe.

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) should be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible**. In the application form, you will be asked to copy the Impact, Outcome and Output statements and activities - these should be identical to your uploaded logframe.

Q25b. Standard Indicators

In addition to your Project Indicators in your logframe please outline which Standard Indicators you can report on including your expected targets by project end.

Darwin Initiative projects are required to report against a minimum of three Standard Indicators. If you can report against more than three Standard Indicators, this is strongly encouraged. Try to select indicators from as many groups as is feasible for your project and its context.

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
<i>e.g. DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training</i>	<i>e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3</i>	<i>e.g. 60</i>	<i>e.g. 30 non-indigenous women; 30 non-indigenous men</i>
DI-D01a: Area under sustainable management practices	Outcome Indicator 0.1	55.000	Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range: 35.000; Bulanjao Mountain Range: 20.000 hectares
DI-B06: Number of people with strengthened land tenure rights	Outcome Indicator 0.3	4.200	2.275 Indigenous women and 1.925 Indigenous men
D1-D03b: Number of people with improved income	Output Indicator 2.3	775	400 Indigenous women and 375 Indigenous men

DI-B05: Number of people with increased participation in governance	Output Indicator 1.2	1000	475 Indigenous women and 525 Indigenous men
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If you cannot identify three Standard Indicators you can report against, please justify this here.

(Max 100 words)

Q26. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet (available on <https://bcfs.flexigrant.com/> 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.

Please refer to the Finance guidance for more information.

Please ensure you include any matched funding figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

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

Please upload the Lead Organisation's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form. **Please note the next section is about the financial aspects of your project, rather than technical elements.**

Q27. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how this proposed project will build on or align with the work in the same geographic/thematic area to prevent significantly cut across or duplicating work.

Q27a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)? Please give details.

(Max 200 words):

The proposed project builds on both existing and past activities in Palawan:
Forests for a Just Future programme (2021-2025); IUCN NL, NTFP-EP Philippines, ELAC, IDEAS
Shared Resources, Joint Solutions programme (2016-2020); IUCN NL, NTFP-EP Philippines, ELAC, IDEAS

Global Alliance for Green Gender Action programme (2021-2025); Both ENDS and NTFP-EP

Fair Green and Global Alliance programme (2021-2025); Both ENDS

Bottom Line! A fair and successful energy transition programme (2023-2025), IUCN NL and partners.

Strengthening Community Position and Stakeholders Support in VAMR Conservation programme (2023-2026); IDEAS, NTFP-EP Philippines, ELAC

Please see Q15 for information on how we build on past activities from these programmes.

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?

No

If 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.

(Max 200 words)

n.a.

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? Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

(Max 250 words)

This project is value for money as it builds on 6 multiannual programmes in the Philippines and South-East Asia, that are ending at the end of 2025 (see Q27a). The BCF grant leverages the investments made by these programmes. We are therefore confident that each pound spent is geared towards impact. When designing interventions, we carefully considered the number of beneficiaries, so as not to promise too much to too many, so that every pound spent can have substantial impact.

We have developed a realistic, economic budget to deliver activities across two pathways that lead to four outputs. These are budgeted based on first-hand insight from ongoing programmes. Our budgeting system has been approved by other donors, evident from partners' cofunding.

Lessons learnt have been incorporated in our project design. This has taught us how much input is required in time and human resources to produce the envisaged outputs. If and when required, IUCN NL procurement will be followed for the purchase of capital items or services, based on most economically advantageous tender procedures.

Financial management with attention to most-economic spending is ensured by IUCN NL best practice from managing complex projects. Only actual time spent on the project can be declared, based on real salary costs and with an overhead that is considered normal for our organisations.

As we are not aware of other similar initiatives at this moment, we are assuming that our project does not duplicate the work of others.

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.

(Max 150 words)

Yes. We are not requesting more than 10% capital costs

We have included capital costs for two of the partners in the Philippines. These include computer equipment for report writing, photo documentation, presentations and workshops, printing of training certificates, preparing field or travel requests and preparing liquidation/receipts reports, virtual research, drafting of petitions, policies, request letters on behalf of the Indigenous community partners, since most of them are not able to read or write. These also include a steel cabinet for the project's (financial) files and laptop/printer safe-keeping and a portable printer for workshops and training and to print project reports, requests and liquidations. Furthermore, 1 LCD projector with screen for (community) presentations, training, reporting and Information Education Campaigns.

After 4 years, the equipment will be almost fully depreciated. If still usable, it will be used for other institutional documentation needs and at the disposal of the consortium partners for their further activities in their work with communities.

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 upload the following mandatory policies:

- **Safeguarding and/or PSEAH Policy:** including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance to inaction statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. Policy should include a commitment to either Core

Humanitarian Standard (CHS), IASC minimum operating standards for PSEA MOS-PSEA) or CAPSEAH minimum standards.

- **Whistleblowing Policy:** which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct:** which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for staff and volunteers involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, up to and including dismissal.

In addition, please share the following optional policy:

- that outlines a plan on how to mitigate and respond to potential health, safety and security threats.

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

Please outline how 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.

(Max 300 words)

IUCN NL adheres to the Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics for the IUCN Secretariat. IUCN NL also has its own Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics. All employees receive these safeguarding documents when they enter service. They are published on the websites of IUCN NL and IUCN and are accessible to beneficiaries, partner organisations, donors and the public. These documents set out sanctions that can be applied.

We adhere to the “IUCN Policy on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)” that explains the steps taken to provide a safe environment free from sexual harassment and violence.

All employees of IUCN NL are aware of the procedures and have signed a declaration of compliance. At the start of the project IUCN NL ensures that project staff are versed in the policies. We stimulate our partners to ensure similar policies are in place. When we organise project activities we refer to these documents and sensitise participants and beneficiaries to our procedures.

IUCN NL has two confidential counsellors (one internal and one external). The integrity adviser advises the management on appropriate measures, depending on the type of inappropriate behaviour. Where possible, IUCN NL assists the victim(s) of

inappropriate behaviour, if the integrity violation by IUCN NL or its employee(s) causes demonstrable personal damage or injury.

The codes of conduct are strongly regarded by staff and there is regular debate about them. In this manner IUCN NL builds up moresprudence. All employees follow an online integrity training, contributing to awareness and deepening of the subject.

IUCN NL has an anti-corruption policy and regulations protecting whistleblowers. These are found in the Dispute Resolution Procedure. The whistleblower can also turn to an external body, which is also accessible to international organisations.

Please find the policies uploaded

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.

(Max 10 words)

[REDACTED]

Q31. Ethics

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

(Max 200 words)

This project meets the key principles of good ethical practice. We ensured that all interventions comply with the legal and ethical obligations of the organisations in the project, as well as of the Philippines and the Netherlands.

Our interventions do not take place in the field of the utilisation of genetic resources.

We encourage the participation of local communities, especially women and youth, in our workshops and activities. Interventions may touch upon traditional knowledge and traditional knowledge systems, in our work with local communities. Especially relevant is the incorporation of local perspectives in relation to the possibilities for ecotourism and livelihoods. We are well-versed in working with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and apply FPIC.

Any research and data collection we may conduct, is based on objective, verifiable information and conforms to scientific integrity. The project is aimed towards transparent information sharing, especially of public data that can be used to inform and develop legislation.

From a security perspective, we respect the privacy and safety of project staff and have built in confidentiality measures to this end. IUCN NL's safeguarding mechanisms

protect the health and safety of all project staff and provide channels to report on misconduct or security issues.

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)		Yes	
If no, why not? (Max 50 words)			

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. Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the Finance Guidance. Please include up to 12 rows if necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?*
Maartje Hilterman, IUCN NL	Project Leader	20	Yes
Antoinette Sprenger	Environmental Justice & Advocacy Expert	6	Yes
Ruth Canlas, NTFP EP Philippines	Local Lead	60	Yes
Katherine Mana-Galido, NTFP EP Philippines	M&E Expert	75	Yes
Maria Margarita Consuelo, NTFP EP Philippines	Enterprise Development Officer	75	Yes
Roger V. Garinga, IDEAS	Coordinator Community Engagement	34	Yes
Noel J. Baltar, IDEAS	Community Facilitator	35	Yes
Grizelda Mayo Anda, ELAC	Legal Environmental Specialist	40	Yes
Anabelle Reyes, ELAC	Environmental Advocacy Specialist	100	Yes
Jassiel Faye A. Dela Cruz, ELAC	Community Development Specialist	100	Yes

Paul Wolvekamp , Both Ends	Advocacy and policy advisor	10	Yes
Maaïke Hendriks, Both Ends	Advisor Gender & environmental justice	5	Yes
*If you cannot provide a CV or job description, please explain why not.			

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.**

Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

Lead Organisation name:	IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands Foundation (IUCN NL)
Website address:	https://www.iucn.nl/en/

Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value do they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	(Max 200 words) IUCN NL is the lead partner submitting this proposal. IUCN NL is responsible for overall project management and reporting (financial and technical). IUCN NL has substantial experience with managing large programmes including M&E, having led large multiannual, multi-country strategic partnerships with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for many years, that demand extensive M&E making use of the IATI system. IUCN NL is also well linked with the international conservation community, being part of the larger IUCN family. We also conduct broader international outreach. In this project we will bring the case of Palawan Palawan to international platforms. Furthermore, IUCN NL facilitates knowledge transfer on biodiversity and environmental justice and helps enhance (territorial) safety & security of the IP&LCs, and performs advocacy at different levels. For this project we have put together a team that comprises experts that have project leadership, M&E and advocacy experience, as well as ample experience of working on projects in the Philippines. We have also budgeted limited time for a financial and an admin expert, to ensure professional reporting and financial compliance. Our communications experts are covered by our overhead costs.
International/In-country Partner	International
Allocated budget:	██████
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Organisation?	Yes If no, please provide details (Max 50 words)

Partner Name:	Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme Philippines (NTFP-EP Philippines)
Website address:	https://ntfp.org/where-we-are/wwwa-philippines/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	(Max 200 words) NTFP-EP Philippines enhances community-based NTFP (women and youth-led) enterprises and ensures the transmission of IKSPs on forest and biodiversity conservation, through community-based learning and exchanges. NTFP-EP assists these enterprises in achieving greater scale, stability, and profitability by enhancing their management capacities, creating market linkages, fostering partnerships with government and the private sector, and implementing climate resilience strategies. NTFP also provides technical support to Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in securing their land tenure and assists them establish inclusive forest governance mechanisms. This initiative ensures the full and effective participation of IPs, including women and youth. Recognizing that many Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Protected Areas in the Philippines are situated within ancestral domains, NTFP focuses on establishing Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs). These areas may include sacred spaces, ritual grounds, and other sites designated by Indigenous communities for specific uses, all governed by traditional rules. ICCAs in ancestral domains serve as vital habitats for endangered species, with traditional governance playing a crucial role in their conservation.
International/In-country Partner	In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	Yes If no, please provide details (Max 50 words)

Partner Name:	Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives, Inc. (IDEAS)
Website address:	Website currently being migrated to a new domain. New URL not yet known at time of proposal submission.
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	(Max 200 words) IDEAS collaborates with grassroots IP groups to secure Ancestral Domain titles and formulate or update Ancestral Domain Sustainable development and Protection Plans (ADSDPP) in which resource accessing support and advancing IP rights is built upon, through i.a. the Local Development Council and ECAN Board in Palawan. The livelihood support revolves around agroforestry farming system which is essentially sustainable agriculture with a forestry component characterised by the promotion of mixture of crops, animals, and with fruit trees to diversify and integrate the production system, addressing food, income, sustainability, and resiliency needs complemented by product development and/or trading activities.
International/In-country Partner	In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	Yes If no, please provide details (Max 50 words)

Partner Name:	Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc. (ELAC)
Website address:	www.elacphilippines.org
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	(Max 200 words)

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	ELAC secures environmental rights and equitable access to natural resources for communities, through legal assistance, education, training, advocacy and capability building on leadership, governance and law enforcement. ELAC's work focuses on legal empowerment for indigenous peoples, farmers, fishers, women and youth through various capacity building activities including training on environmental laws, paralegal skills, enforcement, gender awareness, leadership, and governance. On advocacy, ELAC has pushed for effective implementation of laws and policies and passage of new laws. Under this project, ELAC will engage with government agencies, private entities and local communities through campaigns, dialogues, round table discussions and other strategies to ensure effective enforcement of environmental justice laws. Public interest and strategic litigation are integral ELACs work which seeks to assert the rights of indigenous peoples and other local communities to their ancestral domains, forests, watersheds and mangrove areas. Legal and meta-legal remedies will also be undertaken to compel mandated government agencies to effectively and efficiently implement environmental laws and policies.
International/In-country Partner	In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	Yes If no, please provide details (Max 50 words)

Partner Name:	Both ENDS
Website address:	www.bothends.org
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles,	(Max 200 words)

responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Both ENDS will target advocacy efforts geared towards financial institutions, mining companies, standard-setting organisations and downstream buyers. In addition to conducting dialogue meetings with various stakeholders, Both ENDS will organise learning exchanges, including one with a leading mining company in Indonesia, focused on best ESG practices related. Both ENDS will specifically address issues concerning indigenous land rights and biodiversity, particularly in relation to policies and operations in Palawan. Both ENDS equips local communities with tailored information for negotiations with various stakeholders, while also amplifying their voices in decision-making spaces to further biodiversity conservation and improve livelihoods. Furthermore, Both ENDS facilitates peer support for women's groups and networks in the KBAs through the Women in Action on Mining in Asia network. Both ENDS also leverages the expertise and platform of the Indigenous-Led Education Network (ILED) to exchange traditional knowledge (especially between generations) regarding biodiversity protection and sustainable use within project areas. Both ENDS provides technical support, ensuring a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach is integrated throughout the programme.
International/In-country Partner	International
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	Yes If no, please provide details (Max 50 words)

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title

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

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	1983
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO Yes Government Yes/No University Yes/No Other (explain, max 25 words) IUCN NL is an independent nature organisation (foundation) and part of IUCN. We are legally independent from and do not receive any funding from IUCN.
How is your organisation currently funded?	(Max 100 words) IUCN NL receives funding from various donors, ranging from governments and the European Union, through private foundations, to companies and private individuals. Funding for major programmes has to date been delivered through Strategic Partnerships with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We fundraise for programmes and projects on a continual basis. Our only core funding comes from the

	Dutch Postcode Lottery, of which we are a longstanding partner (25 years).
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Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

Aims (50 words) Our vision is a just world in which nature is valued and protected. Our goal? To safeguard nature as the foundation for all life. We devote attention to areas with high natural value and special biodiversity that are under pressure, and to the people who depend on that nature.
Activities (50 words) We achieve our goals by implementing programmes and projects. We actively seek cooperation with partner organisations. Our work is characterised by an integrated approach to conservation in which ecological, economic and socio-cultural interests are included. We work multidisciplinary and cross-border, linking knowledge, policy and practice, and local to international.
Achievements (50 words) Throughout the Global South and internationally, we worked successfully with CSOs, IP&LCs, social movements and public authorities on sustainable governance of nature, securing habitat for biodiversity to flourish, environmental justice, green finance and advocating to increase IP&LCs participation in policy and decision-making regarding land rights and forest governance.

Provide detail of 3 contracts/projects held by the Lead Organisation 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	Forests for a Just Future (Global Livelihoods Alliance)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	██████████
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	5 years, 2021-2025
Role of organisation in project	(Max 50 words) In this project IUCN NL and partners strengthen local CSOs by means of financial support and capacity strengthening to contribute to more sustainable and inclusive governance of

	tropical forests, in a way that promotes climate mitigation & adaptation, biodiversity, human rights and safeguarding the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	(Max 100 words) In partnership with local CSOs and IP&LCs we work in 7 countries across the globe including the Philippines, in landscapes where biodiverse forests and the rights and livelihoods of IP&LCs are threatened. We work to increase the participation of IP&LCs in policy and decision making regarding their (land) rights and forest governance and management, and support them in developing sustainable, green livelihoods that support biodiversity. We herewith pay particular attention to under-represented groups like women and youth, and to ensuring the operational space and security of IP&LC leaders, CSO staff and environmental human rights defenders.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	(Max 25 words) Mr. Kaj van de Vorstenbosch Policy Officer Climate, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs ██

Contract/Project 2 Title	Bottom Line
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	████████████████
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	2 years and 8 months
Role of organisation in project	(Max 50 words) IUCN NL leads advocacy for responsible mining practices, supports CSOs and empowers IP&LCs in mining landscapes. We drive policy change by engaging with policy makers and investors, promoting circularity and the IRMA standard, and raising awareness about the need to protect nature and human rights in mineral supply chains.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and	(Max 100 words)

outcomes of the project	Bottom Line! aims to ensure a fair and sustainable energy transition with minimal impact on people and nature, focusing on responsible mineral sourcing. It prioritises reducing energy consumption, promoting circularity, and promoting socially and ecologically sound mineral governance, reinforcing national policies to protect ecosystems, water, biodiversity and IP&LC rights, whilst enhancing mining sector transparency and accountability. The project works to mitigate environmental and social impacts of mining while supporting biodiversity and community well-being in three forest landscapes: in three forest landscapes: Indonesia's Tompotika Forest, Ghana's Atewa Forest, and the Tampakan region in the Philippines, and in international waters (deep sea). Bottom Line! strengthens civil society advocacy, promotes the IRMA standard, and pushes for transparent value chains, stricter regulations, and responsible practices to protect biodiversity, local communities, and the climate.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	(Max 25 words) Manon le Kler, Dutch Postcode Lottery (funder), 

Contract/Project 3 Title	Strengthen the Roots
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	3 years
Role of organisation in project	(Max 50 words) IUCN NL works to empower local and indigenous community-based organisations in Indonesia, Ghana and Bolivia, by strengthening small conservation groups through training, networking, and fundraising support. Partnering with local NGOs, it builds capacity for sustainable biodiversity and resource management and income generation.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	(Max 100 words) The project aims to empower local and indigenous communities to protect their habitats and promote sustainable natural resource management across six landscapes in three countries. It focuses on strengthening community-based organisations through training, capacity building, and networking with larger conservation groups. The objectives include fostering sustainable livelihoods, advocating for community rights, and enabling communities to manage their landscapes effectively. Additionally, it offers free online training for conservationists, creating resilient local organisations that drive change and protect biodiversity and cultural heritage.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	(Max 25 words) Mr Ir. Yozarwardi Usama Putra, Head of Forestry Service of West Sumatra Province and Acting Regional Secretary of West Sumatra Province, [REDACTED]

Certification

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

I apply for a grant of £ in respect of **all Darwin Initiative expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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

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

- I 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.

Name (block capitals)	DR COENRAAD KRIJGER
Position in the organisation	DIRECTOR

Signed

Date:

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”.	x
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	x
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	x
I have provided the budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	x
I have checked that the budget is complete , correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	x
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	x
I have attached the below documents to my application:	x
• a cover letter from the Lead Organisation.	x
• a completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance” and “Standard Indicator Guidance”.	x
• a budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	x
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	x
• a completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	x
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 30).	x
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan (Question 30) = optional	NO
• 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.	x
• 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.	x
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.	x
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.	x
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all the responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	x
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	x
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website .	
Ensure you submit this application on Flexi-Grant .	

Once you have completed the checklist above, please submit via the [Flexi-Grant portal](#), not later than **23:59 GMT Monday 2nd December 2024**

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).