

Applicant: **de Lacoste, Frederic**
Organisation: **Crescendo Afforestation Foundation**
Funding Sought: **£81,183.00**

DIR29CC\1103

Strengthening conservation capacity for endangered Cycad species.

Cycads are the most “primitive” group of living gymnosperms and thus are among the most ancient of all higher plants surviving until today.

Encephalartos barteri ssp *allochrous* found in Plateau State are endangered with extinction due to habitat loss and unsustainable trade.

This project will enhance the knowledge and skills of local communities to conserve *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* populations in situ and establish capacity to conserve seeds in community nurseries in Pankshin area, contributing to a sustainable management strategy.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Frederic
Surname	de Lacoste
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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Frederic
Surname	de Lacoste
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Crescendo Afforestation Foundation
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Title:





Strengthening conservation capacity for endangered Cycad species.

Q4a. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

☒ No

Please attach a cover letter.

Please include a response to any previous feedback in your cover letter.

 Cover Letter Darwin
 07/11/2022
 18:30:48
 pdf 140.14 KB

Q5. Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the capability and capacity problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Cycads are the most "primitive" group of living gymnosperms and thus are among the most ancient of all higher plants

surviving until today.
Encephalartos barteri ssp allochrous found in Plateau State are endangered with extinction due to habitat loss and unsustainable trade.
This project will enhance the knowledge and skills of local communities to conserve E. barteri ssp allochrous populations in situ and establish capacity to conserve seeds in community nurseries in Pankshin area, contributing to a sustainable management strategy.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Nigeria	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 months):
01 April 2023	31 October 2024	1 year, 6 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:			

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

Q10a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

We have secured a grant from Cadbury Nigeria for of which £21 456 is seed matched funding for 2023/24 and is matched funding against this grant period.
We have secured as matched funding towards this project for 2023/24 grants from Access Bank for , from 9mobile for and individual donations for .
We have secured for 2023/24 from individual donations for .

In-kind funding of [REDACTED] will be provided by WAECINIT towards nursery's facilities and [REDACTED] towards staff salaries. Montane Forestry Research Station will provide an in-kind funding as materials and equipment worth [REDACTED]. The University of Jos will provide an in-kind donation through its staff involvement amounting to [REDACTED]

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) [REDACTED]

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

No Response

Section 4 - Project need

Q11. The need that the project is trying to address

Please describe evidence of the capability and capacity need your project is trying to address with reference to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction challenges and opportunities.

For example, how have you identified the need? Why should the need be addressed or what will be the value to the country? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the need (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

Encephalartos barteri ssp. *allochrous* belongs to the group of plants called cycads and is the only gymnosperm known in Nigeria flora. Cycads are the most "primitive" group of living gymnosperms and thus are among the most ancient of all higher plants surviving until today. The world present cycad flora, with approximately 305 species and subspecies represents a small fraction of the earth's plant diversity. Cycads are threatened by a range of human activities including illegal poaching, habitat destruction, and commercial exploitation.(Donaldson, 2003)

E. barteri ssp. *allochrous* is found only in Plateau state (Nigeria) near the villages of Giling and Putshit on the Jos Plateau (Ekué MRM et al,2008). The overall population size of *E. barteri* ssp. *allochrous* is estimated between 300 and 1 000 and the threats are over-collecting and habitat destruction.

This species is considered as endangered according to IUCN Red List (Bösenberg, J.D. 2022) and is also listed on Appendix I of the CITES Appendices (<http://www.cites.org>).

In Giling and Putshit areas, *E. barteri* occurs sporadically on rocky hillsides and the major threat to this species is illegal poaching. There is, however, lack of data on the current status of the species and it is feared that the existing populations of the species will become extinct if not properly conserved.

We identified common challenges in protecting this species: (i) lack of seed of *Encephalartos Barteri* ssp *Allochrous* (ii) lack of information on seed collection, (iii) lack of knowledge on biodiversity and protection of threatened species by indigenous people.

The overall objective of this project is to directly support the conservation of known surviving populations of *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* by promoting awareness of their status, training in seed collection, nursery development to generate livelihood benefits in the process.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- ☒ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ☒ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- ☒ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your capability and capacity 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 will support the government of Nigeria in meeting its responsibilities towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (Goals A, B, C, D and E), and by contributing to achieving Aichi Targets 1, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 18.

The project will raise levels of awareness of the value and importance of biodiversity within communities, through engagement and communication aiming to promote conservation and sustainable resource use (Target 1). Forests in a buffer zone surrounding the wildlife sanctuary will be managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity (Target 7).

The community-managed Pankshin Hills Sanctuary will contribute to Nigeria's protected area system (Target 11). Protection of the wildlife sanctuary will greatly contribute to the conservation of threatened species including the *Encephalartos barteri* ssp. *allochrous* (Endangered) (Target 12). Protection of the wildlife sanctuary and surrounding buffer zone will provide essential services (Target 14) and its management will promote traditional knowledge and effective participation of local communities (Target 18).

The project also supports the following six Global Goals for Sustainable Development: (1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere; (2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; (5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; (6) Ensure access to water and sanitation for all; (13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; (15) Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.

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

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended capability and capacity 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.).
- What practical elements will be included to embed new capabilities?

Target: Enhanced conservation of *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* and associated habitat in the Pankshin Hills Sanctuary.

Outcome: Increased capability and capacity of local communities to identify and conserve cycads in situ and ex situ.

All output indicators will be aggregated by gender and include measures of project learning through training assessments and questionnaires pre- and post-event. All written material, training resources and questionnaires will be in the local language (hausa) and English.

Output 1: In situ conservation

Year 1: The project will increase awareness of the collection and trade of *Encephalartos barteri* ssp *allochrous*, national and

international legislation, and measures to reduce the impact on local people. It will be led by IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) and the University of Jos. The project team will be guided on best practices in participatory mapping, increasing the capacity to collect data on land use and *E. barteri* ssp allochrous through the participation of local communities.

The skills and knowledge gained will be used to work alongside the Giling and Putshit communities and develop strategies for effective conservation measures on *E. barteri* ssp allochrous populations in situ. Semi-structured interviews will be used to gather data on perceived benefits and risk of *E. barteri* ssp allochrous conservation and use. This will serve as a baseline for project learning and identify the relevant stakeholders for participatory mapping.

Crescendo Afforestation Foundation will lead coordination of participatory mapping workshops to ensure equal participation from men and women. Female facilitators will lead workshops making it a safe space for equal participation by female stakeholders. The aims and proposed outputs of the project will be shared with project participants before the interviews and workshops, and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) will be sought.

A local MSc student will be engaged to focus on identifying local *E. barteri* ssp allochrous populations, conduct habitat surveys and threat assessments, co-supervised by project staff members [REDACTED].

The inclusion of an MSc student will further increase the capacity in *E. barteri* ssp allochrous research.

Year 2: project learning and networking workshop will be held to disseminate the final land-use and *E. barteri* ssp allochrous conservation map, *E. barteri* ssp allochrous population, and identification guides to all relevant stakeholders. There will be opportunities for feedback on proposed conservation strategies and to discuss income diversification for local communities. Results from *E. barteri* ssp allochrous use/collection will be reported to the CITES Authority in Nigeria.

Output 2: Ex situ conservation

Year 1: Training provided by WAECINIT on specificities of seed collection of *E. barteri* ssp allochrous. Field training of key stakeholders will be carried out in collaboration with specialists from WAECINIT and Montane Forest Research Station. The aim of this technical training is to involve local communities, especially women, in the seeds collection and then in the organisation of the nursery. We aim to ensure communities involved in hosting the event feel empowered by the experience to contribute to co-management of nurseries.

Training and capacity building of the participating farmers on the basic tenets of quality seedling production under protected conditions and in improved nursery management technologies and construction of the nurseries: fences, bore hole, seedling bed, greenhouse and protective roof.

Year 2 : Seedlings production and follow-up. Organisation of at least two follow-up meetings with individual participants to discuss the implementation of the training, the organisation of the nursery and to evaluate the impacts of the training. Beyond the duration of the project, all project staff will continue to engage with participants on these issues.

Q14. How will you identify participants?

How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and organisations) to directly benefit from the capability and capacity building activities? What makes these the most suitable participants? How will you ensure that the selection process is unbiased, fair and transparent?

The selected communities are those living in Giling and Putshit, the two villages at either end of the area where the last remaining *E. barteri* ssp allochrous can be found in their wild habitat.

Individual selections inside these communities will aim for a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds and experience, and gender equality. The trainings will be interdisciplinary and participatory, with the aim not simply to teach knowledge and skills, but encourage reflection and debate among participants and training leaders.

Community consultation and awareness will focus on the periphery of Giling and Putshit. The project team, in particular the project leader, has existing relationships locally and with these management organisations, which facilitates this work. Participation in the community sessions will be open, and dissemination to be done by direct invitation of community leaders and key contacts. The project team will lead contact with communities across the area to disseminate the opportunity and collect interest in participating.

Q15. Gender equality

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

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

Women across Nigeria suffer from the consequences of gender inequality, with Nigerian society being highly patriarchal and unequal. Women in Nigeria are traditionally absent from decision-making and lack access to land ownership, information and technical training. Therefore women are disproportionately affected by extreme poverty.

The project will actively target women and ensure inclusion in project activities and outcomes, tackling barriers around women's perceived traditional roles. To ensure women's participation, techniques such as sensitising community leaders and project stakeholders to gender issues will be utilised. To ensure women can effectively participate and access training, activities will take place at times and locations that facilitate women's attendance, to increase their sense of ownership over natural resources. The project will target 40% women in nurseries, which is a realistic target given the context of the area.

Women will be empowered through participating in nursery development, in turn contributing to household income, increasing skills and confidence through training, and taking up leadership positions. This will increase women's voice in household decision-making and control over their lives.

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

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

Q16. Change expected

Detail what the expected changes to in-country capability and capacity will deliver for both biodiversity and poverty reduction. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended) and the potential to scale the approach.

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

The expected outcome of the project is to involve local communities in preservation of endangered *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous*.

The expected short-term changes are:

- 10 individuals (>60% women) have acquired skills in collecting seeds of *Encephalartos Bartero* ssp *Allochrous* and nursery gestion. Women and early to mid-career staff will be given priority in the selection of training participants.
- At least 2 new potential seedlings sources (Community-based nurseries management), including at least one in a community forest, other communal land or smallholder land, have been identified as alternative to indiscriminate poaching and will contribute to a sustainable management strategy.
- At least 40 community members (at least 40% women) have obtained information on income opportunities and skills related to *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* conservation.

Expected long-term changes

- 40 community members in the project district and beyond gain employment and income from *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* seed collection and production.
- 200 community members in the project district and beyond develop mutual trust by engaging in collaboration around sustainable forest management.
- Forest land restoration implementers in the region improve their access to quality seed of native tree species, improving the resilience, productivity and conservation value of restored forests.
- The genetic resources of threatened native species are safeguarded through proper integration and incentives to conserve remaining natural seed sources.

Q17. Exit Strategy

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

How will the built capability and capacity be maintained in-country? How will the new capability and capacity be replicated to strengthen additional future environmental leaders beyond the project? How will the benefits be scaled? Are there any barriers to scaling and if so, how will these be addressed? How will the materials developed during the project be made more widely accessible during and after the project?

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

The nursery staff trained during the project will ensure the continued operation of the nurseries and be able to take over the collection of seeds and cuttings of *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous*.

The community nurseries will improve productivity, building community self-reliance. Capacity building of communities in sustainable management of *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* protection will also ensure protection and sustainable use is maintained beyond project completion. Increased nurseries productivity will in turn reduce pressures on cycad populations in the wild.

The benefits seen through the project, will incentivise the continuation of practices promoted through the project. Capacity building of nurseries will empower the groups to continue with income generating activities, long after project completion. By creating Community-based nurseries, the project will enable groups to be self-sustaining, continue to grow, invest in themselves, and financially benefit in the long-term while reducing identified barriers to scaling up the restoration and conservation of the endangered species *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous*.

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

No Response

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q18. Risk Management

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

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (financial) Funds are mishandled and not used to enhance capacity of local stakeholders for in situ and ex situ <i>E. barteri</i> ssp <i>allochrous</i> conservation.	Major	Rare	Moderate	Crescendo Afforestation Foundation standard Grant Agreement will be signed by all partners. GA will have a specified budget. Article 3.6 onwards outlines action and consequences due to mishandling of funds. Funds paid in instalments with a satisfactory report and associated receipts made available before the release of additional instalments.	Low

Safeguarding Vulnerable participants taking part in project-related training events are subjected to exploitation, abuse, bullying and harassment.	Major	Rare	Moderate	Project staff are briefed on Crescendo's Safeguarding Policy and completed Safeguarding training prior at the start of the project, with a clear understanding of protocol at the onset of an event.	Low
Delivery Chain Crescendo is unable to deliver key project activities (e.g., community engagement, seed conservation, nursery creation) due to restricted access to community.	Severe	Unlikely	Major	Agreement with community leader in place at the start of the project understanding the project's aims and activities.	Low
Risk 4 IITA training module does not successfully achieve the learning objectives resulting in Communities lacking the skills to undertake in-situ conservation.	Moderate	Rare	Minor	The project team are experienced in minor designing and delivering training sessions. Crescendo will support the development of the learning objectives to insure they are realistic, appropriate and fill the knowledge gaps.	Low
Risk 5 E. barteri ssp allochrous populations are not found and/or seeds are not available for collection.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Pre-assessment trips built into the project design to identify appropriate populations and previously known sites. Targeting of multiple areas where populations of different ages are located built into project design.	Moderate
Risk 6 Extreme rainy season that prevents access to the conservation area.	Moderate	Rare	Moderate	Project partners continue to monitor moderate current events. Design of virtual training events in place for community engagement training and self-management in case of isolation of the project area.	Moderate

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q19. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities, linking them to your Outputs. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

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

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q20. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive, and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the improved 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).

Outcome: Increased capability and capacity of local communities to identify and conserve *E. barteri* ssp allochrous in situ and ex situ in Year 2.

Date source: Pre- and post training assessments; final protocol for seed conservation review

Outputs

The following will be collated for the outputs:

1. Total number of people attending the start and end of trainings, workshops and interviews
2. Number of field surveys completed
3. Number of completed map
4. Number of guides ready for distribution at end of Year 2
5. Number of staff attending nursery organisation and gestion training
6. Training Assessment forms completed for training and workshops
7. Number of *E. barteri* ssp allochrous populations found with mature seeds
8. Number of seeds and data collected
9. Number of seed collections with viability test data pre- and post-storage captured at international standards for future comparative study

Data sources will include attendance/interview registers aggregated by gender; PDFs or scans of completed work (e.g., maps, etc); completed pre- and post-training assessment forms; completed pre-collection *E. barteri* ssp allochrous population assessment; completed seed transfer data template; completed viability assessment datasheet.

Crescendo will have overall responsibility of capturing the appropriate data sources and reporting while WAECINIT will be responsible for analysis.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence costs)

██████████

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E

█

Number of days planned for M&E

35

Section 10 - Indicators of Success

Q21. Indicators of success

Please outline the Outcome and Outputs of the project and how you will show that they have been achieved by using SMART indicators and milestones.

See the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance for advice on selecting SMART indicators and milestones.

Please note that the number of participants in training is not an output, please consider how to measure the success of the training rather than participation in training.

In the table below please outline your Outcome and between 1-4 Outputs. Each statement should have between 2-3 SMART indicators and end target (figure/state/quality) including how you would evidence achievement – i.e. “Means of Verification”.

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
Outcome Increase in capability and capacity of local communities stakeholders to identify and conserve E. barteri ssp allochrous in situ and ex situ.	By March 2024, 40 individuals have an increased understanding on challenges and solutions for E. barteri ssp allochrous conservation By December 2023, 20 households will have contributed to identifying key areas for conservation and E. barteri ssp allochrous collection/use, imparting this knowledge to local NGOs, stakeholders and 100 households within the Giling and Putshit communities by September 2024. By March 2024, a population of E. barteri ssp allochrous is conserved ex situ. By July 2024, a guide on key cycad habitats and their threats are made available to all relevant stakeholders By August 2024, a working protocol for safe breaking seed dormancy and the seedling monitoring leading to their long-term conservation is adopted by staff members of the nurseries.	Attendance register and Training assessment forms Attendance register, final map, distribution letter and photos Data transfer forms Collection transfer form, viability assessment form and draft protocol

Output 1

Enhanced capability to identify and protect *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* in situ by local stakeholders within the Giling and Putshit communities.

10 individuals (>60% women) trained on challenges in cycad conservation by July 2023.
MSc student in place by July 2023, and capable of conducting cycad identification and habitat surveys by February 2024.
Semi-structured interviews with 200 community members (Giling and Putshit) to identify socio-economic background, current knowledge of in situ plant conservation, perceived benefit from cycad protection and cycad use completed by September 2023 and analysed by December 2023.
Key *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* populations and current threats (including land and use) gathered through community participatory mapping with 20 households identified by December 2023.
Resources and information on *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* identification, botanical guides and conservation action developed and distributed to ~100 households, local stakeholders.
Crescendo and partner present project findings to local communities, local land managers in a networking workshop by September 2024.

Attendance register, Training Assessment
Data from field surveys
Interview register and data
Attendance register, scan of map
PDF copy of guide, distribution declaration
Attendance register, copy of presentation; minutes of meeting

Output 2

Community-based nurseries have capacity to conserve and develop *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* ex situ, able to disseminate learning to other communities.

By June 2023 training provided by WAECINIT on specificities of seed collection of *E. barteri* ssp *allochrous* and nursery management. Field training of 10 key stakeholders will be carried out in collaboration with specialists from WAECINIT and Montane Forest Research Station. Trained staff members imparting learned knowledge and skill in seed collection to another 10 individuals (60% women) by October 2023.
By September 2023 construction of Putshit's Community-based nursery. Seeds, herbarium and associated data collected by March 2024.
By August 2024 seedlings production in each nursery.
By October 2024 organisation of at least two follow-up meetings with individual participants to discuss the implementation of the training, the organisation of the nursery and to evaluate the impacts of the training.

Attendance register, training assessments
Field data, procurement receipts for nursery setup
Data transfer form
Process viability assessment sheet, data, and collection transfer form
Crescendo field monitoring, observation, photos

Output 3 No Response	No Response	No Response
Output 4 No Response	No Response	No Response

Activities

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

- 1.1 Challenges and perspectives in E. barteri ssp allochrous conservation training taking place in Giling and in Putshit
- 1.2 Recruitment and training of MSc student by partner institution on E. barteri ssp allochrous identification and habitat assessment
- 1.3 Best-practice on semi-structured interviews and community participatory mapping developed
- 1.4 Project staff and MSc student engage with and conduct semi-structure interviews
- 1.5 Participatory mapping exercise with community members
- 1.6 MSc student conduct E. barteri ssp allochrous and habitat surveys
- 1.7 E. barteri ssp allochrous habitat and use map finalised for final networking meeting
- 1.8 E. barteri ssp allochrous guidebook developed and 100 copies printed for distribution
- 1.9 Networking meeting delivered to key stakeholders within the area (community members and local land managers) for networking meeting
- 2.1 Ten individuals training provided by WAECINIT on specificities of seed collection of E. barteri ssp allochrous and nursery management
- 2.2 Delivery of training on E. barteri ssp allochrous ex situ conservation by trained staff members
- 2.3 Setting up community-based nursery in Putshit and training staff nursery
- 2.4 Locality survey of E. barteri ssp allochrous populations for seed collection activity
- 2.5 Seeds, herbarium, and data of E. barteri ssp allochrous collected from multiple areas
- 2.6 Seeds are cleaned, dried and pre-storage viability determined
- 2.7 Seeds dormancy-breaking germination and production
- 2.8 Seeds germination monitoring
- 2.9 Seedlings production monitoring and collecting data
- 2.10 Follow-up meetings with individual participants to discuss the implementation of the training, the organisation of the nursery and to evaluate the impacts of the training

Important Assumptions:

Please describe up to 6 key assumptions that, if held true, will enable you to deliver your Outputs and Outcome.

- Community members and stakeholders are willing to take part in project activities and share information with project staff
- Training is effective in building communities capacity and knowledge of conservation E. barteri ssp allochrous
- Suitable MSc student candidate can start by the proposed time
- Sufficient number of mature seeds available for collection
- Community-based nurseries are willing to well function and organise, following training and provision of materials
- Community-based nurseries staff agree to accept working protocol

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q22. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.





Note that there are different templates for projects requesting under £100,000 and over £100,000. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

- [Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)

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

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

Please upload the Lead Partner's accounts (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance) at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [BCF-Budget-under-£100K-MASTER-Apr22 Crescendo](#)
 05/11/2022
 10:29:53
 xlsx 39.71 KB

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

☒ New Initiative

Please provide details:

Not applicable

Q23b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

☒ No

Q24. Capital items

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

Not applicable

Q25. Value for Money

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

Economy : Crescendo consciously developed the budget, established local costs, and determined the best returns on investment. Key assumptions include fluctuation in exchange rates and inflation throughout the project. Partners will apply Crescendo's procurement policies to ensure transparency and best value. We provide staff with training and a competitive salary, to ensure staff are retained and are able to deliver results, which are both key drivers of success.

Efficiency: Project manager is based locally minimising logistical costs. A training of trainer approach will be used in order to maximise training costs and ensure a long-term diffusion of knowledge. Crescendo and WAECINIT will frequently carry out joint monitoring visits to minimise M&E costs.

Effectiveness: We have strong partnerships and linkages to these communities, and proven experience implementing similar projects successfully to achieve the desired outcomes. Project activities have been developed based on stakeholder consultations, so are appropriate and effective to address beneficiary needs. Crescendo uses adaptive management, to adjust activities to local context changes.

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

This is an excellent return on investment that enhances the conservation of E. barteri ssp allochrous while contributing to a sustainable management strategy and reducing poverty

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q26. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

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

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

As described in Crescendo's Safeguarding policy, Crescendo recognises that safeguarding must be the responsibility of the whole organisation, and therefore covers Trustees, management, staff, volunteers and sub-grantees/ partners working for or with Crescendo. Crescendo trains annually staff and partners on the Safeguarding policy.

We also include safeguarding as part of our sub-grant agreements with partners. The safeguarding policy also details

prevention and reporting procedures in place. Safeguarding is a standing item in all partner meetings.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q27. FCDO Notifications

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

No

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

☒ No

If no, why not?

There is no sensitivity related to the project. We learned about the call quite late and so have focused efforts on identifying shared interest, needs and synergies. We will be happy to discuss with FDCOs to obtain advice for implementation should the project be approved.

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q28. Project staff

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

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





Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
[REDACTED]	Project Leader	40	Checked
[REDACTED]	Nurseries Manager	40	Checked
[REDACTED]	Nursery Technician	60	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

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

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

 [CVs](#)
 07/11/2022
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 pdf 431.49 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

☒ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q29. Project Partners

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

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

Lead Partner name: Crescendo Afforestation Foundation

Website address: <https://www.crescendo-africa.org/>

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

Since 2009, Crescendo has been working to protect forests and the people who live in them. By combining reforestation and agroforestry programmes, we offer local producers an economic alternative to deforestation, increasing soil fertility, improving their land production and diversifying their nutrition.

As lead institution, Crescendo Afforestation Foundation will have overall responsibility for the successful implementation of project activities, maintain project oversight and contact with Darwin, with further ongoing technical support, M&E, grant management and quality assurance. Crescendo Afforestation Foundation will work in conjunction with WAECINIT to deliver the project on-the-ground and in synergy with local government authorities. Crescendo Afforestation Foundation's Programme Manager (Project Leader), based in Pankshin, will have responsibility for overseeing the execution of activities, including coordination with WAECINIT, results monitoring and reporting.

International/In-country Partner ☒ In-country

Allocated budget (proportion or value): [REDACTED]

Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure) ☒ Yes

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

If no, please provide details Cover letter is provided which serves also as a letter of support.

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

☒ Yes

1. Partner Name: WAECINIT

Website address: <https://waecinit.org/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

West African Environmental Conservation Initiative WAECINIT is a Non-Governmental Organisation, Non-Profit Conservation Initiative that deals mainly on protection and conservation of an endangered species of Cycad family (Encephalartos Barteri ssp. Allochrous and Canarium plants). Waecinit strives to participate in the Protection and Conservation of Environment and the Diversities in West Africa to combine the conservation of this Species with a plan of Developing Isolated Villages. WAECINIT will assist this project through sharing a nursery in Takkas for the reproduction of Encephalartos barteri ssp. Allochrous, and forming a genuine partnership to pool skills and knowledge in seed selection and research. One of their representatives would be designated to assist Crescendo Afforestation Foundation on site in Giling.

International/In-country Partner ☒ In-country

Allocated budget:

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

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

2. Partner Name: Montane Forest Research Station Jos

Website address: No Response

What value does this Partner bring to the project?	Montane Forest Research Station Jos is an outstation of Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria. They are a research center of excellence in the areas of forest resources, conservation, management and utilization; forestry manpower development and general sustainable environmental Protection. Their mission is to ensure sustainable forest resource management and production, food production/security, forest-based industrial raw material provision, utilization, Bio-diversity conservation, self-employment opportunities and poverty alleviation through scientific.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Montane Forest Research Station Jos will provide technical support and front line delivery of training in setting up the nurseries.

International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
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Allocated budget:	<div></div>
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Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
---	--------------------------------------

3. Partner Name:	University of Jos
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Website address:	https://www.unijos.edu.ng/
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What value does this Partner bring to the project?	University of Jos has a long tradition of applied research and teaching in the areas of forestry, natural resource management, conservation and protection of endangered species. University strategy focuses on sustainability, and this project fits squarely within the most important area for research and impact for University of Lagos.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Our partnership with University of Jos now exceeds 10 years. Crescendo Afforestation Foundation has been involved in research, policy making and consultancy on conservation of Encephalartos Barteri ssp Allochrous. The botany department will work closely with the rest of the team. A team of volunteer researchers will travel to Pankshin to assist with extensive field training on the specificity of Encephalartos seed collection.

International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
---	---

Allocated budget:	£0.00
--------------------------	-------

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
--	-------------------------------------

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
---	--------------------------------------

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? *No Response*

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner ☐ International
☐ In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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? *No Response*

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner ☐ International
☐ In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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? *No Response*

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner ☐ International ☐ In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00


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.

 [Letters of support](#)

 03/11/2022

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 pdf 392.68 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q30. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

☒ No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead partner.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered? 01 January 2009

What is the legal status of your organisation?

☉ NGO

How is your organisation currently funded?

Around of Crescendo's unrestricted funding is from individuals either as regular donations, appeal donations, gift aid from eligible donations. The remainder of our unrestricted funding and all of our restricted funding is from private trusts and foundations, grants, corporate partnerships and major donor giving. We are currently receiving a multi-year grant from Access bank and from ReforestAction.

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

Aims

Crescendo intervenes by developing an economic model that protects the forest and the people. Our development approach aims at a global integration of development issues within the projects and puts Man and Biodiversity at the heart of the exchange and concerns.

Activities

To plant trees
To protect biodiversity and endangered species
To provide technical trainings about agriculture, agroforestry and biodiversity protection
To preserve the natural environment against desertification
To promote agroforestry
To diversify the communities income

Achievements

Since 2009, Crescendo has been working to protect forests and the people who live in them. By combining reforestation and agroforestry programs, we have offered to local producers an economic alternative to deforestation, increasing soil fertility, improving their land production and diversifying their nutrition. We have protected the biodiversity.

Provide detail 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 ORUNMILA PROJECT

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)

██████

Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)

4 years

Role of organisation in project

Project management: Crescendo was commissioned by Contec to organise the creation of community nurseries and provide training for workers.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Crescendo received funding from Contec Nigeria to plant trees in Nassamawa State, Plateau State and Benue State. The aim was to provide the communities with fruit trees to diversify their food supply and enable them to sell fresh produce in the local market, as well as timber trees to provide wood for cooking and construction.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	
Contract/Project 2 Title	ESHU PROJECT
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	Full project budget ██████████ Crescendo managed award ██████████
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	4 years
Role of organisation in project	Crescendo acted in this project as coordinator of different stakeholders in the field of land management, regenerative agriculture, forest management and beekeeping. Crescendo has created the nursery itself.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Within the framework of corporate social responsibility, the Toyota Motors company has launched a vast project in Ondo State with a global budget of 1 million euros. The aim was to train farmers and communities: - agricultural good practices - regenerative agriculture - beekeeping Crescendo was responsible for coordinating the trainers, organising the logistics of the training courses and building the nursery, as well as training in seedling production techniques from seed collection.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	
Contract/Project 3 Title	PANKSHIN HILLS
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	██████████
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	2 years

Role of organisation in project	Crescendo was the leader on this project and relied on local communities to establish the nursery and living hedges to control cattle roaming.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Crescendo was commissioned by ReforestAction to introduce agroforestry in the Pankshin Hills. Monoculture has degraded the agricultural land and the communities' need for cooking wood has led to uncontrolled deforestation. The objective of the contract was to plant 240,000 trees in agroforestry, mostly in living hedges. Still in progress, scheduled to end at the beginning of the next rainy season.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts (or other financial evidence - see Finance Guidance)?

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

☒ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q30. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Crescendo Afforestation Foundation

I apply for a grant of

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

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

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence - see Finance Guidance) are also enclosed.



Checked

Name

Frédéric de Lacoste








Position in the organisation

Chairman



Signature (please upload e-signature) [Signature FLL](#) 01/11/2022 17:55:45 jpg 31.74 KB**Date**

07 November 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts or other financial evidence (see Finance Guidance)

 [Crescendo Financial Statement & Audited Account YR 2019-2020](#) 06/11/2022 16:02:00 pdf 878.83 KB [Crescendo Financial Statement & Audited Account YR 2020-2021](#) 06/11/2022 16:02:00 pdf 671.14 KB

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

 [Safeguarding Policy Crescendo](#) 05/11/2022 15:44:30 pdf 183.76 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Management 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 my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application:	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My budget (which meets the requirements above)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided	Checked

• I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 28, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
• A letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 29, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
• I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
• I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 26.	Checked
• I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.	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 been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Output 1								
1.1	Challenges and perspectives in E. barteri ssp allochrous conservation training taking place in Giling and in Putshit	1						
1.2	Recruitment and training of MSc student by partner institution on E. barteri ssp allochrous identification and habitat assessment	1						
1.3	Best-practice on semi-structured interviews and community participatory mapping developed	0.25						
1.4	Project staff and MSc student engage with and conduct semi-structure interviews	1						
1.5	Participatory mapping exercise with community members	0.25						
1.6	MSc student conduct E. barteri ssp allochrous and habitat surveys	2						
1.7	E. barteri ssp allochrous habitat and use map finalised for final networking meeting	1						
1.8	E. barteri ssp allochrous guidebook developed and 100 copies printed for distribution	1						
1.9	Networking meeting delivered to key stakeholders within the area (community members and local land managers) for networking meeting	0.25						
Output 2								
2.1	Ten individuals training provided by WAECINIT on specificities of seed collection of E. barteri ssp allochrous and nursery management	0.75						
2.2	Delivery of training on E. barteri ssp allochrous ex situ conservation by trained staff members	0.75						
2.3	Setting up community-based nursery in Putshit and training staff nursery	3						
2.4	Locality survey of E. barteri ssp allochrous populations for seed collection activity	2						
2.5	Seeds, herbarium, and data of E. barteri ssp allochrous collected from multiple areas	2						
2.6	Seeds are cleaned, dried and pre-storage viability determined	0.5						
2.7	Seeds dormancy-breaking germination and production	1						

Project Title: Strengthening conservation capacity for endangered Cycad species. DIR29CC\1103

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2.8	Seeds germination monitoring	2						
2.9	Seedlings production monitoring and collecting data	6						
2.10	Follow-up meetings with individual participants to discuss the implementation of the training, the organisation of the nursery and to evaluate the impacts of the training	1						
	Monitoring & Evaluation							
M&E1	Project launch workshop	0.25						
M&E2	Workshop to define the M&E plan with the partner	0.25						
M&E3	Establishment of project baseline	0.5						
M&E4	Pre-training assessment form	0.5						
M&E5	Post-training assessment form	0.5						
M&E6	Pre-collection E. barteri ssp allochrous population assessment	0.25						
M&E7	Seed transfer data template	0.5						
M&E8	Viability assessment datasheet	0.5						
M&E9	Quarterly follow up	1						
M&E10	Project capitalisation	0.75						
M&E11	Final evaluation	0.75						