

Applicant: **Alvarez de Roman, Noelia**
Organisation: **Botanic Gardens Conservation International**
Funding Sought: **£199,279.00**

DIR31CC\1178

Strengthening Plant Conservation in Latin America through Collaborative Seed Banking

This project addresses the need to strengthen conservation of plant diversity in Latin America. It aims to enhance the newly established seed bank in Bolivia, create a new one in Guatemala, and improve Colombia's seed bank capabilities. Key activities include capacity building, and knowledge exchange among these seed banks. A collaborative Native Seed Bank Network will be created to bolster plant conservation efforts by sharing knowledge with local communities to support ecological restoration and promote sustainable livelihoods in the region.

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mrs
Name	Noelia
Surname	Alvarez de Roman
Organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
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Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
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Address	[REDACTED]
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Strengthening Plant Conservation in Latin America through Collaborative Seed Banking

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mrs
Name	Noelia
Surname	Alvarez de Roman
Organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Phone (Work)	
Email	
Address	

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title

Strengthening Plant Conservation in Latin America through Collaborative Seed Banking

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [BGCI Cover letter DI Capacity & Capability Native Seed Bank Network](#)

 19/10/2024

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 pdf 331.67 KB

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

☒ No

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical 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.

This project addresses the need to strengthen conservation of plant diversity in Latin America. It aims to enhance the newly established seed bank in Bolivia, create a new one in Guatemala, and improve Colombia’s seed bank capabilities. Key activities include capacity building, and knowledge exchange among these seed banks. A collaborative Native Seed Bank Network will be created to bolster plant conservation efforts by sharing knowledge with local communities to support ecological restoration and promote sustainable livelihoods in the region.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Bolivia	Country 2	Colombia
Country 3	Guatemala	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 2025	31 March 2027	2 years

Q8. Budget summary

Darwin Initiative Funding Request	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
(1 Apr - 31 Mar) £	£110,460.00	£88,819.00	£199,279.00

Q10. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

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

Q11. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

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

☒ No

Section 4 - Project need

Q13. 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.

Latin America is an extraordinarily diverse region in biological, geographic, political, social and cultural dimensions. Unfortunately, the region is experiencing rapid degradation and loss of ecosystems and biodiversity, often outpacing our ability to understand their full complexity and value [2].

Seed banks have proven to be a successful strategy for the conservation of plant diversity, offering immense potential for enhancing community well being and resilience [4]. However, the Action Plan for the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in Latin America identifies limited technical capacity and shortage of high-quality native seeds as barriers to achieve restoration targets [1].

While many seed banks in Latin America are focused on protecting crop diversity to ensure food security and build agricultural resilience, there are fewer examples of seed banks playing a role in the conservation of threatened wild species and supporting ecological restoration programmes. Moreover, there is a growing need to integrate these efforts with traditional knowledge and promote sustainable livelihoods. Since 2019 the Seed Conservation Colombian Network initiative has become a reference for the long-term conservation of plant species' genetic diversity. Seven institutions, including the Bogotá Botanic Garden and Humboldt Institute, lead initiatives focused on the conservation of wild species in Colombia. However, gaps remain in linking conservation efforts with ex situ conservation methods across Latin America.

The newly established seed bank at the Botanic Garden of La Paz in Bolivia and the efforts at the Botanic Garden CECON-USAC in Guatemala play vital roles in conserving plant diversity in their countries. However, they face significant limitations due to the lack of advanced technical expertise and sufficient seed bank infrastructure. This project seeks to establish a functional technical seed banking network which integrates institutions and local communities by fostering collaboration, building technical capacity, enhancing current seed banking

facilities in Bolivia and Colombia and creating a new seed bank in Guatemala. These seed banks will become nodes for training local communities in seed collection, nursery management, empowering them to support their livelihoods and food security.

Through the creation of a Native Seed Bank Network in these three countries, the project aims to address the institutional gaps and needs related to seed banking — providing training and technical support to botanic gardens and other organizations involved in plant conservation, restoration ecology, and local communities. The collaboration between seed banks in Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala, alongside support from BGCI, will significantly enhance their capacity to conserve wild plant species, contribute to ecological restoration, and integrate traditional knowledge into these efforts.

Furthermore, this project will serve as a model for replication in other countries across the region, expanding its impact and providing a platform for collaborative discussion and development of conservation strategies tailored to the unique plant diversity of Latin America. A robust network of seed banks will preserve genetic diversity, ensure ecosystems remain resilient, and continue to provide essential services to local communities while supporting sustainable livelihoods. This approach will stimulate research and innovation, foster regional cooperation, and attract international support — making it a valuable investment.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- ☒ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ☒ Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- ☒ International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- ☒ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ☒ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q14b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

This project directly contributes to national and international biodiversity and sustainability policies. It aligns with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala, as outlined by the Convention on Biological Diversity. By preserving native seed diversity and promoting their sustainable use, the project will help these countries achieve their biodiversity and conservation goals.

In accordance with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing, the project will establish transparent mechanisms for sharing genetic resources and traditional knowledge. This will enhance access, ensure equitable benefit-sharing, and facilitate technology transfer between stakeholders while fostering international cooperation.

The project also aligns with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture by supporting conservation and management practices for plant genetic resources. This contributes to food security and ensures equitable access to plant materials and knowledge, in line with the treaty's principles.

Moreover, the project supports key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Goal 13: Through plant conservation efforts that mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.
- Goal 15: By promoting terrestrial ecosystem conservation and restoring biodiversity.
- Goal 17: By fostering international partnerships and collaboration in biodiversity conservation.

By building capacity and transferring knowledge, this project reinforces commitments and nationally determined contributions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, supporting efforts to integrate biodiversity conservation into climate action plans.

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

Q15. 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.

Our objective is to enhance the abilities of botanic gardens in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala to establish and manage seed banks — serving not only as pivotal resources for conservation and restoration but also acting as nodes for the training of local communities with skills needed to support their livelihoods and food security. These collaborations facilitated by BGCI will create the Native Seed Bank Network with the long-term goal of expanding to other countries in Latin America. The following phases will be implemented:

1. Functioning seed banks established and strengthened at project partners institutions.

First, we will assess the status and capacities of project partners through 4 online meetings and will identify needs and opportunities to enhance the efficiency of conservation and ecological restoration projects via seed banks.

We will establish and strengthen seed banks for the four partners institutions by acquiring new infrastructure and building capacity as seen in phase 2.

The 4 seed banks will be considered functional by conserving 16 new native plant species used in restoration and/or as food as prioritised together with local communities as seen in phase 3. Seeds will be processed and stored, resulting in the development and publication of seed storage protocols for at least 8 species by the end of project.

2. Increased technical capacity among project partners and conservation professionals in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala including Train-the-Trainer techniques.

At least 45 people (50% female) will receive theoretical and practical field based and laboratory training on seed banking and propagation techniques. These one week in-person courses will be provided by the Seed Conservation Colombian Network and BGCI and will cover seed conservation, long-term curation and

maintenance of seed banks and general nursery concepts including data collection and development of propagation protocols.

An online Train-the-Trainer course will be created for team members of the project partners who completed the in-person technical training. Facilitated by the Humboldt Institute, the course will integrate social appropriation knowledge processes, enabling project partners to become 'training nodes'. These nodes will help strengthen local communities' capacities on seed collection, propagation, and conservation (Phase 3). At least 15 participants from the three countries will complete this course.

3. Strengthened local communities' capacities to improve seed collection, propagation of native plant species and conservation:

In their capacity as training nodes, each project partner will develop and deliver training courses to 20 local community members. These courses will equip communities with practical knowledge to collect seeds, propagate native wild species, manage nurseries and diversify their resource acquisition methods. A seed-banking toolkit will be handed to each community group. Importantly, these courses will serve as opportunities to identify and honour local traditional knowledge and practices, ensuring they are respected and integrated into project activities.

Courses will be split into two sessions, a 3-days technical and fieldwork session (Q1 year 2), and a 2-days session focused on providing technical support and progress evaluation (Q3 year 2).

Capacities of local communities will be enhanced by implementing conservation actions for at least 16 native species. Species' selection will be based on criteria such as conservation assessments, restoration potential, cultural relevance and food security value. At least 3 field trips will be carried out to collect seeds which will be conserved in the newly capacitated and established seed banks (Phase 1).

4. Consolidation of the Native Seed Bank Network.

A strategic framework will be created outlining the objectives, governance, best practices and activities of the newly created Native Seed Bank Network.

BGCI will convene an inaugural online event to launch the Native Seed Bank Network, inviting different stakeholders.

This project will serve as the first step towards establishing a Latin American Seed Bank Network. It will generate products, such as the Train-the-Trainer course, seed banking toolkit and the creation of seed banks tailored to local needs. Materials will be accessible on a dedicated page for the Native Seed Bank Network on BGCI's website.

The project's effectiveness is backed by the success of the Colombian Seed Conservation Network, the South American and the Caribbean & Central American Botanic Gardens Networks.

Overall project's governance rests with BGCI as coordinator of regional botanic gardens' networks. The Humboldt Institute and Bogotá BG will provide technical capacity with BGCI's expertise. BG La Paz and BG CECON-USAC will act as partners institutions for Bolivia and Guatemala respectively. The Humboldt Centre for Knowledge Appropriation together with seed specialists will lead the Train-the-Trainer and support the local community courses.

A steering committee will be established to enable adaptive management and mitigate risks.

Q16. How will you identify participants?

How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and/or 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? How have you incorporated GESI considerations in identifying participants?

Seed banking and propagation techniques training for project partners and conservation professionals:

Participants will be identified in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala from local institutions and organisations already engaged in relevant activities, such as ex situ plant conservation activities — specifically seed banking, managing protected areas, undertaking reforestation and conservation initiatives at municipal and departmental levels — and those affected by significant environmental challenges. Through an application process we will ensure a balance of female and male attendees incorporating GESI considerations.

Train-the-Trainer course:

Participants will be selected from the initial technical training and be part of the project partners institutions as they will become part of the future training nodes. They will be evaluated as suitable candidates through an evaluation form with criteria such as previous dedication to ecological conservation and restoration, influence and ability to drive change at the community level, and potential to disseminate the knowledge gained.

Local community training courses:

Project partners have identified local communities living close to fragile habitats ie. cloud forest in Guatemala, relic forest patches and ecosystems in peri-urban areas in Bolivia and the high Andean Forest and paramo ecosystem in Colombia. The participants of the training will be nursery owners, farmers and private reserve owners. The project will prioritise women and youth participation. The communities identified in Guatemala are four villages around the 'Biotopo del Quetzal' in Purulha, protected area. In Colombia, the communities identified will belong to the 'Asocampo los Coloraditos' association. In Bolivia, identified communities include the Aymara communities of Wilacota, Palca, and Cohoni which who are peri-urban and farming communities situated in vulnerable ecosystems.

All participants will receive training in seed collection, propagation of native wild species, and nursery management, prioritizing women and youth in their selection, as these groups face limited opportunities in these rural areas.

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.

For the successful implementation and long-term impact of the project, it is crucial to incorporate a gender equity and social diversity approach that addresses the specific challenges within each context. We recognize that certain groups may face obstacles such as unequal access to education, domestic responsibilities affecting their availability for training, or language barriers hindering their full participation.

To address these challenges, our plan includes training programs designed to accommodate the varying circumstances of participants. This involves implementing flexible schedules that enable both women and men to attend the trainings.

Additionally, we emphasise the importance of maintaining multidisciplinary and diverse teams in the

participating project countries. Such teams should reflect equality and foster leadership that respects and values different perspectives and knowledge. An inclusive and representative team will better identify the needs and solutions aligned with each community's unique context. This is essential for developing effective conservation strategies by respecting the cultural and environmental specificities of the region.

By implementing gender equity and ensuring social diversity within our teams, the project's impact is amplified, establishing an operation grounded in the principles of social justice and equity. This approach will make these values visible and reinforce them in the communities we engage with. We are committed to promoting equal opportunities in team formation, professional development, and decision-making processes, ensuring sustainable and equitable impacts in the long term.

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 – including capability and capacity building benefits) and b) the potential changes in the long-term (after the project has ended).

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

Biodiversity loss and environmental degradation is a critical issue for Latin America and the Caribbean, and moderate to severe food insecurity affected 40.4% of the population in 2020 [3]. Seed banks and botanic gardens are proved to be crucial players when it comes to the successful conservation of plant diversity, but unfortunately there is a lack of coordination and knowledge shared between them. This project will establish the Native Seed Bank Network as an initiative to bridge this gap and build capacity in seed banking techniques for botanic gardens and other plant conservation institutions. In addition, it will disseminate awareness of threatened plant species, seed collection, species propagation and cultivation for local communities in Bolivia, Guatemala and Colombia with the view to increase food security and restore degraded areas.

In the short term:

At least 45 technical staff (15 in Bolivia, 15 in Guatemala, 15 in Colombia) from 9 different institutions - 50% females - will receive training on seed bank management, including seed collection, processing, storage, documentation and general nursery management. Training will address the importance of accurate data collection, genetic representation for threatened plant species, standardisation of seed collections, processing, storing methods, nursery management and propagation protocols.

At least 15 technical staff from partner institutions (5 in Bolivia, 5 in Guatemala, 5 in Colombia) will complete the online Train-the-Trainer course. Project partners will become 'training nodes' and will support the strengthening of local communities' capacities on seed collection, propagation techniques and conservation.

At least 60 community members (20 in Bolivia, 20 in Guatemala, 20 in Colombia) – including youth and 50% females – will receive training on seed collection, propagation, and cultivation techniques to support restoration and sustainable livelihoods by the training nodes.

This project will establish a functional Native Seed Bank Network — coordinated by the Seed Conservation Colombian Network and supported by the South American Botanic Gardens Network, under BGCI's coordination — with the objectives of sharing knowledge, building capacity and scaling up this project to other countries.

In the long term:

Trained staff at the institutions in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala will have acquired the tools to train others in-country and neighbouring countries. Products such as the Train-the-Trainer courses and the toolkit on seed collection, propagation, cultivation for conservation and sustainable livelihoods for local communities — developed throughout the project — will be shared on BGCI's website. The seed collection data will be uploaded into BGCI's database PlantSearch.

Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

How will the project reach a point where the benefits of strengthened capability and capacity can be sustained post-funding?

How will the capability and capacity be retained and remain available to deliver benefits in-country after the project? Is there potential for the new capability and capacity to renew itself or deliver additional capability and capacity, for example by building future environmental leaders beyond the project?

The project implements a Train-the-Trainer strategy, empowering local experts to continue training others after the project concludes. This approach fosters a cascading effect, where knowledge is continually transferred, ensuring long-term sustainability of skills and practices. By involving community members from the outset, the project encourages ownership of biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction activities. When the community, as the primary beneficiary, is actively engaged, they are more likely to sustain and disseminate these practices.

Establishing a network of native seed banks across Latin America, in coordination with existing networks, enhances collaboration and knowledge sharing among countries and institutions. This fosters a culture of continuous learning and capacity building. The training will cover seed collection and cultivation techniques which are sustainable, and communities can maintain their collections using local resources, ensuring independence from external funding.

Collaboration with local institutions provides a structural and financial foundation for capacity development activities beyond the project's duration. Effective monitoring and evaluation systems will be implemented to allow for continuous improvement and adaptability, ensuring the sustainability and expansion of the project's positive impacts. Inclusive capacity-building initiatives, particularly targeting women and marginalized groups, will extend the project's benefits and encourage diverse leadership in these activities.

The project is designed to be self-sustaining. As trained individuals disseminate their skills and more community members get involved, a network of environmental leaders will emerge. These leaders will advocate for policies and practices that support biodiversity and poverty reduction, driving innovation and furthering the project's goals independently. Uploading seed collection data to global databases like PlantSearch and online training materials to the BGCI website will ensure the information remains available and accessible long-term.

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

 [Reference List DIR31CC 1178](#)

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, two Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated). Partners receiving sub-grants do not use the funds for intended purposes	Severe	Rare	Major	Mitigated by working with known partners that BGCI has collaborated with before. All partners that will receive funds through this project, have received funding from BGCI previously, which was well-managed and reported on	Minor
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. Partners and collaborators break code of conduct and ignore principles of safeguarding during training courses, carrying out project activities, or collaborating with local stakeholders and communities	Moderate	Rare	Minor	Mitigated by ensuring all partners agree to adhere to BGCI's Code of Conduct including Safeguarding Policy. Mitigated by including code of conduct, safeguarding and other policies as condition of funding, part of training and project initiation. Mitigated by working with reputable organisations already well known to us	Minor
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. Project partners or community members are injured whilst taking part in project activities	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Mitigated by ensuring all the activities including the training of communities or staff members will include HSS components, with rules to reduce risks and protocols when incidents arise (e.g. standard emergency protocols)	Minor
Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model. Practitioners are not using the information and tools generated through the project	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Mitigated by involving key national stakeholders and government institutions and disseminating the tools through BGCI's global network	Minor

Risk 5 Due to unfortunate events technical trainers and BGCI are unable to visit Guatemala and Bolivia for the technical sessions.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Mitigated by the expertise available locally within the region. BGCI supported other projects through the COVID19 pandemic using Zoom for technical meetings, M&A, training and financial information.	Minor
Risk 6 Turnover of institutional staff trained and involved in project implementation	Major	Possible	Major	Mitigated by creating training manuals, guidelines and online materials shared in the BGCI website that can be shared to new people	Moderate
Risk 7 Operational: one of the partners decides it is unable to support the project so that relevant outputs risk not being undertaken and included in project decisions and dissemination	Major	Possible	Major	BGCI and project partners will be part of the steering committee, any issues will be addressed as they arise, reducing possibility of partners leaving. BGCI has yearly agreements for project funds and will require at least three months' notice from partner leaving the project, providing time to identify new partners.	Moderate

Q21. Project sensitivities

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

☒ Yes

Please provide brief details.

This project involves sensitive information regarding the exact locations of threatened wild plant species, which, if published, could increase the risk of illegal harvesting or exploitation. Additionally, there may be political sensitivities related to land use and conservation practices, particularly in areas where local communities depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. It is important to handle this data carefully to avoid unintended harm to both the species and the local communities. Security measures will be implemented to protect sensitive information, and discussions with stakeholders will be conducted with cultural and political awareness to mitigate potential conflicts.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q23. 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 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).

The M&E will be conducted by BGCI, in collaboration with project partners. BGCI will be responsible for tracking progress, ensuring that all activities align with project’s objectives, and reporting on both positive and negative impacts. M&E will be integrated throughout the project lifecycle and will not be treated as an isolated component.

BGCI will establish a Steering Committee of national and international experts, including the main project partners and stakeholders. They will guide the project and will meet at least bi-annually to assess progress, including any challenges arisen, review the risk register, and suggest adaptive management as needed.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) will be established at the outset, covering areas such as capacity building, seed bank functionality and community engagement. Regular evaluations will be conducted quarterly, using both qualitative and quantitative data, to measure progress against these KPIs. Monitoring tools will include field visits, surveys, feedback from community workshops, and technical reports from partner institutions.

An adaptive management approach will be employed, ensuring that lessons learned during M&E are used to adjust project strategies and improve outcomes. Any challenges or deviations from the plan will be addressed promptly through corrective actions, as advised by the steering committee.

Approximately 9% of the total project budget will be allocated to M&E, with an estimated 40 person-days dedicated to monitoring tasks annually, including time for travelling, data collection, analysis, reporting, and reviewing progress with stakeholders. The final M&E report will assess the project’s overall impact on biodiversity conservation, community livelihoods, and policy alignment.

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

Section 10 - Indicators of Success & Standard Indicators

Q24a. 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.

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
Outcome Capacity, capability and commitment to conserve plant diversity and contribute to restoration efforts by seed banking methods in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala increased	At least 4 operational seed banks established or strengthened by 2027	Evidence of meetings e.g. reports, action points, decisions
	45 professionals from Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala applying new skills in seed conservation, upscaling plant conservation	Baseline and end line reports on seed banks inventories
	60 local community members increased capability in seed collection, processing, and propagation	Sign-up sheets, photographs, minutes
	16 wild plant species conserved through seed collection and banked by the end of the project	Pre and post surveys of training courses
	Established Native Seed Bank Network with Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala, sharing knowledge and expertise on seed banking to other countries in Latin America	Ex situ conservation reports: records entered on BGCI PlantSearch database
Output 1 Functioning seed banks established and strengthened at project partners institutions	1.1 At least 4 operational seed banks established or strengthened by 2027	Signed framework document for the Native Seed Bank Network
	1.2 At least 4 field trips carried out to collect seed material by the end of project	Official administrative report with photographs of the newly created and strengthened seed banks
	1.3 At least 16 new wild plant species conserved through seed collection by the end of the project	Seed bank inventories
	1.4 Publication of Seed Storage Protocols of 8 native species by end of project	Ex situ seed collection data entered on BGCI PlantSearch database
		Seed storage protocols published

Output 2 Increased capacity among project partners and conservation professionals in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala in seed banking, propagation of native plant species and train-the- trainer techniques	2.1 45 technical staff (50% women) successfully trained by the end of 2026.	
	2.2 75% of participants demonstrate improved seed bank management skills in post-training assessments by end of project	Course report Training attendance records
	2.3 15 people (5 persons per node) complete the train-the -trainer programme in seed banking, propagation techniques and conservation	Participants pre and post survey Train-the-trainer workshop repor
	2.4 Participants in the train-the-trainer course to demonstrate 50% increase in knowledge of designing and delivery seed conservation and propagation techniques and conservation	Course materials published online
Output 3 Increased capacity among local communities to improve seed collection and processing as well as propagation of native plant species for the use in restoration	3.1 60 community members (50% women) trained by the end of the project	Course reports with community feedback surveys
	3.2 75% of participants demonstrate improved skills in post-training assessments by end of project	Training logs Toolkit on seed collection, propagation and cultivation for local communities published
	3.3 Developed toolkit on seed collection, propagation and cultivation for local communities	Lists of target plant species per community
	3.4 Publication of Propagation Protocols for 6 native species by end of project	Propagation protocol published for 6 native species
Output 4 Native Seed Bank Network of Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala launched and functioning as knowledge- shared hub	4.1 Framework document completed and endorsed by all partners by the end of the project	Signed framework document
	4.2 1 online event to launch the Native Seed Bank Network to share knowledge among participants. At least 75 people from 10 Latin American countries represented at this meeting.	Event attendance records Reports from knowledge-sharing events

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.

Output 1:

- 1.1 Establish a steering committee including a technical committee by country and meet bi-annually to monitor and adaptively manage the project as needed
- 1.2 Run 4 online meetings to define status of seed banking facilities at project partners' institutions
- 1.3 Buy specialised equipment to establish and enhance the infrastructure of seed banks in Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala
- 1.4 Carry out tolerance desiccation trials for seeds collected during project (following activity 3.6)
- 1.5 Develop ex situ conservation collections by storing seeds at partners' institutions seed banks
- 1.6 Develop and publish seed storage protocols

Output 2:

- 2.1 Develop a comprehensive seed bank management training curriculum for technical staff, covering seed collection, storage, and propagation techniques.
- 2.2 Advertise course in each of the countries and select participants, ensuring equal gender participation
- 2.3 Arrange course logistics by country
- 2.4 Conduct 3 in-person training workshops in Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala for 45 technical staff.
- 2.5 Implement pre- and post-training assessments to evaluate the improvement of skills among participants
- 2.6 Evaluation, feedback and reporting
- 2.7 Develop a comprehensive course Train-the-Trainer
- 2.8 Advertise Train-the-Trainer course and select participants, ensuring equal gender participation
- 2.9 Conduct 1 online Train-the-Trainer course for at least 15 participants.
- 2.10 Implement pre- and post-training assessments to evaluate the improvement of skills among participants
- 2.11 Evaluation, feedback and reporting

Output 3:

- 3.1 Develop a comprehensive toolkit on seed collection, propagation, cultivation for conservation and sustainable livelihoods for local communities
- 3.2 Plan three community training courses, one in each country, each consisting of two sessions. The workshops will focus on seed collection and propagation for conservation and sustainable livelihoods, including progress

evaluation and ongoing support

3.3 Approach local communities, introduce the training and select participants, including youth and 50% females

3.4 Conduct the first session of workshop for 60 community members across the three countries, led by new trainers with support from the Humboldt Institute.

3.5 Identify target native plant species for restoration or food during the workshops.

3.6 Incorporate a fieldwork activity in the first phase, where local communities collect seeds of prioritised species and propagate them in their nurseries.

3.7 Conduct a second session of the workshop 3 months later for the same 60 community members, providing technical support for nursery management, plant cultivation, and monitoring and evaluation of community activities.

Output 4:

4.1 Facilitate consultations between partners in Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala to draft the Native Seed Bank Network framework.

4.2 Plan and advertise the launch of the Native Seed Bank Network as an online event in Colombia

4.3 Host 1 knowledge-sharing online event to launch the creation of the Native Seed Bank Network and promote collaboration and exchange best practices among network members and other Latin American seed banking institutions

4.4 Finalise and endorse the framework for the Native Seed Bank Network

4.5 Create online presence for the Native Seed Bank Network through BGCI's website

Important Assumptions:

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

1. Continued stakeholder commitment: Partners and institutions remain engaged and support the project's objectives throughout its duration.

2. Political stability: There are no major political disruptions that impact project implementation in Bolivia, Colombia, or Guatemala.

3. Community participation: Local communities actively engage in training and conservation efforts.

4. Funding continuity: Adequate funding is maintained to support all project activities.

5. Environmental conditions: No extreme environmental events (e.g., fires, floods) significantly hinder seed collection or nursery activities.

6. Knowledge transfer: Trained staff and communities apply the knowledge gained effectively in seed bank management and conservation efforts.

Q24b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
e.g. DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3	e.g. 60	e.g. 30 non-indigenous women; 30 non-indigenous men
DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Output indicator 2.1/Output 2	45	23 women; 22 men
DI-A05: Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training	Output indicator 2.3/ Output 2	15	8 women; 7 men
DI-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output indicator 1.4/Output 1	8	<i>No Response</i>
DI-A03: Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity	Output indicator 1.1/Output 1	4	<i>No Response</i>
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output indicator 2.2/Output 2	33	<i>No Response</i>
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output indicator 2.4/Output 2	7	<i>No Response</i>
DI-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output indicator 3.3/Output 3	1	<i>No Response</i>
DI-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output indicator 3.4/Output 3	6	<i>No Response</i>
DI-C07: Number of webinar attendees	Output indicator 4.2/Output 4	75	<i>No Response</i>

DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output indicator 3.2/Output 3	30	30 local community women; 30 local community men
DI-C09: Number of records added to accessible databases	Output indicator 1.3/Output 1	16	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

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

No Response

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q25. 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.

 [BCF Budget over 100k DIR31CC 1178](#)

 20/10/2024

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 xlsx 90.21 KB

Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

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

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

☒ Development of existing/past activities

Please provide details:

This project builds on previous seed conservation efforts, such as the Seed Conservation Colombian Network and the recently established seed bank in Bolivia. It aligns with existing work by institutions like the Bogotá Botanic Garden and the Humboldt Institute, which have been involved in the conservation of wild plant species. While there are ongoing efforts in Colombia, this project introduces a regional network approach that connects Bolivia, Guatemala, and Colombia, focusing on strengthening collaboration, enhancing technical capacity, and avoiding duplication of efforts by promoting knowledge exchange and resource sharing across countries.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

☒ No

Q27. Value for Money

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

This project offers excellent value for money by efficiently utilizing resources to achieve high-impact outcomes in biodiversity conservation and community development. The regional approach maximizes cost-effectiveness by leveraging existing expertise in Colombia, Bolivia, and Guatemala, reducing the need for external consultants. Investments in capacity building and infrastructure, such as seed banks, create long-term benefits by empowering local institutions and communities to sustain conservation efforts beyond the project's duration. The project also ensures equity by prioritizing gender balance in training and community involvement, directly addressing local livelihoods and food security. The budget is carefully allocated to ensure maximum ecological and socio-economic impact per pound spent.

Q28. 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.

We are requesting 8% of the budget for capital items due to the need to establish and enhance the infrastructure of seed banks in Bolivia, Colombia, and Guatemala. This includes purchasing specialized equipment such as seed storage facilities, laboratory tools for seed testing, and technology for data management and monitoring. These investments are crucial to ensure the long-term functionality and success of the seed banks. After the project ends, the capital items will remain with the partner institutions, enabling them to continue conservation efforts and maintain the infrastructure for future projects.

Section 12 - Safeguarding

Q29. Safeguarding

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

Please outline how your project will ensure:

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

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

Our project is committed to safeguarding all individuals involved. We follow a zero-tolerance policy on bullying, harassment, and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEAH), aligned with the CAPSEAH (Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment) standard. This includes implementing strict safeguarding measures and ensuring that all stakeholders are fully aware of these policies (refer to point 3.10 in the Safeguarding Policy).

Our Safeguarding Policy reflects our commitment to this standard, with clear guidelines for preventing harm and abuse. The policy is communicated to all stakeholders, including beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff, ensuring they are fully aware of our commitment. Confidential reporting channels are provided, allowing anyone to raise concerns safely. The Whistleblowing Policy outlines a secure process for raising concerns and it ensures that they are promptly investigated and documented. We emphasize transparency and accountability, ensuring that all allegations are promptly investigated and documented, with disciplinary actions taken as necessary. Our Code of Conduct clearly defines expected behaviours for all staff and volunteers. Non-compliance is met with appropriate disciplinary measures, including potential dismissal.

- (a) All participants and staff will be informed of our safeguarding commitment through training sessions and written materials. Confidential channels will be established for raising concerns, ensuring anonymity and protection for whistleblowers.
- (b) Safeguarding issues will be promptly investigated, documented, and addressed in accordance with our disciplinary procedures. If complaints are upheld, appropriate actions will be taken, which may include warnings, suspension, or dismissal, depending on the severity of the case.
- (c) We will ensure that all project partners meet these safeguarding standards by including compliance with safeguarding policies as a condition for participation. Regular checks and reviews will be conducted.

Where relevant, a Health, Safety, and Security Plan will be implemented to mitigate potential risks, ensuring the well-being of all project participants.

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 Q31 and in your budget.

[Redacted]

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q30. 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.

 [Compiled embassy emails DIR31CC 1178](#)

 20/10/2024

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 pdf 656.2 KB

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q31. Project staff

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

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Noelia Alvarez de Román	Project Leader	20	Checked
Maria Jose Mata Quiros	Project Officer, BGCI	10	Checked
Ana Zabaleta	Safeguarding Focal Point, BGCI	5	Checked
Carla Maldonado Gozyueta	Project Manager, Herbario Nacional de Bolivia- BG La Paz, Bolivia	20	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Francisco Saavedra	Project Coordinator Herbario Nacional de Bolivia- BG La Paz, Bolivia	50	Checked
Amalia Díaz	Project Manager Technical Trainings, Humboldt Institute, Colombia	20	Checked
Monica Florez	Project Lead Technical Trainings, Humboldt Institute, Colombia	40	Checked
Angela Celis	Project Lead Community Engagement, Humboldt Institute, Colombia	30	Checked
Carlos Suarez	Project Manager, BG Bogotá, Colombia	50	Checked
Blanca Aurora Herrera Castiblanco	Project Coordinator, BG Bogotá, Colombia	100	Checked
Carolina Zea Rosales	Project Manager, Botanic Garden CECON-USAC, Guatemala	15	Checked
Vivian Ochoa	Project Coordinator, Botanic Garden CECON-USAC, Guatemala	75	Checked

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

 Compiled CVs DIR31CC 1178

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 pdf 907.08 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

☒ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q32. 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.

Lead Organisation name:	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Website address:	https://www.bgci.org
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	BGCI is the world's largest plant conservation network with over 900 member organisations in >100 countries and >3,500 botanic gardens and plant conservationist institutions on our digital register. Our mission is to mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.
	BGCI will lead the overall management of the project, working closely with project partners throughout. This will include being responsible for the monitoring and financial reporting to the Darwin Initiative.
	BGCI leads tree conservation projects in Latin America for more than 20 years and coordinates the South American and Caribbean & Central American Botanic Gardens Networks.
	BGCI will support the technical training and the design of materials using its staff knowledge and BGCI's global network. BGCI will publish a web page related to the project.
	BGCI will ensure the monitoring of outputs and will incorporate tools such as the BGCI databases PlantSearch and Global Tree Portal and The Global Biodiversity Standard to ensure the best impacts for biodiversity and livelihoods.
	BGCI's training capacity, regional involvement, and policy expertise will ensure the Native Seed Bank Network's knowledge-sharing hub effectively reaches policymakers, private individuals, and institutions.
International/In-country Partner	☒ International
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	

Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☒ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☒ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

☒ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Herbario Nacional de Bolivia/Botanic Garden of La Paz
Website address:	https://sbb.org.bo/herbarios/herbario-nacional-lpb/
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	The Herbario Nacional de Bolivia/Jardín Botánico La Paz plays a critical role in the conservation of Bolivia's native flora. Working under the guidance and support of the Missouri Botanical Garden Program in Bolivia, which has not only contributed invaluable expertise but also provided key funding for projects such as the establishment of the Seed Bank, the institution continues to play a pivotal role. The Missouri Botanical Garden's experience and financial support have been fundamental in enabling these initiatives, and they will remain committed to the ongoing development of the Seed Bank.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The Herbario Nacional de Bolivia will oversee the strengthening and long-term functionality of the Seed Bank, ensuring that it becomes a cornerstone for the conservation of Bolivia's biodiversity. In addition, the institution will coordinate training programs for technical staff and local community members, using its strong connections with indigenous and rural communities to advance the project's goals. These efforts focus on building local capacity and promoting the conservation of endangered species, creating a sustainable foundation for future conservation efforts across the region.
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

2. Partner Name:	Instituto de Investigaciones en Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt (Humboldt Institute)
Website address:	www.humboldt.org.co

What value does this Partner bring to the project?	The mission of the Institute is to promote, coordinate and carry out scientific research on continental biodiversity and its ecosystem services that contribute to the knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of them as a factor for the development and welfare of the Colombian population. This mission is aligned with four of the main elements of the present project: plant conservation, communities, seed banking, and networking.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The Humboldt Institute brings significant value to the project through its extensive expertise and capacity in seed collection. The institute will lead the delivery of technical training sessions, ensuring that participants are equipped with the necessary skills for seed collection and related activities. It will be responsible for creating educational resources that will support both the training and ongoing learning of participants. By leveraging its Centre for Knowledge Appropriation, the institute will play a crucial role in the "Train-the-Trainers" initiative, ensuring local trainers are well-prepared. This will also include the facilitation of local community workshops to foster knowledge sharing and skill dissemination at the grassroots level.
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

3. Partner Name:	Bogotá Botanic Garden
Website address:	https://jbb.gov.co/
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	The Bogotá Botanic Garden mission is to research and conserve the flora of the high Andean and paramo ecosystems, contributing to the generation, application, and social appropriation of knowledge for climate change adaptation, improving quality of life, and promoting sustainable development in the Capital District and the Region. As part of its conservation strategies, the Bogotá Botanic Garden has a seed bank that conducts research on conservation and restoration. The role of this seed bank in the project is related to providing training to partner institutions and local communities, conducting community work in the Sumapaz paramo (Colombia), and supporting the consolidation of native seed bank network of Bolivia, Guatemala and Colombia.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	
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

4. Partner Name:	Botanic Garden CECON_USAC
Website address:	https://jardinbotanico.usac.edu.gt/

What value does this Partner bring to the project?	he Botanic Garden of the Center for Conservation Studies (CECON) is part of the only state university in Guatemala and is a fundamental piece in the development of scientific research, which supports the government in making decisions about biodiversity conservation.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	CECON also manages seven protected areas of Guatemala in different regions of the country. In one of them, cloud forest is preserved, which is the habitat of the Quetzal, our national bird; for three years with the support of BGCI we have been studying the propagation of threatened and nutritious forest species for the Quetzal, while in another project we are evaluating the situation of the country's state nurseries. To establish a seed bank in the botanic garden will allow us to fill the national void of conserving threatened native forest species, since the two seed banks in the state of Guatemala are only considering species of economic importance and species for food safety. The garden will be improving its efforts and scope in the research and conservation of biodiversity, it will be supporting the development of the capacities of technicians, professionals and farmers with whom we are already working in the cloud forest.

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

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: *No Response*

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

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

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

Allocated budget: *No Response*

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

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

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

No Response

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. 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)?

☒ Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
31-017	Joachim Gratzfeld	Biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods improvement in southern Tajikistan
DAREX001	Paul Smith	Developing a Global Biodiversity Standard certification for tree-planting and restoration
DARNV005	Alex Hudson	Understanding Ugandan native plant species' role in innovative sustainable landscapes
29-006	Joachim Gratzfeld	People, Primates, Plants: Co-managing Biodiversity and Improving Livelihoods in Vietnam
29-014	Alex Hudson	Improving community sustainable natural resource management of Mount Mulanje
DARNV026	Cristina Coletto	Diversifying Tanzania's Native Tree Species portfolio for people and biodiversity

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

☒ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q34. Certification

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

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

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

I apply for a grant of

£199,279.00

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

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

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- 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	Dr Carly Cowell
Position in the organisation	Acting Secretary General and Director of Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Dr Carly Cowell's signature  21/10/2024  09:37:14  pdf 24.14 KB
Date	20 October 2024

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

 BGCI 2023 annual report and accounts  21/10/2024  09:14:34  pdf 1.54 MB	 BGCI 2022 annual report and accounts  21/10/2024  09:14:28  pdf 1.14 MB
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Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF. Optionally you can also upload your Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan here.

 BGCI Health & Safety Policy.  21/10/2024  09:15:53  pdf 279.16 KB	 BGCI Whistleblowing.(1)  21/10/2024  09:15:14  pdf 209.6 KB
 BGCI Safeguarding Policy.  21/10/2024  09:04:31  pdf 425.89 KB	 BGCI Code of Conduct  21/10/2024  09:02:08  pdf 252.05 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Ensure you submit this application on	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance Guidance”.	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided the budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to the application: • a cover letter from the Lead Organisation.	Checked
• a budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• a completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan (Question 29)	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 32, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
The additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all the responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

Ensure you submit this application on Flexi-Grant.

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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