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# **DIR28EX\1035**

## **Developing a Global Biodiversity Standard certification for tree-planting and restoration**

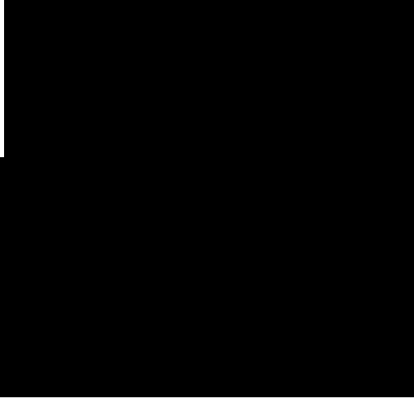
Millions of hectares have been pledged by governments, corporates and NGOs for tree-planting and restoration, mainly to sequester carbon. These efforts primarily plant exotic monocultures, which damage native biodiversity and ecosystem services and frequently fail. Through this project, we will develop a site-based Global Biodiversity Standard certification, which will provide assurances to investors, build local capacity to assess impacts on biodiversity, and mentor practitioners on planting the right trees in the right places for better biodiversity, carbon and livelihood outcomes.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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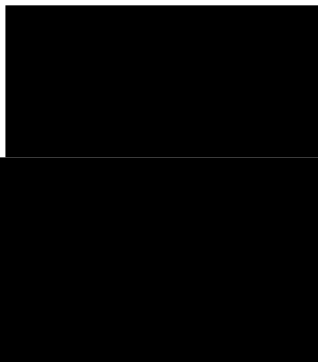


## CONTACT DETAILS

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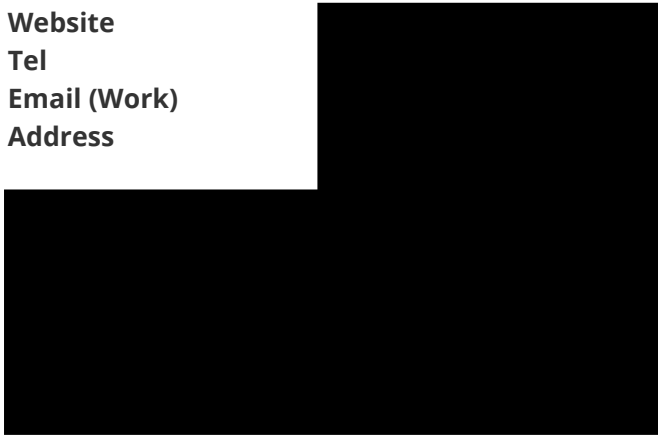
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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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## GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
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Name	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
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Phone	
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Email
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Website
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Address
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## Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

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### Q3. Title:

Developing a Global Biodiversity Standard certification for tree-planting and restoration

### Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

#### Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

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#### Biome 2

Temperate-boreal forests & woodlands

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#### Biome 3

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

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#### Conservation Action 1

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

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#### Conservation Action 2

Education & awareness (incl. training)

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#### Conservation Action 3

Law & policy (legislation, regulations, standards, codes, enforcement)

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#### Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

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#### Threat 2

Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases

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#### Threat 3

Climate change & severe weather

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## Q5. Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. 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.

Millions of hectares have been pledged by governments, corporates and NGOs for tree-planting and restoration, mainly to sequester carbon. These efforts primarily plant exotic monocultures, which damage native biodiversity and ecosystem services and frequently fail. Through this project, we will develop a site-based Global Biodiversity Standard certification, which will provide assurances to investors, build local capacity to assess impacts on biodiversity, and mentor practitioners on planting the right trees in the right places for better biodiversity, carbon and livelihood outcomes.

## Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q6. Project Country(ies)

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

Country 1 Uganda

Country 2 Kenya

Country 3 Madagascar

Country 4 Peru

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Country 5 Brazil

Country 6 India

Country 7 No Response

Country 8 No Response

### Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2022

End date:

31 March 2027

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

5

### Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	£623,374.00	£685,283.00	£609,650.00	£377,089.00	£397,978.00	£ 2,693,374.00

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



**Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?**

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

██████████ is confirmed from Fondation Franklinia for BGCI staff time to support restoration hubs in Kenya, Peru, Brazil and India. A follow-on application will be submitted.

As part of a partnership between BGCI and Terraformation, seedbanks will be installed in at least four of our partner restoration hub sites (Uganda, Kenya, Peru, Brazil). Each seedbank is valued at ██████████

Etiihad airlines has committed ██████████ to support GBS development, and Inflexion may provide an additional ██████████ (unconfirmed).

BGCI, SER and 1t.org have committed a portion of staff time in-kind. SER will also provide / seek matched funding to cover additional staff time.

A BGCI-ICRAF funding application is through to Stage 2 from the International Climate Initiative, which would bring ██████████ matched funding to support business model development.

In years 3-5, it is projected that 250 sites will be GBS certified (estimate ██████████ matched per site from corporate partners).

**Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)**



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

The unconfirmed matched funding is primarily based on funding coming in from the 250 sites that will be GBS certified. We are confident that tree-planting practitioners/financiers will pay for this (see Risk section).

## Section 4 - Problem statement

**Q11. Problem the project is trying to address**

**Please describe the evidence of the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. What is the need, challenge or opportunity? For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).**

Hundreds of millions of hectares have been pledged by governments, corporations and civil society for tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration, primarily to sequester carbon. The Bonn Challenge alone comprises pledges by 61 countries covering over 200mha to date, and a target of 350mha by 2030.

The massive scale and the speed at which tree-planting has gained momentum during the past few years has led to many poorly designed projects, with challenges, and failures frequently highlighted in the scientific literature (e.g. Bond et al., 2019; Lewis et al., 2019; Crane, 2020; Fagan et al., 2020; Friggens et al., 2020; Hohl et al., 2020; Holl & Brancalion, 2020; Coleman et al., 2021). Tree-planting brokers have also proliferated, offering companies the opportunity to offset their CO2

emissions but without the data and expertise to ensure that biodiversity isn't harmed (see WWF's Tree Planting by Businesses, Mansourian and Vallauri, 2020).

Furthermore, large-scale tree-planting efforts have continued to be promoted and celebrated often without any indication of the species planted, the large-scale use of (sometimes invasive) non-native species (e.g. Richardson & Kluge, 2008; Kull et al., 2019; Dyderski & Jagodziński, 2020), and the potential for associated deforestation of intact native forests, thus potentially causing net carbon loss not gain. Despite good intentions, many tree-planting efforts use a restricted palette of inappropriate but readily available tree species, with potentially negative consequences for biodiversity and for the people whose livelihoods depend on those trees – either through carbon payments, the ecosystem services they provide or their commodity value. When implemented poorly, these projects do not help alleviate poverty.

Simultaneously, BGCI's recent State of the World's Trees report, shows that 30% of the world's trees (17,500 species) are threatened with extinction. Clearly, we are missing opportunities for species recovery and positive biodiversity outcomes.

The botanical, ecological restoration and agroforestry communities have attempted to influence a wide range of large-scale tree-planting initiatives, including the IUCN Bonn Challenge Secretariat, The Nature Conservancy, 1t.org, Trillion Trees, the Global Evergreening Alliance, Ecosia, Plan Vivo and various corporate entities. However, few financial mechanisms reward positive impacts on biodiversity, and there is little incentive to incorporate native species into planting programmes. Furthermore, the imperatives to sequester carbon as fast as possible and to deliver income benefits through fast growing cash-crops means that exotic tree species are often preferred. Following discussions with corporate and NGO partners, we believe that an accessible certification recognising positive impacts on biodiversity would be highly valued, particularly if combined with mentoring to improve biodiversity and local capacity in tree-planting and reforestation initiatives.

While some current certifications incorporate biodiversity (e.g. FSC's High Conservation Value scheme), they are primarily geared to large-scale commercial tree-planting, e.g. palm oil. Our intention is to create a certification that is accessible and affordable to all, including grassroots organisations, NGOs and government agencies. The Global Biodiversity Standard as outlined in this proposal, and during the first 5 years, will focus on tree planting and reforestation; the intent is to broaden it to include more ecosystems over time.

## Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

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### 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 and describe which objectives your project will address.**

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

### Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

All six project countries are CBD signatories. This project will help to deliver NBSAP goals, for example:

- Uganda's NBSAP (2015-2025) notes that present National Forest Authority tree planting focuses on introduced species and that, although this is useful to meet short-term timber needs, they could threaten the survival of native species if there are no guidelines for private planting. To date, there are still no national guidelines, hence GBS implementation will



address a need specifically identified in Uganda's NBSAP. The GBS will promote the incorporation of medicinal species in tree planting, and their sustainable use, which is of particular importance in Uganda, where 80% of the population depend on indigenous plant medicine.

- Kenya's NBSAP (2019-2030) Goal 2, Strategic target 22 calls for ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks to be enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. There is huge interest in tree planting in Kenya, but the NBSAP also reports that, whilst plantations have increased in cover in recent years, all types of natural forest have decreased over the same period. The GBS will help to shift tree planting towards an approach that restores natural forest and benefits biodiversity, rather than solely increasing plantations.

All six countries have made Bonn Challenge pledges; Uganda: 2.5m ha, Kenya: 5.1m ha, Madagascar: 4m ha, Peru: 3.2m ha, Brazil: 12m ha, and India: 21m ha. All countries have set NDCs under the UNFCCC and Brazil, Kenya and Peru have submitted NAPs that include tree-planting and sustainable forests (other countries not yet submitted). For example, Brazil's NAP notes that demarcation of green areas, planting of trees, recovery and protection of natural areas, should serve as the basis for local-level programmes for fostering adaptation and resilience, and Goal 3.4 calls for incorporation of climate risk into current policies for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

This project will develop and share climate-appropriate portfolios of tree diversity to reduce risks and seeks to shift the current 'carbon rush' towards ensuring Bonn Challenge pledges, NAPs and NDCs are biodiversity-positive, benefit people, and support climate change mitigation and resilience.

This project will address national development priorities in all target countries and the following global SDGs;

- SDG8 (decent work and economic growth) by training >200 people as auditors and to be certified restoration practitioners, and
- SDG5 (gender equality) by ensuring all genders have equal opportunities in these training and employment opportunities
- SDG13 (climate change) by creating biodiverse landscapes that support people, are resilient and have a greater capacity to adapt to a changing climate
- SDG15 (life on land) by promoting biodiverse tree planting and restoration which reduces degraded land and biodiversity loss.

The target is to have GBS certified projects in ten countries by project end (four countries in addition to the six where hubs will be established). The business model and plan will scale up GBS adoption, contributing to national targets in many additional countries in the medium-term.

## Section 6 - Scaling up Approaches

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### Q13. Scaling up approaches

**Q13a. Darwin Initiative Extra projects should seek to scale up proven approaches used across the Darwin Initiative and other international biodiversity funders. Please provide details on how your proposed project will do this.**

The Global Biodiversity Standard will:

- a) Build local capacity for site-based assessments of biodiversity impacts of tree planting and restoration through mentoring, training and data-sharing;
- b) Develop a viable business model for the GBS certification body, building on successful approaches of Plan Vivo and TRAFFIC.
- c) Promote the Standard and certification with governments, businesses, international mechanisms, funders, and civil society so that it becomes a requirement for large-scale tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration programmes.

Our intention is that this certification, which deploys local botanical, ecological restoration, and forestry expertise for site-based assessment and support in conjunction with peer-reviewed, globally recognised methodologies, will be widely adopted. It will be attractive to policymakers, financiers, brokers and practitioners alike because it will mitigate against risks to biodiversity and against project failure from planting the wrong tree in the wrong place.

BGCI, SER and CIFOR-ICRAF, together, have members, partners, or programmes in >100 countries, meaning that after piloting in the initial 6 countries, the GBS can be rapidly scaled up globally – particularly if the service pays for itself. In addition, our project partners Ecosia, Plan Vivo and 1t.org collectively manage tree-planting projects in >60 countries, creating the opportunity for almost immediate global impact.

**Q13b. We expect Darwin Initiative Extra projects to be additional and complementary to other activities and funding in the same area or region. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?**

Yes

**Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.**

As far as we are aware, the GBS will be the first biodiversity-specific certification. Other certifications with biodiversity elements include (hyperlinks provided in references document):

- Forest Stewardship Council High Conservation Value
- Verra CCB
- Gold Standard
- UEBT
- South Pole
- Voluntary Conservation Areas
- ISO/TC331 – Biodiversity (in development)
- Preferred by Nature (testing phase)
- SER project certification (in development/pilot phase)

Several of these are primarily designed for large-scale carbon offsetting or commodity enterprises (e.g. palm oil), are expensive, complex, and difficult to apply at small scales.

To date, however, biodiversity certification has been minimal (<500 projects certified worldwide). Our intention is not to compete with existing certifications but to complement these; a modular approach would create opportunities for reciprocity and partnering between different certifications.

The GBS certification is bottom-up, empowering local botanical, agroforestry, and ecological restoration expertise through ground survey and review activities, while creating opportunities for continued, long-term engagement through sharing skills to ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place. This latter element will learn from existing initiatives like ICRAF's PATSPO project and BMZ fruit portfolio, and TRAFFIC's Wild at Home initiative that promote diversification of socio-economically important species.

## **Section 7 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy**

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### **Q14. Methodology**

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

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

The project methodology comprises the following outputs:

1. A scientifically credible, objective, accessible Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) and certification methodology in place by year 2.

This will be achieved through testing and refinement of the GBS certification methodology in real world conditions (years 1 and 2). The methodology, already under development, comprises (a) an online application for uploading documentary evidence (b) a remote sensing assessment of project footprint, including displacement of biodiversity, and (c) a site visit

assessment carried out by GBS-trained local biodiversity experts. Specifically, the methodology will assess sites against the following eight criteria:

- Protect existing ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Carry out interventions in appropriate areas without displacing native biodiversity.
- Manage biodiversity in partnership with local communities and stakeholders for equitable, long-term social and economic benefits.
- Aim to maximize biodiversity recovery through appropriate forest restoration approaches, including assisted natural regeneration.
- Refrain from planting invasive species.
- Use native species in planting, including threatened and rare species wherever possible and appropriate.
- Use plant material that is genetically diverse, appropriate, and resilient.
- Implement robust monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management.

Deliverable: A credible, objective, accessible and affordable GBS certification methodology and application process available online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

Output 1 partners: BGCI, SER, ICRAF, TRAFFIC, Ecosia, Plan Vivo, 1t.org.

2. Hubs of expertise and data established to support GBS assessments and forest restoration mentorship in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by end of year 3. BGCI, ICRAF and SER member organisations already have substantial experience and training in biodiversity survey and inventory; ecological restoration; and agroforestry. Furthermore, Plan Vivo and TRAFFIC bring expertise in land management and natural resource governance. This expertise will be delivered through training hubs where auditors will be trained in applying the GBS assessment methodology and reforestation practitioners will be mentored in project planning and practice for better biodiversity outcomes. Furthermore, the hubs will be supported with comprehensive biodiversity and forest restoration data, including:

- Geospatial biodiversity data covering all species (not just plants). IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, KBA national co-ordinating committees and other partners will assist with this.
- Specific tree species properties/requirements (e.g. socio-economic value, soils, climatic conditions, germination, propagation and management protocols).
- Seed procurement, quality assessment and processing methodologies.
- Nursery requirements for growing a wider palette of species.
- Information on invasiveness, biosecurity and other risks.

Deliverables: 10 training hubs established; at least 200 people trained and certified to carry out GBS biodiversity assessments; at least 60 new restoration practitioners certified through SER's CERP program; and comprehensive data resources available to support tree-planting/forest restoration initiatives in at least 6 countries.

Output 2 partners: (BGCI, ICRAF, SER, TRAFFIC, Plan Vivo).

3. A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the GBS developed by year 3. As detailed in Q13b, above, current certifications are not biodiversity-specific, are inaccessible to most practitioners and do not utilise the best knowledge and data. Given that we have expertise already on the ground, we believe that a scientifically credible, affordable certification can be developed that pays for itself and addresses the gaps with existing schemes. Furthermore, we will seek complementarity by utilizing a modular approach that could be included in other schemes and by working together to develop cohorts of local biodiversity and ecological restoration expertise that can be deployed across schemes. Plan Vivo and TRAFFIC, who have decades of experience in managing certification, will work with BGCI, ICRAF, and SER to develop a cost-neutral, non-profit business model with the following components:

- Initial development costs (covered by this Darwin project).
- Co-ordination costs (including managing applications, assigning reviewers, issuing certificates).
- Implementation costs (including payment for remote sensing and ground survey assessment work).
- Long-term management arrangements – (including financial requirements/ business model, governance, socio-economic impact and equitable benefit distribution).
- Promotion and further development costs (including PR, translation to other languages, further training, incorporation into policy frameworks).

Main deliverable: a business plan that enables the scaling up of the Standard globally.

Output 3 partners: BGCI, Plan Vivo, TRAFFIC, ICRAF, SER.

4. The GBS certification adopted and used by policymakers, financiers and practitioners of tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration managing at least 250 sites in at least 10 countries by project end. Regardless of the affordability and accessibility of the certification, without regulatory requirements, stipulations related to risk management or other drivers/incentives for taking up the Standard, it will have limited appeal if biodiversity is not linked to monetary benefits for tree-planting stakeholders. For this reason, we need to be proactive in engaging policymakers and financiers of tree-planting. The best approach is peer-to-peer, and key stakeholders will be:

- National governments
- International development donors and multilateral frameworks
- Corporate entities

Given that most of BGCI and ICRAF's member/partner organisations are government institutions responsible for developing and implementing NBSAPs, we will work with these trusted partners to incorporate the Standard into national regulatory frameworks. In parallel, we will work with the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, multilateral funds (e.g. Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility etc.) and other donors to build in a requirement for 'on the ground' assessments of biodiversity risk and opportunity as a condition of funding. Finally, through our corporate partners, Ecosia and 1t.org's corporate alliance, and certification partner Plan Vivo, we will work with companies to help them to use the Standard to mitigate reputational risks and maximise reputational opportunities through enhancing biodiversity rather than damaging it. The main deliverable will be least 5 governments/multilateral funds/donors, 10 multinational companies and 10 NGOs/CBOs recommending or mandating the use of the Standard by project end.

Output 4 partners: BGCI, SER, National partners, Ecosia, Plan Vivo, 1t.org

The project will co-managed, co-delivered, and co-branded through a Project Board with equal representation from all core partners. The Board will meet formally at least twice a year, and will be responsible for overseeing project planning/implementation, monitoring and evaluation, risk mitigation and adaptive management. The Secretariat will be housed at BGCI. Additional oversight will be provided by BGCI's International Advisory Council, SER and ICRAF's Boards of Experts.

## Q15. Capability and Capacity

**How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.**

Largely due to continuing wealth disparities at the global level, 85% of botanical institutional capacity is in the northern hemisphere (Mounce et al., 2017). This includes human resources, financial resources, collections and data. While botanical institutional capacity, data, and collections also exist in the global South, particularly knowledge related to local species, this project will alleviate inequity by increasing botanical capacity in the global South, while also creating reciprocal information sharing networks that help botanists in the global North learn from new approaches being developed in the global South. Ecological restoration in particular offers some models for how innovations in the global South are informing practice in the global North, especially in the context of community engagement and improving livelihoods.

Through this project we will systematically share both data and skills. We will establish at least 10 training hubs in six countries through which expertise can be shared between and among local (at least 200 across all six countries) and international botanical, ecological restoration, and forestry specialists. Training disciplines will include:

- Biodiversity survey and inventory
- Use of spatial planning tools and data for tree-planting and forest restoration
- Development of climate-appropriate portfolios of tree diversity
- Enhancing seed and seedling supply systems to support climate-adapted species and varieties (national-level seed systems and tree-breeding programmes)
- Conservation horticulture, nursery establishment and species recovery
- Conservation monitoring and evaluation
- Sustainable use
- Community engagement
- Ecological restoration
- Standards of practice for implementing ecological restoration, including social and governance standards
- Increasing biodiversity in forestry and agroforestry systems

We will build or expand existing biodiversity data hubs in each of the countries so that comprehensive, accurate local and regional data is more readily available and accessible to GBS biodiversity planners and monitors and forest restoration advisors. Data will include:

- Vegetation maps, descriptions, floras and checklists
- Use/value information relevant to different landscapes, land uses (e.g. agroforestry) and socio-economically important species
- Spatial planning and decision support tools for native tree-planting, species recovery and forest restoration
- Germination, propagation and silviculture protocols for native species.

Building on BGCI and ICRAF's already comprehensive tree-related training materials and tools, as well as SER's International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration, information will be available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. Training will be given both in-person and online.

SER has developed and implemented online and in-person training programs to support planning, implementation, and monitoring of ecological restoration. SER's CERP Program verifies the credentials of restoration practitioners and provides access to a continued education opportunities. For the purposes of this project, SER will develop a specific training course and associated certificate, awarded through the CERP Program, to verify that local auditors understand and can objectively assess the restoration components of tree-planting and reforestation projects.

Trainees will be certified by BGCI, ICRAF and SER depending on the discipline, and a train the trainer approach will ensure that the skills learnt can rapidly be scaled up via the training hubs. All training tools and resources will be shared across the hubs to support further training.

## Q16. 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 your project and how is it reflected in your plans.**

All of the project partners are committed to gender equality and social inclusion within their organisations and across the work that they do. This project will follow the ten people-centred rules for socially sustainable ecosystem restoration (Elias et al. 2021).

Specifically in relation to this project we will seek to deliver gender equality through:

- Commitment to gender analysis as part of the design process, including integration of gendered perspectives as part of the 'right tree in the right place' criteria/ analysis
- Equitable access to training; expertise developed in both men and women (including expertise in hubs and assessors)
- Gendered perspectives sought and reflected through community engagement (including consultation, participation and benefit sharing)
- Project team composition, including equitable pay.

The project is designed specifically to target women beneficiaries and to ensure that they participate and benefit from project activities. All baseline, monitoring and evaluation data gathered will be gender specific, enabling us to quantify the benefits delivered.

Employment opportunities for women in many of the tree-planting and restoration programmes targeted by this project are often limited. However, seed collection, nursery development, operations, and management, and other plant materials development already provide important opportunities for women that can be enhanced through this programme. In addition, a key criterion of the GBS certification is that biodiversity is managed in consultation and partnership with local communities and stakeholders. This means maximising employment opportunities for local people, and many of these (e.g. nursery management, seed collecting and processing etc.) create opportunities for women. Encouraging women to become certified through any of the three partners is another mechanism for reducing gender inequality across the entirety of the programme. Women are frequently involved disproportionately in harvesting and primary processing of non-timber forest products. This project will ensure that the safeguards of the GBS certification ensure non-discrimination and clear access to benefits from the long-term harvest and use of tree products for people of all genders.

For the training and capacity building activities (output 2), the partners will ensure that women have equal access to training opportunities, and capacity-building M&E data will be disaggregated by gender.

Similarly, our implementing partners 1t.org will promote restoration employment opportunities through their

## Q17. Awareness and understanding

**How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?**

The inter-relationship of biodiversity and poverty is embedded within the GBS. Participation of local stakeholders and consideration of long-term socio-economic benefits are key criteria for certification and design of the business model. Output 4 is designed specifically to raise awareness of, scale up and mainstream biodiversity impacts into planning, implementing and monitoring tree-planting and restoration projects. Key audiences will be:

1. Policymakers. The project will generate important data on key biodiversity-poverty issues, for example:
  - Key drivers for countries/landowners engaging in tree-planting schemes
  - Impact of planting schemes that negatively impact biodiversity and current and future livelihoods, and role of biodiverse planting schemes in delivering positive impacts on local livelihoods (short and long-term), as well as sub-national and national wealth. These data and findings will be incorporated into NBSAPs, forestry policies and economic planning.
2. Tree-planting financiers include governments, development donors/agencies and corporate entities. In parallel, BGCI, Plan Vivo and Ecosia will work with the UK Government's FCDO, multilateral funds (e.g. Green Climate Fund) and other donors to build in a requirement or recommendation for 'on-the-ground' GBS assessments as a condition of funding. 1t.org will promote the GBS Certification within the World Economic Forum's Platform for Accelerating Nature Based Solutions – in particular, the 1t.org Corporate Alliance, and to their partners (UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, FAO, IUCN, Restor).
3. Tree-planting practitioners include government, NGOs and CBOs. These organisations will be influenced through the regulatory mechanisms mentioned above but also through mentoring and technical support for improved biodiversity and poverty alleviation outcomes (e.g. training, tools, access to material and knowledge).

The GBS certification is specifically designed for maximum transparency, and all products, methodologies and assessments will be open access in the public domain. The ultimate test of whether these messages are understood will be the uptake of the GBS.

## Q18. Change expected

**Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change (the Outcome) 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).**

**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.**

Changes to biodiversity -

In most countries, there is limited or no regulatory requirement to measure impacts on biodiversity when planting trees, nor to incorporate threatened biodiversity into reforestation or forest restoration projects. Instead, the main drivers for planting trees are carbon sequestration and the production of commodities for livelihoods. Furthermore, the current 'carbon rush' infrastructure limitations (e.g. lack of climate-appropriate genetically diverse seeds and seedlings of appropriate provenance) and limited skills in the formal forestry sector mean that exotic, low diversity monoculture tree planting is favoured over more diverse portfolios. Whereas a native tree species will potentially support thousands of other species (2,300 species of insect, mammal, bird, lichen, fungus etc. rely on the oak, *Quercus robur*, in their life cycles, Mitchell et al., 2019), exotic species create largely sterile landscapes. As an example of limited national capacity, seed from only 34 of Ethiopia's 613 indigenous tree species was available from Ethiopia's National Tree Seed Centres (NTSCs) in

2018/19, and in quantity terms, 99.9% of all seed supplied by the NTSCs was of exotic species. This despite the fact that of the 22 million hectares Ethiopia has pledged to restore, 15 million hectares is designated to be of natural forest.

The global botanic garden and arboretum community grows around 18,000 different species of trees, and documents germination, propagation and management protocols (e.g. germination protocols have been developed for a large proportion of Ethiopia's indigenous tree flora on Kew's Seed Information Database). They also possess the survey and inventory skills to assess impacts on biodiversity. The SER International Network for Seed-based Restoration is actively engaged in supporting the use of native seed in all ecological restoration activities, in providing tools and training for using seed in restoration, and in addressing existing gaps in the technology and knowledge related to seed issues in ecological restoration. However, there is currently no mechanism for local botanical, silvicultural and genetic expertise to be deployed in the planning, assessment or implementation of tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration programmes. The Global Biodiversity Standard certification will create the opportunity for formal engagement of local botanical, silvicultural, genetic and integrated seed systems experts, create impetus for significantly building local capacity in badly needed skills, and create the potential for much better biodiversity outcomes – including the incorporation of diverse native species and even threatened and rare tree species into planting programmes.

Changes to poverty reduction -

Short-term beneficiaries will include biodiversity, ecological and forest restoration experts, and their institutions in biodiverse countries. They will both provide and receive training to build the cadre of local implementers for the Standard. Local implementation of local projects means local employment. As these projects scale up, employment opportunities will expand at the high, medium, and lower-skilled levels. This program will be focused on expanding medium and high skilled opportunities in biodiversity planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and certification – creating a self-sustaining and locally-based biodiversity and restoration sector of the economy. By focusing on local employment, the program will also help keep international project funds circulating and building across the local community.

In the medium term, local suppliers of seeds, seedlings and labour will benefit from diversifying planting portfolios. The following certification criteria will discourage the use of centralised, fast throughput, high volume, exotic seed/seedling supply, and will encourage local inputs of indigenous seed/seedling material and labour:

- Manage biodiversity in consultation and partnership with local communities and stakeholders. This element is particularly important as it will incorporate the use of indigenous knowledge and value systems, will be culturally sensitive, and will ensure gender responsiveness in the context of species selection, species management and local employment.
- Aim to maximize biodiversity recovery through forest restoration and natural regeneration, including agricultural/agroforestry systems.
- Refrain from planting invasive alien species.
- Use native species and incorporate threatened and rare species in planting wherever possible.
- Use plant material that is genetically diverse, appropriate, and resilient.

The biggest impact on poverty reduction in the long term, however, will be more 'right trees planted in the right place', resulting in much greater tree survival rates. This will benefit local communities and stakeholders whether they are receiving income from carbon credits, payment for ecosystem services, agroforestry or commodity production (e.g. timber and NTFPs), in addition to providing local and available fuelwood, increased water quantity and quality, and other environmental services that can increase quality of life.

## Q19. Pathway to change

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

**This should directly relate to your overall project's Theory of Change which must be uploaded alongside your logframe at Q24. See the separate [Theory of Change Guidance](#) and [Section 2.3.2 of the Darwin Initiative Extra Supplementary Guidance](#) for further information on your Theory of Change.**

Our Theory of Change addresses the problem that there are currently few incentives to incorporate positive impacts on biodiversity into tree-planting/forest restoration programmes. This is because, unlike carbon and forest commodities, biodiversity benefits are not monetized. Existing incentives include linking biodiversity benefits to SDG15, for example,

thereby leveraging a premium carbon price. Furthermore, causing damage to biodiversity is a business risk for companies offsetting carbon or trading forest products. However, the lack of an authoritative, credible global standard and certification for biodiversity means (a) that financiers, policymakers and practitioners have no benchmark to aim for, nor a mechanism for recognition of their efforts, (b) biodiversity is not factored into costings, resulting in the cheapest, most readily available trees being planted regardless of their suitability.

Our Theory of Change is that IF we create a Global Biodiversity Standard benchmark and certification that is authoritative, objective, accessible, credible and comparable worldwide; and IF the certification effectively provides assurance against the risk of damage to biodiversity and recognition of positive impacts on biodiversity that can be built into natural capital accounting systems, THEN policymakers, financiers and practitioners of tree-planting/forest restoration will design their projects to ensure positive biodiversity outcomes. THEN this, in turn, will create a market for positive biodiversity outcomes and biodiversity-related value chains, creating a virtuous cycle.

A further impediment to net positive biodiversity impacts is lack of knowledge, data and expertise when it comes to incorporating native tree species into planting and which tree to plant where. Therefore IF the proposed GBS and SER CERP accreditation also serves as a mentoring mechanism for the provision of training and guidance to ensure better biodiversity, carbon and livelihood outcomes, THEN forest restoration practitioners will be able to achieve better outcomes AND this will result in greater resilience and sustainability in tree systems.

## Q20. Exit Strategy

**Please outline your expected exit strategy. How will the project be sustained or continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will new funding be required, or will the approach be mainstreamed into “business as usual” to continue to deliver the benefits? How will the required capability and capacity remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?**

Outputs 3 and 4 of the project are focused on developing a sustainable business model for the Global Biodiversity Standard and marketing it as a product, respectively.

As indicated in the methodology, the GBS and SER CERP certifications will need to pay for themselves. The business model is ‘not-for-profit’ but costs will be covered, including the costs associated with independent assessment, verification and peer-review. The most expensive component is likely to be ground survey. However, we have the advantage that BGCI and ICRAF have highly competent technical partners already on the ground in >650 botanical institutions in >100 countries.

A particular strength of our methodology is that we believe that local experts know their own biodiversity best, as well as the local socio-economic context and other factors important to making judgements about biodiversity and social outcomes. Furthermore, the GBS certification will be a mechanism for involving local biodiversity experts in land use decision-making and in providing technical support for better biodiversity outcomes in a range of land uses, including agriculture and agroforestry. This empowerment element of the methodology will be part of the long term legacy of this project, meaning that the GBS will not only provide income to individuals, businesses and biodiversity institutions, it will also provide opportunities for long-term technical engagement in tree-planting and restoration programmes across different land uses.

Provided the GBS certification is both accessible and scientifically robust, it has the potential to be mandated or recommended by financiers of tree-planting and restoration. Our project partners, Ecosia, Plan Vivo and 1t.org, finance and broker tree-planting/restoration projects all over the world, including for some of the world’s largest companies (Amazon, Aprilasia, AstraZeneca, Eni, Fibria, Google, HP, Iberdrola, Mastercard, Microsoft, Nespresso, Nestle, Pepsico, Salesforce, Shell, Suzano, Tentree, Total, Unilever) so we believe there is huge potential to scale the GBS certification up globally.

While there remains a risk that biodiversity benefits will not be monetised in many places, the carbon offsetting market is expected to continue to grow exponentially, and, with help from our corporate partners, carbon can be used as the vehicle to promote biodiversity-friendly projects both through combining biodiversity into carbon-driven projects and combining carbon credits into biodiversity driven projects. In addition, integrating the sustainable use and trade of natural resources into projects will provide a financial incentive for more effective management at the species and landscape level.

The major barriers to scaling up the deployment of botanical, silvicultural and restoration expertise are likely to be (i) lack of technical capacity, and (ii) competing priorities (e.g. visitor attraction, scientific research, public education) in some



biodiversity institutions. Technical capacity can be improved through training and sharing of data. Competing priorities can largely be addressed by making the implementation of the GBS certification cost-effective for institutions to participate in. This will certainly entail covering costs but would be even more attractive if it led to other funding opportunities such as through long-term mentoring support for tree-planting projects.

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



## Section 8 - Risk Management

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### Q21. Risk Management

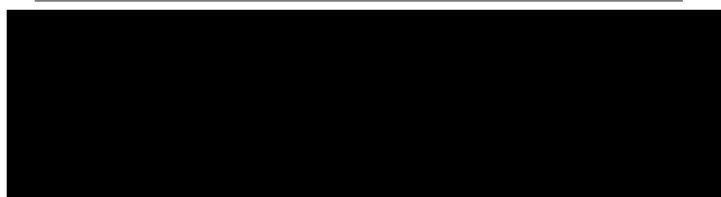
**Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.**

**Projects should also draft and submit their initial risk register, using the [Risk Register template](#), and upload below.**

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
<b>Fiduciary</b> Partners receiving sub-grants do not use the funds for intended purposes.	Major	Rare	Moderate	Mitigated by working with known partners that BGCI has collaborated with before. All restoration hub partners have received grant funding from BGCI previously which was well-managed and reported on. Technical partners are larger organisations with good reputations (e.g. SER, ICRAF).	Minor
<b>Safeguarding</b> Partners and collaborators break code of conduct and ignore principles of safeguarding during training courses, carrying out certification, or collaborating with local communities.	Severe	Unlikely	Major	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

<b>Delivery Chain</b> Biodiversity impacts do not carry financial incentives either as a risk or as an opportunity and/or are insufficiently attractive to financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting and restoration to apply for certification.	Major	Possible	Major	Mitigated by working with corporate partners (Ecosia, 1t.org) who are committed to net positive biodiversity impacts, and using carbon as the vehicle to promote biodiversity-friendly projects both through combining biodiversity into carbon-driven projects and combining carbon credits into biodiversity-driven projects. Working with TRAFFIC, sustainable use and trade will be incorporated.	Minor
<b>Risk 4</b> COVID-19 or other national/global disruption prevents the deployment of local expertise for site testing or the deployment of international expertise to lead training and development.	Moderate	Likely	Major	Site testing moved to another country. Deployment of expertise risk mitigated by online training and a regional/national approach to face to face capacity building.	Moderate
<b>Risk 5</b> A cost-effective but scientifically robust methodology is not achievable, competitive and affordable to a wide range of practitioners.	Major	Unlikely	Major	Mitigated by utilising existing strong biodiversity, ecological restoration and agroforestry technical networks in >100 countries worldwide.	Minor
<b>Risk 6</b> Hosting the GBS hubs and carrying out the certification assessments is not financially viable for local biodiversity institutions and competes with other income-generating priorities.	Moderate	possible	major	Mitigated by working with experienced commercial partners to develop robust financial business model in which host institution costs are more than compensated but still competitive in market (see Risk 5).	Minor

Please upload your Risk Register, with Delivery Chain Risk Map, here.



## Section 9 - Implementation Timetable

**Q22. 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. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project and upload this below as a PDF.**

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. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.



## Section 10 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

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

Darwin Initiative Extra Projects are required to commission an Independent Final Evaluation to report by the time that the project completes. The cost of this should be included in the project budget, and within the total project cost for M&E.

M&E will be a core part of BGCI staff time on the project. The Project Manager from BGCI will spend of time funded by= the project on M&E each year (average ██████ per year) and half of the Project Leaders funded time (5% total time) will be spent on M&E (average ██████ per year). BGCI travel costs/year will also be for M&E. At the country-level, the restoration hub manager will also take a leading role in M&E for activities within that country.

A Project Steering Committee (SC) will be established, which will be primarily responsible for M&E throughout the project. The SC will further develop the indicators identified in the logframe and performance standards for each output will be identified. These standards will provide the baseline against which performance will be measured.

The SC will review progress at six-monthly meetings. Meetings will be online to avoid unnecessary expenditure on travel and to make the project COVID-proof. During meetings the following will be reviewed:

- Progress against the project implementation timetable - If delays have occurred, steps will be identified to ensure such delays do not occur again and activities re-scheduled accordingly within the overall project framework.
- Comparison of ongoing and completed activities against performance standards - If standards are not being met, the reasons for this will be investigated and remedial action taken.
- Expenditure against project budget - If there is an under- or over-spend against the project budget, the reasons for this will be understood and if necessary steps taken to address the issues.
- Identification of new potential risks and mitigating measures.

A report will be prepared after each meeting to provide documentary evidence of project progress and to record any steps taken (adaptive management), or changes made to the implementation timetable. Meetings of the SC will be synchronised with Darwin Initiative reporting deadlines.

Capacity building is a key aim of this project. The impact of capacity building efforts will be monitored by assessing baseline knowledge and expertise related to restoration and biodiversity specifics, before trainees receive training, at the end of training, and when trainees have put their skills into practice. The final measure of success here will be if trainees progress fully through the Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner programme.

As the GBS is in development, an adaptive approach is extremely important for the success of this project.

The project team welcomes the mid-term review and will respond to points raised. The Independent Final Evaluation will also be carried out in time to be submitted alongside final reporting. An independent consultant will be appointed to carry out this review and the results will help inform improvements for the GBS as it continues beyond the project.

<b>Independent Final Evaluation in GBP</b>	██████████
<b>Independent Final Evaluation (%)</b>	██████████
<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	██████████
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	██████████
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	734

## Section 11 - Logical Framework

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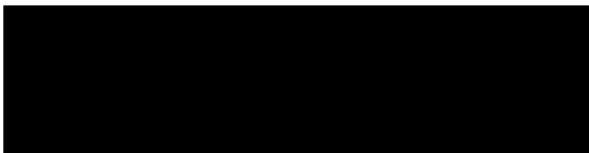
### Q24. Logical Framework

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

- [Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible**. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

**Please upload your logframe and Theory of Change as a combined PDF document.**



#### Impact:

Biodiversity impacts of tree-planting and forest restoration for carbon sequestration and livelihoods are valued by policy-makers, financiers and practitioners, and 'right tree, right place' practices lead to better biodiversity/livelihood outcomes

#### Outcome:

Global Biodiversity Standard certification achieved by 250 tree-planting/restoration projects, ≥200 people trained and 10 hubs of biodiversity assessment and restoration mentoring expertise established in 6 highly biodiverse countries by 2027

#### Project Outputs

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##### Output 1:

A scientifically credible, objective, and accessible Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) and certification methodology in place and available to tree-planting and forest restoration initiatives by the end of year 2.

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**Output 2:**

Hubs of expertise and data established to support Global Biodiversity Standard assessments and forest restoration mentorship in at least 6 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

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**Output 3:**

A self-sustaining business model and plan for scaling up the Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS) to at least 10 highly biodiverse countries and a communications plan for promoting the GBS worldwide developed by the end of year 3.

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**Output 4:**

The Global Biodiversity Standard and certification adopted and used by policy-makers, financiers, brokers and practitioners of tree-planting, reforestation and forest restoration managing at least 250 sites in at least 10 countries by project end.

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**Output 5:**

*No Response*

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**Do you require more Output fields?**

**N.B. – Most projects have 3-4 Outputs. It is advised to have fewer than 6 outputs.**

No

**Activities**

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

Output 1.1. Draft GBS certification assessment methodology developed by the end of year 1

1.1.1. Development of GBS certification methodology components assessment methodology, including online application process, remote sensing review and ground survey methodology, sub-contracted to technical partners by the end of Q1, year 1.

1.1.2. Draft GBS certification assessment methodology developed and published in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish online by the end of Q4, year 1

Output 1.2. Draft methodology tested in real world conditions in at least 6 countries by the end of year 2

1.2.1. Agreements signed with at least 12 tree-planting/forest restoration project sites in at least 6 different biodiverse countries by the end of Q4, year 1.

1.2.2. Online application, remote sensing and ground survey methods tested with at least 12 tree-planting/forest restoration project sites in at least 6 different highly biodiverse countries by the end of Q3, year 2.

Output 1.3. Methodology refined and finalised by end of year 2.

1.3.1. Meetings held with project site practitioners and assessors, and verbal and written feedback received by the end of Q3, year 2.

1.3.2. Final methodology agreed and published online by the end of Q4, year 2.

Output 1.4. GBS application process available to tree-planting and forest restoration practitioners online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2.

1.4.1. GBS certification launched and publicised at UNFCCC COP-28 by the end of year 2

1.4.2. GBS application available online in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French by the end of year 2.

Output 2.1. At least 10 training hubs established in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of Q2, year 2

2.1.1. At least 10 GBS hub host entities in at least 6 biodiverse countries identified and equipped with computers, survey

and inventory equipment by the end of Q2, year 2

2.1.2. Potential trainers in each training hub vetted and identified by the end of year 1.

Output 2.2. Full suite of GBS training materials developed and delivered to training hubs by the end of Q2, year 2

2.2.1. Data, tools and resources necessary for GBS assessments specific to each training hub collated and used in at least 10 hubs in 6 biodiverse countries by the end of Q2, year 2.

2.2.2. Training modules in GBS and ER (online and face to face) developed in English, Spanish and French by the end of Q2, year 2.

Output 2.3. At least 200 people from at least 10 biodiverse countries (50% women) trained in biodiversity assessment and forest restoration mentoring by the end of year 3.

2.3.1. At least 20 trainers trained and certified in GBS assessment by the end of year 2

2.3.2. At least a further 180 people trained and certified in GBS assessment ( $\geq 200$  people total), including through either formal CERP level achievement or through a dedicated certificate, issued by the SER CERP program credentialing these people as qualified to conduct GBS audits related to tree-planting and reforestation/forest restoration by the end of year 3.

Output 2.4. Comprehensive data on spatial distribution of biodiversity, seed sources, vegetation and tree distribution, socio-economic biodiversity values etc. compiled, processed and available online for at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

2.4.1. Digital potential vegetation maps (high resolution corresponding to the resolution of bioclimatic raster data) available online providing natural habitat reference data for at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

2.4.2. Provide guidelines on compiling, cleaning and bias-reduction of geospatial data on species occurrence, including from GBIF and BIEN by end of year 2.

2.4.3. Comprehensive geo-referenced tree species digital distribution data available to GBS assessors and mentors in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3 (note that access to data on distributions of rare and threatened species will be carefully managed).

Output 2.5. Climate Resilience Assessment Tool and other spatial seed source and tree-planting guidance tools available online by the end of year 3

2.5.1. Climate Resilience Assessment Tool calibrated for native tree floras and available to tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners in at least 6 biodiverse countries by the end of year 3.

2.5.2. Tree planting/forest restoration practitioners have access to and are familiar with the different databases, guidelines and maps available via the Global Tree Knowledge Platform (<https://www.worldagroforestry.org/tree-knowledge>) by the end of year 3

Output 2.6. Germination/propagation protocols available online for at least 10,000 tree species in at least 10 Darwin eligible biodiverse countries by project end.

2.6.1. Germination protocols for native tree species in at least 10 highly biodiverse countries available digitally online and accessible to tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners through a forest restoration resource hub and tools such as SER's Restoration Resource Center, Kew's Seed Information Database ( $n =$  at least 10,000 native tree species), and the UN FAO/CIFOR-ICRAF Transformative Partnership Platform for Agroecology by project end.

2.6.2. Propagation and aftercare protocols for native species in at least 10 Darwin eligible biodiverse countries available digitally online and accessible to tree-planting/forest restoration practitioners through an ER resource hub and BGCI's PlantSearch propagation tool ( $n =$  at least 10,000 native tree species) by project end.

Output 3.1. Business model options paper developed and published by the end of year 2.

3.1.1. Data collected on costs associated with carrying out GBS assessments throughout testing phase (i.e. by end of Q3, year 2)

3.1.2. Market analysis (internet research, questionnaire and interviews) carried out to gather data on costs and cost/benefits of other certification schemes to estimate (1) demand for biodiversity certification, and (2) competitive charging rates by end of Q3, year 2

3.1.3. Business model options paper developed by the end of year 2, and shared with implementing partners.

Output 3.2. Business Plan finalised and published by the end of year 3

3.2.1. At least 15 implementing partners in at least 10 countries committed to hosting GBS hubs, and formally signed up by Q2, year 3

3.2.2. Business plan finalised and published by the end of year 3.

Output 3.3. GBS Communication and Public Relations (PR) Plan published by end of year 3.

3.3.1. GBS communication and PR plan drafted by the end of Q1, year 3

3.3.2. GBS officially launched at UNFCCC COP29 in Q3, year 3

3.3.3. GBS final communication and PR plan published by the end of year 3

Output 3.4 Business and Communications/PR Plans implemented in years 4-5.

3.4.1 Target tree planting practitioners and financiers to promote adoption of GBS certification (see output 4)

Output 3.5 Business development on the prototype for return on investment (ROI) on use of the GBS methodology with respect to socio-economic and environmental outcomes (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, rural household reached, job creation).

3.5.1 Setting up a standard, repeatable and robust framework for measuring impact of GBS methodology at the local scale by monitoring a set of socio-ecological indicators (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, rural household reached, job creation) by end of project (matched funding dependent)

3.5.2 Identify priority areas for further implementation of GBS methodology based on a set of relevant indicators (e.g. biodiversity loss, population density, land degradation, connectedness to existing natural forests) to upscale local impact to national and regional scale by project end.

Output 4.1. GBS certification scheme promoted in at least 10 highly biodiverse countries by the end of year 4.

4.1.1. Project partners and GBS hub organisations promote the GBS scheme in at least 10 countries via their websites and newsletters and through meetings with policymakers, financiers and practitioners of tree planting/forest restoration to encourage GBS uptake.

4.1.2. A further 4 hubs (i.e. 14 hubs in total) are identified and formalised in a further 4 countries (i.e. 10 countries in total) by the end of year 4.

Output 4.2. GBS certification achieved by at least 250 tree-planting/forest restoration projects in at least 10 countries by project end.

4.2.1. GBS assessments carried out at >250 sites in at least 10 countries during years 4 and 5.

Output 4.3. At least 5 governments, 20 companies and 10 NGOs/CBOs recommending or mandating the use of the Standard by project end.

4.3.1. Meetings arranged with governments and donor agencies, including FCDO, at or shortly after UNFCCC COP29 in Q3, year 3 coinciding with the launch of the GBS to raise awareness of the Standard and certification process.

4.3.2. BGCI, SER, CIFOR-ICRAF, and project corporate partners (Ecosia, 1t.org and Etihad) promote the adoption of the Standard and certification to their peers, including leading by example, during years 4 and 5.

4.3.3. BGCI, SER, CIFOR-ICRAF, and Plan Vivo promote the adoption of the GBS to the NGO community through our own platforms, through the Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration, and through NGO tree planting fora such as the Global Evergreening Alliance, during years 4 and 5.

## Section 12 - Budget and Funding

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### Q25. Budget

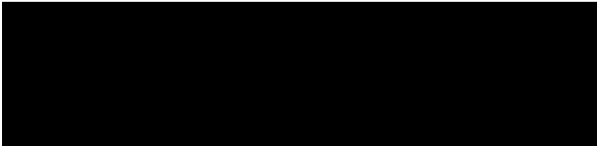
**Please complete the Excel spreadsheet below, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.**

**Note that there are different templates available, please ensure that you use the Darwin Extra budget template. Please refer to the Finance Guidance for more information.**

**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 your completed Darwin Extra Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.**



## Q26. Funding

**Q26a. 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:**

This is a new initiative, which has been born out of a process of the botanical and ecological restoration communities engagement with this issue. The steps were as follows:

December 2016. SER releases the first edition of the International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration at CBD COP13.

September 2019. SER releases the second edition of the International Principles and Standards at the SER 9th World Conference. Concerns about biodiversity impacts from large-scale tree planting were voiced in the conference.

November 2019. CBD ecosystem restoration listening session in Brazil. Numerous attendees raise concerns about the impact of tree-planting initiatives on biodiversity and how to address this in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

December 2019. A letter expressing concerns was sent to the IUCN Bonn Challenge Secretariat (signed by Chair IUCN SSC, Chair IUCN SSC Plant Conservation Committee, Chair IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group, BGCI, Kew).

January 2021.10 Golden Rules for Reforestation paper published. DOI:10.1111/gcb.15498 (authors from Kew, BGCI, ICRAF, SER).

February 2021 Reforestation for biodiversity, carbon capture and livelihoods Conference held (hosted by Kew and BGCI) with over 2,400 delegates, including practitioners, policymakers, funders, businesses, and NGOs from 113 countries.

Feb-July 2021. The Kew Declaration requesting that biodiversity safe-guarding principles are adhered to was signed by >2,000 individuals and >400 organisations.

September 2021. An emergency motion supported by 29 IUCN member organisations was tabled at the IUCN World Conservation Congress calling for implementation of biodiversity principles and safeguards.

July 2021-present. Concept of a Global Biodiversity Standard developed and endorsed by the global botanical, ecological restoration and agroforestry communities. See [www.biodiversitystandard.org](http://www.biodiversitystandard.org) for logos of supporting organisations.

November 2021. Announcement of the GBS development at COP-26, with public endorsements from Lord Goldsmith (Defra Minister), Baroness Walmsley (liberal peer) and Elizabeth Mrema (CBD Executive Secretary) amongst others.



**Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?**

Yes

**Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.**

Plan Vivo is exploring the potential of a new service offering - a carbon credit with enhanced biodiversity impact (PVC + Biodiversity). Rather than developing our own biodiversity methodology Plan Vivo has decided to partner with BGCI and the project partners to develop the Global Biodiversity Standard, which will then be (complementarily) combined with existing Plan Vivo requirements for governance, community participation, social impact monitoring and carbon benefit quantification.

Plan Vivo is also currently working with Operation Wallacea to explore the potential for developing a stand-alone (non-carbon linked) Biodiversity Credit. The scheme would enable land managers to receive 'payments for ecosystem services' for planned and measured improvements in biodiversity, in a parallel model to carbon. This scheme is viewed as complementary to the development of the GBS. If successful, these 'biodiversity credit' projects could also apply for certification to the GBS and access local hubs of expertise established by the GBS. If a market for biodiversity credits was established, it would enable GBS-certified projects to access additional financing for enhancing biodiversity.

SER is partnering with the Union for Ethical Biotrade to develop tools for certifying restoration practices in commodity supply chains that rely on biodiversity, which would also complement GBS.

**Q27. 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.**

As the focus of the proposal is about capacity building, mentoring and development and testing of the Standard methodology, only a small portion of funding will be used for capital items.

Each restoration training hub (ten in total) will receive a laptop and [REDACTED] worth of infrastructure and equipment to support them in their role as training hubs. These items will all remain in-country and belong to the training hub institutions after the project has ended.

With matched funding from Terraformation (as part of a BGCI-Terraformation partnership) reforestation seedbanks will be installed with at least four of the restoration hubs and will remain the property of the institutions where the seedbanks are installed to support the continuation of training and restoration activities beyond the timeframe of this project.

**Q28. Value for Money**

**Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.**

To ensure value for money BGCI finance procedures will be applied, including:

- Timesheets tracking input.
- Procurement procedures that include the requirement for at least 3 tenders for contracts above [REDACTED]
- Consultancy contracts in place before work commences and payment dependent on timely provision of deliverables to the prescribed quality.
- BGCI will request that members supplying expertise do so on a cost-recovery basis only, i.e. do not charge full consultancy rates.
- Each individual event/workshop will have a detailed budget prepared in advance. More than one quote will be obtained for material items.
- Half yearly finance reports from the partners will be reviewed by the BGCI Project Leader.

In line with BGCI practice, the Project Manager holds quarterly meetings with BGCI's Head of Finance where management accounts for the quarter are reviewed, variations against budget investigated and remedial steps agreed. 'Costs to complete' are considered to identify any project variations or potential overspends so that appropriate action can be taken.

BGCI has a reputation as an efficient organisation, achieving high impact for its size. Part of this comes from a flat management structure with swift decision making, while maintaining appropriate levels of control.

The capacity building components of this project build on decades of data gathering, training and expertise in the botanical, ecological restoration and agroforestry sectors. This project focuses on mobilising these resources, and making them available to biodiversity experts and restoration practitioners in biodiverse countries. Examples of the tools and data already developed by the international technical partners in this project (BGCI, ICRAF, SER, IUCN, TRAFFIC) are detailed in the covering letter supporting this application. Similarly, the implementing hub partners in Brazil, Peru, India, Kenya, Uganda and Madagascar bring huge experience and momentum to this project that cannot be captured in matched funding or in kind figures. While Darwin funding will provide the catalyst for the Global Biodiversity Standard, and start up costs, it builds on many decades of previous investment in biodiversity knowledge.

In addition, the project brings ca. [REDACTED] in confirmed matched funding and in kind support, with potential for further matched funding of [REDACTED]. Furthermore, assuming we achieve the project outcome, the GBS will be based on a sustainable business model, enabling it to grow to become a truly global standard and certification, which will (a) empower local biodiversity institutions and experts, and (b) provide them with sustained sources of income for as long as people continue to plant trees or restore habitats.

Finally, governments, corporates and civil society have pledged to plant trillions of trees and restore millions of hectares over the next few decades. Even if it is applied to only a fraction of the projects/organisations carrying out this work, the impact the GBS will have on ensuring that the right trees are planted in the right place for the right outcomes (including carbon sequestration, livelihoods, ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation) will be substantial.

## Section 13 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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### Q29. 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.**

<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	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 downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.**

The conduct of BGCI staff and BGCI sub-contractors is guided by BGCI's Code of Conduct, which includes: Anti-bribery and corruption; Anti-harassment and bullying; Dignity at work; Anti-money laundering; Equality, diversity and inclusion; Safeguarding children, young persons and vulnerable adults; and Whistleblowing (<https://www.bgci.org/legal-and-policies/>).

BGCI staff and contractors must formally agree to conform to these policies by signing our standard contracts and grant agreements (copies available on request). Similarly, all partners of this project will formally agree to adhere to BGCI's policies when signing project agreements.

### **Q30. Ethics**

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

This project is designed to meet all legal and ethical obligations of both the UK and the countries involved in the project. Specifically:

It will ensure that certified projects follow access and benefit sharing best practice.

It includes strong leadership and participation from developing countries and the communities directly involved to enhance the chances that perspectives, interests and well-being of those directly affected by the project are properly addressed. This is demonstrated through the third criteria of the GBS in Output 1 as well as through capacity building in Output 2.

It recognises the value and importance of traditional knowledge, alongside international scientific approaches, and methods as demonstrated through the third criteria of the GBS in Output 1 and the establishment of hubs of training hubs and capacity building in Output 2.

It will respect the rights, privacy, and safety of people who are impacted directly and indirectly by project activities and use Prior Informed Consent principles with communities as demonstrated through criteria 1-3 in Output 1 and overseen by the project board.

It will protect the health and safety of all project staff.

Ensuring the GBS upholds the credibility of evidence, research and other findings is of utmost importance

## **Section 14 - FCDO Notifications**

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### **Q31. 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.**

Yes (no written advice)

## Section 15 - Project Staff

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### Q32. Project staff

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

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?
Paul Smith	<b>Project Leader</b>	15	Checked
TBD	Project Manager	100	Checked
Said Mutegeki	Restoration hub coordinator - Uganda	80	Checked
Herbert Ongubo	Restoration hub coordinator - Kenya	75	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ramahefamanana Narindra	Restoration hub coordinator - Madagascar	80	Checked
Alfonso Orellana Garcia	Restoration hub coordinator - Peru	50	Checked
Guaraci Diniz	Restoration hub coordinator - Brazil	25	Checked
Paul Blanchflower	Restoration hub coordinator - India	40	Checked
George Gann	GBS methodology development - policy	5	Checked
Anastasiya Timoshyna	GBS methodology development - sustainable use	5	Checked
Roeland Kindt	GBS methodology development - tree data	5	Checked
Pieter Van Midwoud	GBS methodology development and testing	5	Checked

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

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



Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

## Section 16 - Project Partners

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### Q33. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including 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.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) you should upload alongside Q21.

**Lead partner name:** Botanic Gardens Conservation International

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**Website address:** [www.bgci.org](http://www.bgci.org)

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**Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, 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 650 member organisations in >100 countries, and >3,000 botanical and forestry organisations 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. There are an estimated 60,000 scientists, horticulturists and educators in BGCI's network, and we co-ordinate global consortia engaged in tree red listing (<https://globaltreeassessment.org/>); tree conservation (<https://globaltrees.org/>), and; ecological restoration (<https://www.erabg.org/>). BGCI led the recent State of the World's Trees report, which involved >500 contributors, highlights that at least 30% of the world's tree species are threatened with extinction and has generated threat and cleaned up spatial data for c.48,000 tree species. BGCI's main strength is its partner institutions, which have unparalleled technical knowledge relating to botanical diversity.

BGCI will play the lead co-ordinating role on this project, including sub-contracting funds, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and problem-solving. In addition, BGCI will provide technical support to the project implementing partner institutions in Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar, Brazil, Peru and India.

In addition, international support will be provided by members of BGCI's Ecological Restoration Alliance ([www.erabg.org](http://www.erabg.org)). Technical partners from the BGCI network who will play key roles in the project include the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (GIS, remote sensing expertise), Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MHNM) Paris, New York Botanical Garden, South China Botanic Garden and other institutions with strong restoration and taxonomic expertise and important data collections, have also expressed their support for the GBS development.

BGCI co-chairs the IUCN/SSC Plant Conservation Committee, the umbrella for all regional and taxonomic plant Specialist Groups. IUCN/SSC also includes animal and fungi groups. This will be an important direct avenue for scaling up the GBS certification beyond plants in future.

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**International/In-country Partner**

International

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):**



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**Represented on the Project Board**

Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

Yes

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**Have you provided a cover letter?**

Yes

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

Yes

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**1. Partner Name:**

Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)

**Website address:** <https://www.ser.org>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

SER advances the science, practice, and policy of ecological restoration to sustain biodiversity, improve resilience in a changing climate, and re-establish an ecologically healthy relationship between culture and nature. SER has more than 4,200 members representing more than 100 countries. SER's CERP Program certifies restoration practitioners based on knowledge and practical experience. Available in six languages, the SER International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration is considered the principle global guidance for designing, implementing, and monitoring ecological restoration projects and programs.

SER is a global partner to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and has supported the Decade with strategy development, the delivery of 10 principles to guide the Decade, and pending development of Standards of Practice for the Decade which will include biodiversity recommendations.

Consistent and related with this proposal, SER is also partnering with other organizations to develop a restoration project certification program that would integrate with this GBS in a highly complementary manner.

SER's role is to:

- Assist with developing the GBS methodology (Output 1)
  - Provide training, data, and CERP accreditation/certificates (2)
  - Support the business case development (3)
  - Support the mainstreaming of the GBS into international restoration efforts (4)
- 

**International/In-country Partner**  International

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**Allocated budget:** 

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**2. Partner Name:** World Agroforestry Centre - ICRAF

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**Website address:** <https://www.worldagroforestry.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

ICRAF is a non-profit international organization that generates science-based knowledge about the diverse roles that trees play in landscapes. It advances policies and practices that benefit the poor and the environment. Its theme 'Trees and Forest Genetic Resources and Biodiversity' leverages its global experts to deliver healthy, biodiverse, and productive trees in landscapes. ICRAF will support delivery of:

O

Output 2. Training: engaging directly in development projects and broader tree planting programmes facilitates better cooperation through training on upstream technologies for downstream applications, e.g. using species suitability maps and apps, applying the toolkit for integrated tree seed system development to supply high quality tree seed and seedlings, etc.

Data: Climate Appropriate Portfolios of Tree Diversity addressing ecology, genetics, combinations, etc. developed. Extensive databases, climate and species suitability maps and apps, tailored guidelines, and detailed analysis packages availed through the Global Tree Knowledge Platform.

Output 3. Business case development: business models identifying priority restoration opportunities for high combined potential for socioeconomic and environmental outcomes (carbon sequestration, soil conservation, and 'rural households reached) developed; for quantitative estimation of benefits, the "Farm-Tree Model® predictive tool will be expanded to unconverted landscapes; ex-ante impact evaluation will be undertaken for high-quality tree seed supply, etc.

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**International/In-country Partner**

International

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**Allocated budget:**



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**Represented on the Project Board**

Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

Yes

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**3. Partner Name:**

TRAFFIC

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**Website address:**

<https://www.traffic.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

TRAFFIC - the wildlife trade monitoring network - is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. TRAFFIC employs over 150 staff across the globe (headquarters office in the UK, operating as a registered charity). TRAFFIC's programme spans multiple species and geographies, developing/applying innovative tools, including through governments, businesses, consumers, CBD and CITES.

TRAFFIC will contribute to the development of the methodology (Output 1) with a focus on sustainable use/trade in socio-economically important species leading to positive outcomes for nature and people. TRAFFIC will also contribute to data and knowledge generation (Objective 2). In addition, TRAFFIC will support the development of the business model (Objective 3) based on our experience with voluntary standards, and will establish a connection between GBS and the FairWild Foundation (specializing on wild-sourcing of plants, fungi and lichen).

TRAFFIC will link the project to its ongoing efforts motivating market transformation towards the sustainability of trade in wild plant ingredients/products, frequently in-part originating from restoration projects, with outreach to businesses, e.g. through the #weusewild pledge and the FairWild week. This will help raise the profile of the GBS to public and businesses.

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**International/In-country Partner**  International

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**Allocated budget:** [REDACTED]

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**4. Partner Name:** Ecosia

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**Website address:** <https://www.ecosia.org>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

Ecosia works with over 50 organizations worldwide, with which they have planted over 140 million trees and over 1000 different species. These trees are planted in over 15k locations. Ecosia will support Output 1. Development of methodology and testing in real world conditions by sharing its expertise on standard setting and systems for reporting on real-world projects and with many different types of organizations in the sector, ranging from smallholder agroforestry to large scale restoration. Ecosia will also bring a number of its projects forward for certification and support them with the data collection, submission and certification process. Where needed, Ecosia's GIS and IT expertise will be used to design the back-end systems. For Output 4 Mainstreaming and scaling up, Ecosia will support the PR around the standard through its marketing and communication teams.

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**International/In-country Partner**  International

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**Allocated budget:** [REDACTED]

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**5. Partner Name:** Plan Vivo

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**Website address:** <https://www.planvivo.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

The Plan Vivo Foundation (PVF) is a registered UK charity that supports vulnerable rural communities across the world to develop innovative nature-based solutions to reduce poverty, conserve important ecosystems and tackle climate change – primarily through stewardship of the Plan Vivo Standard.

Output 1: PVF supports a global network of 25 projects in 20 countries that are certified to the PV Standard – meeting a core set of social, environmental and governance requirements. Selected projects will pilot and test the GBS methodology. PVF and pilot projects will also advise on criteria relating to community engagement and socio-economic impact.

Output 3: PVF is the longest running voluntary carbon market standard, with more than 25 years' experience working with stakeholders of nature-based solutions and enabling their access to carbon finance and development opportunities. PVF will co-develop the GBS Business model.

Output 4: To date, PVF has reached more than 90,000 people, channelling over 18 million USD directly to communities – and is currently working to scale up its ethical approach, including in collaboration with Rabobank.

The GBS will be integrated into the PV Standard for projects that seek additional guarantees on biodiversity conservation.

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**International/In-country Partner**  International

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**Allocated budget:** [REDACTED]

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**6. Partner Name:** 1t.org

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**Website address:** <https://www.1t.org/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project?**

**(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

1t.org has the aim of conserving, restoring and growing 1 trillion trees by 2030. It does this by mobilizing the private sector, facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships in key regions, and supporting innovation and ecopreneurship on the ground.

1t.org is part of the World Economic Forum's efforts to accelerate nature-based solutions and was set up to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. It will contribute to the following elements of the project:

Output 1: Sharing the GBS methodology within the World Economic Forum's Platform for Accelerating Nature Based Solutions. The 1t.org Corporate Alliance will feature the GBS as a part of its regular meetings, and encourage 1t.org Corporate Alliance companies to pilot the standard in the prototyping phase.

Output 2: Support the project to identify the right actors in country to work with in data collection and certification by offering connections through 1t.org multi-stakeholder regional action groups including its regional work in the Sahel for the Great Green Wall, in the Amazon on the bioeconomy, in India and China.

Output 3: Promote restoration employment opportunities through its #generationrestoration youth academy due to launch in January 2022 and to our cohorts of UpLink innovators.

All support from 1t.org will be provided in-kind.

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**International/In-country Partner**

International

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**Allocated budget:**



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**Represented on the Project Board**

Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

Yes

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

The GBS hub partners in Brazil, Peru, India, Madagascar, Kenya and Uganda are:

Jardim Botânico Araribá (Brazil). JBA has >30 years of experience in biodiversity survey, and restoring the Mata Atlantica forest with native species, including incorporation of threatened species. It is also a training hub.

Huarango Nature (Peru) has more than 25 years of experience in botanical survey, habitat restoration, natural infrastructure, and nature-based solutions using native plants.

Auroville Botanical Gardens (India) has more than 20 years of experience in biodiversity survey and restoration, focusing on dry tropical forest

Missouri Botanical Garden's Madagascar program has been established for nearly 50 years. It includes 60 Malagasy staff, manages 13 protected areas, is a training hub and has unparalleled biodiversity data and survey and inventory expertise.

Brackenhurst Botanic Garden (Kenya) has restored 40 hectares of indigenous forest. Over 100 rare East African trees have been planted in the restored forest, providing a safe site for these species of conservation concern. It is also a centre of expertise for biodiversity survey and training

Tooro Botanical Gardens (Uganda) have 20 years of experience raising native species and restoring forests since their establishment in 2001. They are a training hub for native species restoration.

**Please provide a cover letter and a combined PDF of all letters of support.**

## Section 17 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

### Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

**Q34a. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative 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) and continue to Q34b.**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
27-015	Joachim Gratzfeld	Farms and Forests: Boosting biodiversity and livelihoods in Northern Cambodia
27-016	Paul Smith	Responsible exchange of plant genetic resources for research and development
26-017	Kirsty Shaw	Maximising Conservation and Community Benefits from Plants of Mount Mulanje
25-020	Kirsty Shaw	Supply and Demand: Restoration in Uganda for People and Biodiversity
23-026	Paul Smith	Domestication of the Mulanje Cedar
3319	Suzanne Sharrock	Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development

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

**Aims** BGI aims to support and empower botanical institutions and the wider conservation community, so that our knowledge and expertise can be applied to reversing the threat of extinction facing plants. Our vision is a world in which plant diversity is valued, secure and supporting all life.

**Activities** We achieve our aims through:  
1. Leading, inspiring and advocacy;  
2. Saving plants through innovative and strategic projects achieving outcomes in plant conservation policy, practice and education;  
3. Co-ordinating efforts and building plant conservation capacity in botanical institutions and broader society;  
4. Providing funding and technical support

**Achievements** See covering letter for more details:  
1. Leading the Global Tree Assessment (2018-2023), red-listing all of the world's trees species.  
2. Leading the Global Trees Campaign (2010-present), recovering >400 threatened tree species in situ.  
3. Leading the Global Seed Conservation Challenge and the Ecological Restoration Alliance (2012-present)

**Q34b. Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the Lead Partner that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.**

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

<b>Contract/Project 1 Title</b>	Global Tree Assessment
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)</b>	5 years
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	BGCI leads this project, subcontracting to Red List Authorities and Plant Specialist Groups all over the world, managing budgets, carrying out training, collating results and publishing reports, including the recent State of the World's Trees Report.
<b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>	<p>The Global Tree Assessment (GTA) aims to carry out a conservation assessment for every tree species in the world. This is a huge collaborative operation, managed and coordinated by BGCI alongside IUCN and many national and local institutions and individuals.</p> <p>Through the Global Tree Assessment, intensive research has been undertaken over the past five years to compile extinction risk information on the 58,497 tree species worldwide. The recent State of the World's Trees report shows that 30% of tree species are threatened with extinction. To date 43,721 assessments out of 58,500 have been completed. see <a href="https://globaltreeassessment.org/">https://globaltreeassessment.org/</a> for more details.</p>
<b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Contract/Project 2 Title</b>	Global Trees Campaign
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)</b>	6 years
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	BGCI co-leads this project with FFI. We co-ordinate activities, sub-contract out species recovery work, lead training activities, manage budgets, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

**Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project**

The Global Trees Campaign is dedicated to saving the world's threatened tree species in their natural habitats.

Launched in 1999, the Global Trees Campaign (GTC) is a joint initiative between Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). To date, we have supported conservation initiatives benefiting more than 400 threatened tree species in over 50 countries worldwide. In addition, >10,000 people have been trained in tree conservation techniques through the GTC programme over the past 10 years.

For more details see this report <https://www.bgci.org/resources/bgci-tools-and-resources/securing-a-future-for-the-worlds-threatened-trees-a-global-challenge/>

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**Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)**

[REDACTED]

---

**Contract/Project 3 Title**

The Big Picnic

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**Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)**

[REDACTED]

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

3 years

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**Role of organisation in project**

BGCI led this EU Horizon 2020 project, co-ordinating all activities, sub-contracting to partners, managing budgets, M & E and reporting.

---

**Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project**

The BigPicnic team involved nineteen Partner organisations, spanning twelve countries across Europe and one in Uganda and was coordinated by BGCI. These Partners used a range of travelling exhibitions, activities, science cafés and participatory events, co-created with local people, to generate dialogue and build greater understanding of food security issues. Using the BigPicnic project data, a series of policy briefs were developed. Food production, sustainability and the climate, participation, education and organisational development were all shown to be important in the context of the project and food security. For more information see <https://www.bgci.org/resources/bgci-tools-and-resources/bigpicnic-resources/>

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**Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

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

Yes

## Section 18 - Certification

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### Q35. Certification

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

**I apply for a grant of**

£2,693,373.00

**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 project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, risk register (inclusive of delivery chain risk map), logframe, theory of change, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

**Name**

Paul Smith

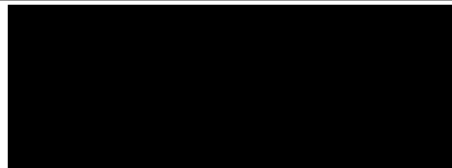
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**Position in the organisation**

Secretary General (CEO)

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

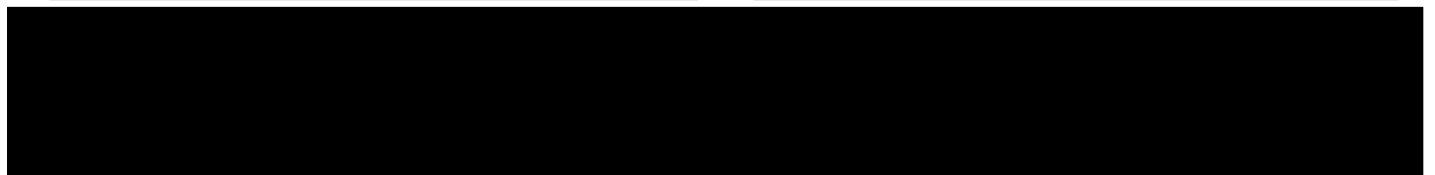


**Date**

06 December 2021

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**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**



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



## Section 19 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Darwin Initiative Extra Supplementary Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance", "Theory of Change Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.</b>	Checked
<b>The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have attached the below documents to my application:</b>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my completed <b>logframe</b> as a PDF using the template provided</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my <b>budget</b> (which meets the requirements above)</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my completed <b>implementation timetable</b> as a PDF using the template provided</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my <b>risk register</b>, including <b>delivery chain risk map</b>, as an Excel file using the template provided</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• my 1 page <b>Theory of Change</b> as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff</b> identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.</li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a <b>letter of support</b> from the Lead Partner and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.</li></ul>	Checked



• a <b>cover letter from the Lead Partner.</b>	Checked
• a <b>copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy</b> , which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.	Checked
• a signed <b>copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts</b> for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.</b>	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).