



Submit by Monday 5 December 2016

**DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 23: STAGE 2**Please read the [Guidance](#) before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required.

Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

**ELIGIBILITY****1. Name and address of organisation**

(NB: Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 6)

<b>Applicant Organisation Name:</b>	<b>TREE AID</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Brunswick Court, Brunswick Square</b>
<b>City and Postcode:</b>	<b>Bristol, BS2 8PE</b>
<b>Country:</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	

**2. Stage 1 reference and Project title**

<b>Stage 1 Ref:</b> 3712	<b>Title (max 10 words):</b> Strengthening Malian forest management to protect biodiversity and alleviate poverty.
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**3. Project description (not exceeding 50 words)****(max 50 words)**

This project will strengthen the natural resource management (NRM) of two Malian forests, to protect and restore biodiversity while contributing to poverty reduction. We will work with local communities to restore forests while building their capacities in forest governance and NRM, and developing enterprises to improve livelihoods and increase incomes.

**4. Country(ies)**

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

<b>Country 1: Mali</b>	<b>Country 2:</b>
<b>Country 3:</b>	<b>Country 4:</b>

**5. Project dates, and budget summary**

<b>Start date:</b> April 2017		<b>End date:</b> March 2020			<b>Duration:</b> 3	
<b>Darwin funding request (Apr – Mar)</b>	<b>2017/18</b> £152,095	<b>2018/19</b> £75,771	<b>2019/20</b> £82,134	<b>2020/2021</b> £	<b>Total</b> £310,000	
<b>Proposed (confirmed &amp; unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost</b>						<b>15%</b>

**6. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed. You may copy and paste this table if necessary.**

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2
Surname	Kone	Dembélé	
Forename (s)	Maurice	Pierre	
Post held	Country Officer	Executive Secretary	
Organisation (if different to above)	TREE AID	SAHEL Eco	
Department	Operations	Operations	
Telephone			
Email			

**7. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before** (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)? YES

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
20-019	Cheru Tessema Mammo	Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods

**8a. If you answered 'NO' to Question 7 please complete Question 8a, b and c.**

**If you answered 'YES', please go to Question 9** (and delete the boxes for Q8a, 8b and 8c)

**9. Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Institution) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.**

<p><b>Lead institution and website:</b></p> <p><b>TREE AID</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.treeaid.org.uk/">http://www.treeaid.org.uk/</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</b></p> <p>TREE AID is an international development NGO working in the drylands of Africa, founded in 1987. TREE AID has worked in Mali since 1997, further establishing an office in Bamako in 2010. TREE AID Mali closely supports, monitors, and collaborates with partners and communities. TREE AID Mali has led on four projects in partnership with national NGOs since its founding, in areas including natural resource management, forest governance, and enterprise development. These projects have been funded by institutional donors including the European Commission (managed from the regional office), Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, and the Turing Foundation.</p> <p>TREE AID's Project Leader/Country Officer will maintain responsibility for the successful implementation of project activities, closely coordinating with Sahel Eco, conducting field and partner monitoring and reporting, and will be supported by the Finance and Administrative Assistant. Further ongoing technical support, financial management, monitoring and quality assurance will be carried out with support from the Regional Office in Ouagadougou, with backstopping from the UK's Lead Technical Advisor. In the UK, TREE AID's Programme Manager will maintain project oversight and contact with Darwin, while the Impact &amp; Learning Advisor will support the establishment of M&amp;E plans and tools.</p>	
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>		<p>Yes</p>

<p><b>Partner Name and website where available:</b></p> <p><b>SAHEL ECO</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.sahleco.org">www.sahleco.org</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</b></p> <p>Created in 2004, Sahel Eco is a national NGO, previously operating as the SOS Sahel International UK Mali programme. TREE AID has been working with SOS Sahel International UK since 1998, formed a partnership with Sahel Eco after its creation, and have been working together in the Segou region since 2013. Together, we have led on the development of participatory forest management plans (FMPs) in Segou and Mopti regions, an innovative approach in the Mali context to improve community access, rights and forest governance. The proposed project will continue to build on and sustain these successes, and was jointly developed. Sahel Eco maintains in-depth technical knowledge of the targeted forests and the local community, given their extensive previous interventions in these locations.</p> <p>Sahel Eco will lead on project implementation locally. Two "Forest Management Advisors", to be based locally in Tominian, will supervise and monitor the implementation of activities in each forest. They will work closely with the Project Coordinator based in Sévaré, whom will maintain project oversight for Sahel Eco and carry out frequent field monitoring. These key staff will be further supported with technical advice and monitoring support from Sahel Eco management and technical officers and TREE AID staff.</p>	
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>		<p>Yes</p>

## 10. Key Project personnel

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project<sup>1</sup>. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Maurice Kone	Project Leader	TREE AID Mali	40%	Yes
Elizabeth Kamate	Administrative and Finance Assistant	TREE AID Mali	40%	Yes
Drissa Gana	Project Coordinator	Sahel Eco	30%	Yes
To be recruited	Forest Management Advisor 1	Sahel Eco	100%	Yes
To be recruited	Forest Management Advisor 2	Sahel Eco	100%	Yes
Mansa Samake	Head of Administration and Finance	Sahel Eco	10%	Yes
Fatoumata Tamboura	Office Accountant	Sahel Eco	10%	Yes
Sean McGough	Programme Manager	TREE AID	10%	Yes
Victoria Dauncey	Impact & Learning Advisor	TREE AID	10%	Yes
Pietro Carpena	Lead Technical Advisor	TREE AID	5%	Yes

## 11. Problem the project is trying to address

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

If your project is working on an area of biodiversity or biodiversity-development linkages that has had limited attention (both in the Darwin Initiative portfolio and in conservation in general) please give details.

(Max 300 words)

Mali's forest habitat and the immense biodiversity it supports is under significant threat, as are the people whom rely on the forests' abundant resources for their livelihoods. From 1990-2015, Mali lost a staggering 30% of its forest area, or nearly two million hectares<sup>2</sup>. In the Segou region, part of the country's semi-arid areas, the previously green landscape has been devastated by various, inter-connected human and climatic pressures. As one of the world's poorest countries<sup>3</sup>, nearly five million rural people live in poverty<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> As per directed in the workshop, we have only included here the names and attached the CVs of key project personnel, rather than all staff charged to the project (those with smaller roles are not included.)

<sup>2</sup> FAO (2015). [Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015](#)

<sup>3</sup> Mali ranks 179 out of 188 on the Human Development Index (2015).

<sup>4</sup> Rural Poverty Portal. [Mali Indicators](#). Data Source: World Bank 2014. Accessed 3 August 2016.

Segou<sup>5</sup> contains Duwa and Sutebwo forests, which have been degraded through overgrazing, wood exploitation, unsustainable hunting and rapid agricultural expansion. The situation has been further exacerbated by low rainfall, increased bushfires, and resultant soil fertility degradation. Consequently, tree and gramineae diversity has been severely reduced<sup>6</sup> and wildlife populations have declined, including birds, insects and soil microorganisms. Due to the dependence of local livelihoods on natural resources, like shea and honey, biodiversity loss deeply affects local communities (including 22,148<sup>7</sup> people living in surrounding areas), further exacerbating poverty.

To address these issues, TREE AID and Sahel Eco supported the forest communities and authorities<sup>8</sup> to agree local forest use conventions and two participatory forest management plans (FMPs) in 2016. The FMPs, developed through a series of collaborative processes, established actions to protect, preserve and restore forest biodiversity by improving natural resource management (NRM), while balancing this with communities' food, energy and economic needs. Yet further support is needed to ensure the FMPs successful implementation and monitor these efforts. This project will enable communities to implement the plans by enhancing NRM capacities, improving forest monitoring, and restoration activities to increase threatened indigenous tree and gramineae species diversity, expand insect and wildlife habitat; while also strengthening non-timber forest product (NTFP) enterprises' incentives to sustainably manage forests while increasing household incomes.

## 12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Your project must support the objectives 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 and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

<b>Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)</b>	Yes
<b>Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)</b>	No
<b>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)</b>	No
<b>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)</b>	No
<b>Global Goals for Sustainable Development</b>	Yes

### 12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting and how your project will help to achieve the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs). You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement

#### (Max 500 words)

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** In 2001, Mali adopted a *Stratégie Nationale et Plan d'Actions pour la Diversité Biologique (SNPA/DB)*<sup>9</sup> for implementing the CBD at the national level. Eight priority ecosystems were identified for conservation in Mali, including forests, the focus of this project. In 2014, this was revised to address some constraints experienced in implementing the original plan. The 2014 SNPA/DB also stipulates that NRM should empower local communities and ensure equitable distribution of the benefits of sustainable use. TREE AID's project approach aligns with the national strategy and reinforces

<sup>5</sup> Specifically, within the "cercle" of Tominiian, cercles are the second level administrative unit in Mali after regions – akin to counties.

<sup>6</sup> This includes species such as *Isoberlinia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum* which the community has identified as under threat locally and are also of significant importance for either food or livelihoods. The demand for these species has resulted in their over-exploitation.

<sup>7</sup> Recensement Général de la Population et l'Habitat (RGPH) (2009).

<sup>8</sup> Including municipal authorities and the National Directorate of Water and Forests of the Malian Ministry of Environment

<sup>9</sup> *The English translation is National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)*

implementation by means of participatory planning, knowledge management and community capacity building, while increasing economic benefits through strengthening NTFP enterprises.

The project will contribute to specific CBD Articles by implementing activities that relate directly to the below points:

➤ **Article 8 (In-situ Conservation):**

(c) Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use;

(d) Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings;

(e) Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas;

(f) Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, inter alia, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies.

➤ **Article 10 (Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity):**

(d) Support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced.

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** This project also contributes to various sustainable development goals:

➤ **Goal 15: "Life on Land"**. This project contributes most strongly to this SDG, which includes the target: *"By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally."* This project will contribute to the sustainable management of forests target, and the restoration of the degraded forest through planting or regenerating approximately 650,000 trees, and strengthening forest monitoring and management.

➤ **Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere** – The project will support NTFP enterprises to improve their production and quality of products, in order to increase incomes and alleviate local poverty in targeted households.

➤ **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** – The project will work to engage more women in NRM capacity building and implementation, including nursery activities, tree planting and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), the latter two being traditional male activities locally. NTFP groups composed of primarily women will be supported to increase their business-related capacities and household income, which can result in positive gains in terms of women's household status and autonomy. This will ensure that the project's economic benefits are also directed more towards women, thereby working toward DFID's strategic vision for women and girls which includes actions *to ensure that girls and women gain direct access to, and control over, economic assets.*

**12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / SDG focal point in the host country?**

**Yes**  **No**      **if yes, please give details:**

The focal point of the CBD in Mali is the National Directorate of Water and Forests within the Ministry of the Environment. This department is a strategic partner of TREE AID as it is involved in the implementation of our various NRM projects through its regional directorates and staff at the municipal level, where TREE AID projects take place. The National Directorate of Water and Forests formally appointed a TREE AID focal point in accordance with Decision No. 033 / MEADD-DNEF in order to facilitate collaboration between the two structures.

### 13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

(Max 500 words – this may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you may update or refine as necessary. Tracked changes are **not** required.)

**NRM Capacity Building & Forest Governance:** The project will train people in NRM techniques that are vital for sustaining forest life, biodiversity, and health. We will work with two existing, local cooperatives representing surrounding forest communities, which were formed to manage forest resources while promoting NTFP production and use. Village Extension Officers and community members will be trained in essential NRM techniques to enrich soil and prevent land degradation including through tree planting and care, ANR, and agroforestry. Community members will be trained to collect data to monitor these efforts. Other community volunteers will also receive instruction in data collection and monitoring in order to form “village monitoring brigades,” to carry out on-going surveillance of FMPs’ implementation.

The brigades will support the work of two inter-communal associations, formed of community/cooperative members, which maintain overall management oversight for each forest, addressing a critical governance gap. “Forest Dialogues” will also be established involving multiple stakeholders including local authorities and technical experts, to collectively resolve issues and ensure forest restoration is completed effectively. Stakeholders will be trained on forest governance and management conventions and plans, to ensure the understanding of roles, responsibilities and facilitate the continued sustainable management of both forests into the future.

**Natural Resource Management:** The project will restore 11,619 hectares of forest in Mali. We will establish two nurseries to cultivate threatened, indigenous tree seedlings to re-enforce these species populations<sup>10</sup>. The NRM training participants will apply what they’ve learned, cementing their new forest management skills. The communities will be mobilised to plant seedlings across the two forests, as well as applying the approaches detailed above. To mitigate the risk of damage from bushfires, a firebreak will also be established around the restored areas. The Sahel Eco Forest Management Advisors will deliver trainings and oversee implementation of NRM activities in collaboration with Village Extension Officers, also providing on-site technical support and activity monitoring.

**Enterprise Development:** The project will also support the two cooperatives’ existing NTFP enterprise activities, which include producing and selling honey and shea products, along with their efforts to manage the forests. We will improve their capacity to increase both product volume and quality, including through the provision of candle-making, honey and shea butter processing equipment. Enterprise groups will also receive support and materials to improve packaging and labelling. Along with the training, entrepreneurs will participate in exchange visits and national NTFP events to learn new skills and make linkages to buyers in order to help increase sales. The project will also utilise the local radio stations existing “Market Information System”, a platform providing a two-way flow of information between producers and buyers about available products and prices offered. The system will promote the cooperatives’ products, linking them to buyers and stimulating demand. These activities will improve efficiencies and save critical time, which can be reinvested into the NTFP production or used on other livelihood activities, while increasing profits through engendering better quality products. Collectively, this will lead to increases in household income for the targeted households.

### 14. Change Expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term and b) in the long-term.

(Max 300 words)

<sup>10</sup> Including *Isobrerlinia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum* species, identified by the communities as under threat.  
R23 St2 Form



The project will protect and restore 11,619 ha across two forests in the Segou region of Mali, through a series of best practice NRM techniques, while building the capacity of local communities and authorities to effectively manage the full 19,588<sup>11</sup> ha of the forests. The establishment of agroforestry and ANR practices, soil and water conservation (SWC) activities, and enhancement of threatened, indigenous tree species populations will set in motion the restoration of forest biodiversity, thereby strengthening and protecting the key resources which local people rely on for their livelihoods. Communities will also understand their rights and responsibilities to the environment and its benefits, addressing the issues of forest over-exploitation. In the short-term, communities and municipal authorities will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to practice and monitor improved NRM, while the structures will be established to ensure continued, sustainable governance over forest resources. This will have long-term impacts of sustaining strong forest management by communities and local authorities into the future.

Alongside learning and applying effective NRM techniques, the project will further enable communities to strengthen NTFP livelihood activities through the enhancement of sustainable, forest-related cooperatives. By helping to make these activities increasingly productive and economically viable, cooperatives are further incentivised to sustainably manage the forest resources. People relying on shea and honey production for their livelihoods will access equipment, training, and support to make linkages with buyers to expand the quantities, quality, and variety of products in the short-term. By the end of the project, 600 households will experience an average 25% increase in income, contributing to the alleviation of household-level poverty. The investments will also support communities to continue to develop their businesses in the longer term, while generating a sustainable income to help support household needs, including food, shelter, health and education.

## 15. Pathway to poverty alleviation

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected to be impacted by your project. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

(Max 300 words)

**Alleviating poverty through NTFP enterprises:** 600 poor, rural households will increase income, through family members' participation in the NTFP enterprise activities (including 400 women). In turn, this will **indirectly benefit a total of 3,600<sup>12</sup> people**. As a result, these people will be able to use the increased income to meet their basic household needs. Women, who are the most significantly impacted by poverty, compose 67% of the direct recipients of this support. Because of the sustainable nature of the NTFP enterprise interventions, household income increases will continue after project completion. The cooperative members will be trained and equipped to continue to operate their enterprise activities and generate income for a variety of essential purposes into the future. These households will thus experience a sustained reduction in poverty. Additionally, women will be empowered through participating in the NTFP activities, by contributing an income to the household, increasing their skills and confidence through the trainings, and taking up leadership positions within cooperatives. This is expected to increase women's voice in household decision-making (such as how income is spent) and control over their own lives. By working collaboratively in business development, this will also foster a greater sense of community and shared understanding amongst women and men.

**Improving soil for agriculture:** 2,672 households will also be directly involved in implementing agroforestry and ANR techniques. In turn, improvements made to soil through agroforestry techniques will also have benefits to agricultural production on the land. This should lead to an improvement in harvests, which will also make an important contribution to enhancing people's livelihoods and food security whom farm this land in the longer-term

<sup>11</sup> 19,588 ha is the total forest area of both forests, which will indirectly benefit through forest governance. Specific NRM, restoration activities will be completed across 11,619 ha.

<sup>12</sup> This assumes an average household size of 6 people. Source: *Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat (2009)*.



beyond the project lifetime, including for further of the 22,148 inhabitants living in the surrounding forest areas.

## 16. Exit strategy

State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

(Max 200 words)

The project design is grounded in strengthening the capabilities of the cooperatives to sustain NRM and NTFP activities, along with local authorities and technical services, so they are able to operate without further TREE AID and partner support following project completion. By building the capacities of these institutions and their members, they will carry on effective NRM to preserve and improve the state of the forests into the future. The following activities are key to the exit strategy:

- Continued strengthening and building understanding of local forest governance including conventions, structures, and roles and responsibilities for joint management and monitoring so all stakeholders can continue to collaborate effectively.
- NRM capacity building, so village leaders and cooperatives can continue to carry out various NRM techniques following the project's end.
- The established community nurseries will continue to operate and produce seedlings after project completion, to be sold to farmers for agroforestry planting.
- Activities to increase NTFP enterprises capacities' to sustain and increase profits and linkages to businesses, so they continue to grow their businesses without further support.
- Learnings from the final evaluation will be shared and discussed with all community stakeholders, and determine future steps to be taken to sustain the project outcomes.

## 17a. Harmonisation

Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Please give details (Max 200 words)

The project builds upon the work of the "Re-greening Segou" project implemented by TREE AID and Sahel Eco. The project was supported by donors including the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission and a number of trusts. The key achievements of this project relating to Duwa and Sutebwo forests and the local stakeholders included the following:

- 1) Increasing village level engagement with social learning and dialogue in NRM
- 2) Working collaboratively with the local authorities and the two cooperatives to establish FMPs;
- 3) Building the capacity of local municipal leaders to manage natural resources;
- 4) Strengthening the cooperatives management capacities.

This new project will specifically shift the focus to working with the cooperatives and the villages surrounding the forests to build their own natural resource management capacities, while continuing to support collaboration between the communities and authorities. This will enable all stakeholders to enact the management plans agreed in the former project while tangibly improving forest biodiversity. Additionally, this project will continue to expand the support for the cooperatives' NTFP activities by specifically focussing on increasing production capacity, product quality, and marketing through the provision of processing equipment and improving packaging, labelling and marketing.

**17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? No**

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

TREE AID is not aware of any other organisations carrying out similar work in the existing communities. However, there are other projects being implemented by TREE AID or other organisations in Mali, which have complementarity to this project. This includes other projects working on improving the institutional environment around natural resource management and forest governance, restoring degraded lands through tree planting and assisted natural regeneration, and supporting households (particularly women) in shea and nere NTFP value chains. The synergies between these projects offer opportunities for sharing knowledge and lessons learned across projects, to feed into project cycle management and joint advocacy. TREE AID will continue to maintain and build linkages with these known projects and organisations.

## 18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the [Guidance](#).

(Max 300 words)

TREE AID is a beneficiary led and local partner-focussed organisation. We take pride in implementing a bottom-up approach to our work and encouraging equal partnerships with our developing country partners. While, as defined in our Partnerships Policy, ensuring due diligence in all our partnership endeavours.

TREE AID projects are based on robust needs assessments, participatory project design and direct community involvement wherever possible, to ensure appropriateness and sustainability of the work, and the highest possible returns for our beneficiary communities. Our approach to community engagement is embodied in the first of our six organisational values:

*"We **stand together** with and respect the people we work for and with. We recognise that we play one part in a large collective effort to drive sustainable development"*.

In all projects we strive to respect the rights, privacy and safety of our beneficiaries. To do this we employ the principles of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC), ensuring informed, non-coercive communication between all stakeholders prior to commencement and throughout project and partnership lifetimes. Further strengthening our community engagement approach we employ a Safeguarding Policy, outlining procedures to ensure the safety of children involved in our activities.

As defined in our Anti-fraud Policy and Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy, TREE AID has a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption of any type or in any circumstances, whether perpetrated by staff, volunteers, contractors, partners or clients. We are determined to prevent fraud and where this is not possible, to detect and investigate such acts, as defined in our Fraud Response Plan.

The health and wellbeing of TREE AID's UK and in-country staff is of paramount importance and we have procedures in place to ensure safe working conditions for all our staff as defined in our Health and Safety Policy. All TREE AID policies are available on request.

## 19. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

(Max 300 words)

TREE AID is also committed to sharing the learning from the final evaluation widely. Following the evaluation's completion, **evaluation summary documents** outlining the key lessons learned will be created (in English and French). These will be made available on the TREE AID website, and shared beyond direct project stakeholders. Critically, these will be discussed with the project's Forest Dialogues, as well as partners across the region and the UK.

The project will develop a **short documentary film** to showcase the project activities and achievements including around protecting biodiversity, and containing interviews with a number of project stakeholders. This will be used as an advocacy tool to encourage changes to forest governance and natural resource management policies, including at regional and national levels. The film will be shared widely, but particularly with members of the National Assembly (parliament) and environmental ministers and employees. A **roundtable meeting** will be held at the end of the project, with invitees including members of the National Assembly and the Ministry of Environment employees. The documentary and evaluation summary documents produced will be shared at these meetings, along with a presentation and discussions.

The **community will have their awareness raised** on the importance of protecting biodiversity and the methods to do so, as integrated through the various trainings in NRM and forest management texts that are an integral element of the project. The project will also support village leaders from the beneficiary communities to participate in the 'The Environment Fortnight,' a national event organized each year by the government which allows the different actors involved in the environmental sector to share their experiences.

TREE AID and partners would also be happy to participate **in any regional/UK or thematic platforms established by Darwin**, in order to share experiences and learning generated across other Darwin-supported projects.

## 20. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

(Max 300 words)

Building capacities of stakeholders is fundamental to the project's approach and sustainability strategy. This will be achieved through:

**Forest Governance:** Cooperatives', local authorities' and technical services' capacities will be built through:

- Training on laws and texts governing local forest management – The trainings will help to build stakeholders' understanding of these protocols, in order to help inter-communal associations and cooperatives own their roles and responsibilities in stewardship of forest resources.
- Forest Dialogues: Each inter-communal association will establish a dialogue group including representatives from cooperatives, technical services, and local authorities (approximately 15 members). The platforms will assess project activities, and help agree measures to resolve issues. Meetings will be held twice per year, with reports produced.
- Exchange Visits – Cooperatives and local authorities will participate in exchange visits with other localities, to share learning, experiences and best practice in forest governance.

**Communities and NRM:** Village Extension Officers and community members will be trained in various sustainable land management practices to help retain moisture and organic matter, enrich degraded soils and plant woody and herbaceous plants, while learning how this protects biodiversity. This includes:

- **Tree planting:** Planting and maintenance techniques, including where and how to make the hole in the earth and plant the seedling, favourable seasons for planting different varieties, and pruning techniques. Species identified locally as being threatened will be planted, including *Isoberlinia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum*.
- **Agroforestry and ANR:** Integrating woody perennials with agricultural crops for benefits and services including improved use of soil and water resources, multiple food products, and habitat for associated species.
- **SWC:** Different techniques will be used depending on the nature and degradation of soils, such as stone bunds, zai pits, and half-moons. This will help to support trees to grow and thrive.

## 21. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

(Max 250 words)

The technical reports and data sets derived through the project will be made available through the TREE AID and Sahel Eco websites or shared at the national level as appropriate. This will include:

- **Baseline Survey:** The baseline will include a biodiversity assessment to be completed at project commencement. The findings will be shared with the local authorities, as well as the Department of the Environment at the national level.
- **GPS Mapping:** All of the locations on which natural resource management activities will be carried out will be geo-referenced, to determine their specific coordinates and area. The data sets will be provided to the national database managed by the "SIFOR Mali (System d' Information forest)", part of the Department of Environment and the National Directorate of Water and Forests. This will highlight the contribution of the project to improving the country's forest cover.
- **Final Evaluation:** The final evaluation will generate learning on the effectiveness and efficiency of the project interventions, and the extent to which they have achieved or exceeded the project outcomes. The key findings from the evaluation will be published on the TREE AID website and shared with project stakeholders. These will also be shared with the Department of the Environment in Mali, so this can also inform national contributions to the CBD and SNPA/DB.

All full reports will also be shared with DEFRA/DFID. The relevant costs for these initiatives are all include in the budget.

## 22. Match funding (co-finance)

### a) Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity.

#### Confirmed:

£15,000 from Oak Philanthropy Pledged.

£5,000 in private donations confirmed.

**22b) Unsecured**

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments
February 2017	Northwick Trust	£20k	High probability of successful
February 2017	Henry Hoare	£10k	This is a very warm donor for TREE AID, high probability of successful outcome.
March 2017	Prince Bernhard Nature Fund	25k euro (£21k) (per grant).	High probability of success. Will look to apply multiple years.
Spring 2017	Corporate donors	£20k	Potential corporate support, medium probability of securing full amount.

**22c) None**

If you are not intending to seek matched funding for this project, please explain why.

(max 100 words)

Not applicable.

**23) Risk**

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

(max 200 words)

**Violence/political insecurity delay or halt activities:** The country's current security issues have not been experienced in the intervention areas. A *Security and Response Plan* involving the different project stakeholders will be developed and enacted, which will define operating procedures in the event of security changes.

**Fraud or corruption:** Effective financial management procedures with checks and balances across all stakeholders to prevent fraud and corruption will be established. TREE AID will review partner expenditure and supporting documentation, including by national, regional and UK staff. The procurement of equipment and recruitment of consultants will be carried out in accordance to TREE AID procurement procedures to ensure transparency and value for money.

**Climatic change/weather undermines interventions:** To reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the local community (including drought), communities will be trained in effective planning of NRM actions (timely production of seedlings, timing of tree planting, etc.)

**NTFPs benefits not shared sufficiently with women:** For this project, women are being actively targeted to ensure they are the majority recipient of NTFP benefits. Training activities will be designed to build women's capacities to negotiate with buyers, and they will be encouraged to take leadership positions and have a greater role in decision-making.

## PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### MEASURING IMPACT

#### 24. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Sustainable forest management and tree-based livelihoods contribute to biodiversity conservation in the Duwa and Sutebwo forests (19,588 ha) in Mali and the poverty reduction of local people. (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words) Forest restoration and increased threatened, indigenous tree species<sup>13</sup> diversity within 11,619 hectares of Malian forest, and increased targeted household incomes by 25%, through strengthening natural resource management and enterprise development.</p>	<p>0.1 By 2020, 11,619 hectares of forest benefit from the better management of natural resources, including: a) 150 ha defined, protected and enriched with suitable indigenous, threatened species<sup>14</sup> and applied SWC approaches. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 25 ha, Year 2: 100 ha in total; Year 3: 150 ha in total.</i></p> <p>b) 7,846 ha of marginalised, degraded land is restored through enrichment with appropriate indigenous or threatened tree species, and applied SWC approaches. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 1,500 ha in total; Year 2: 5,000 ha in total; Year 3: 7,846 ha in total.</i></p> <p>c) 3,623 ha planted/restored using applied agroforestry and Assisted Natural Regeneration approaches. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 1,000 ha; Year 2: 2,500 ha in total;</i></p>	<p>0.1 Partner NRM delivery records, partner and TREE AID monitoring reports, GPS mapping, baseline survey, evaluation report.</p> <p>0.2 Baseline survey, partner NRM activity records, GPS mapping, and final evaluation.</p> <p>0.3 Baseline survey, partner NRM delivery records, village brigade monitoring, project monitoring report, final evaluation.</p> <p>0.4 Baseline survey, cooperative records, monitoring reports, household surveys, and final evaluation.</p>	<p>Legislation and decentralisation of natural resource management remains favourable to local authorities</p> <p>The local communities work together in forest protection activities, and accept and adopt NRM approaches to restore the forests.</p>

<sup>14</sup> These include the locally identified threatened species: *Isobertinia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum*.

	<p><i>Year 3:3,623 ha</i></p> <p>0.2 By 2020, 2,672 households from 6 communes (Mandiakuy, Mafoune, Diora, Koula, Lanfiala, and Fangasso) will demonstrate and incorporate good natural resource management practices on their land. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 752 households; Year 2: 1,642 households in total; Year 3: 2,672 households in total.</i></p> <p>0.3 Functional, established structures are managing and implementing development plans for Duwa and Sutebwo forests, including:</p> <p>a) 41 village monitoring brigades monitoring forests by the end of Year 2, supporting and reporting to the inter-communal association</p> <p>b) 2 inter-communal associations representing 41 villages (10 members each, 30% women) effectively engaging in forest management by end of Year 1.</p> <p>0.4 600 targeted NTFP producing households increase incomes by an average of 25% by 2020 (resulting from enterprise income).</p>		<p>NTFP cooperative activities are collectively capable of raising household incomes to the target level.</p> <p>The climatic conditions continue to favour the production of honey and shea nuts.</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b> 1. Communities are undertaking best-practice NRM activities by 2020.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> 360,000 seedlings cultivated in communal nurseries by 2020. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 75,000 plants; Year 2: 275,000 plants in total; Year 3: 360,000 plants in total.</i></p>	<p>1.1-1.4 Village brigade monitoring, partner NRM activity records, partner and TA monitoring reports, and final evaluation.</p>	<p>Communities are willing to participate in NRM activities and apply practices, including planting, NRM and firebreak development.</p>



	<p><b>1.2</b> 350,000 trees planted (soil/water enrichment approaches, planting on degraded land) by 2020. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 72,500 trees; Year 2: 267,500 trees; Year 3: 350,000 trees in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.3</b> 289,840 trees regenerated through ANR by 2020. <i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 80,000 in total; Year 2: 200,000 in total; Year 3: 289,840 in total.</i></p> <p><b>1.4</b> 182 Km of firebreak established by end of Year 1.</p>		<p>Community nurseries will be well functioning and organised, following training (see Output 2) and provision of materials. They will have the capacity to cultivate the required amount of seedlings.</p> <p>Village Extension Officers, Sahel Eco and TREE AID are able to effectively engage community members to complete NRM work collectively.</p> <p>Communities/inter-communal associations continue to have access to land as relevant.</p>
<p>2. Strengthened capacities of stakeholders (municipal authorities, technical services, village communities) to manage the Duwa and Sutèbwo forests.</p>	<p>2.1 By 2020, people will be trained in the following NRM approaches:</p> <p>a) 1,282 (1,082 men, 200 women) trained in technical SWC, tree planting and care. <i>Annual Targets: Year 1: 500 people, Year 2: 1,282 people</i></p> <p>b) 2,672 people (30% women) trained in Assisted Natural Regeneration and agroforestry techniques. <i>Annual Targets: Year 1: 1500 people, Year 2: 2,672 people</i></p> <p>c) 41 Village Extension Officers will receive training in monitoring and data collection of project NRM activities <i>Year 1: 41 village leaders (36 men, 5 women)</i></p> <p>d) 40 people (50% women) trained in nursery management and cultivation by end of Year 1.</p> <p>e) 20 people participating in forest governance exchange visits with other community forests by end of Year 1</p> <p>f) 120 people trained on forest</p>	<p>2.1 NRM training records, partner and TA monitoring reports.</p> <p>2.2 Partner event records, partner and TA monitoring reports, Forest Dialogue records/meeting minutes, and final evaluation.</p>	<p>Village Extension Officers, Sahel Eco and TREE AID are able to effectively engage and train community members,</p> <p>Trainings are effective in building the NRM capacity and knowledge of biodiversity of local stakeholders.</p> <p>Volunteers are willing to step forward to form village monitoring brigades, with training and support of partners.</p> <p>Local authorities and extension services are willing to continue to engage in Forest Dialogues.</p> <p>Cooperatives continue to actively embrace roles and responsibilities to implement and monitor FMPs.</p>

	<p>management legislation by end of Year 1.</p> <p>g) 246 local volunteers trained to monitor FMP implementation and form village monitoring brigades.</p> <p><i>Year 2: 246 people (206 men, 30 women)</i></p> <p>2.2 2 functional Forest Dialogue groups in place for forest management by end of Year 1.</p>		
3. Enhanced capacity of shea and honey enterprises.	<p>3.1 4 Honey and shea processing units installed and operational (press, candle making, shea butter production) supporting 2 NTFP cooperatives by 2020.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: 2 units installed in Year 1, Year 2: 4 units installed and operational.</i></p> <p>3.2 600 people (400 women, 200 men) engaged directly on honey and shea butter value chains by 2020.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 1: 300 people in total; Year 2 : 600 people in total</i></p> <p>3.3 120 people participate in NTFP national events, fairs or exchange visits by 2018.</p> <p><i>Cumulative, Annual Targets: Year 2: 80 people in total, Year 3: 120 people in total.</i></p>	<p>3.1 Procurement documentation, partner and TA monitoring reports, and final evaluation.</p> <p>3.2-3.3 Partner records, partner and TA monitoring reports.</p>	<p>NTFP groups effectively use equipment and labelling materials following training.</p> <p>Market demand increases for honey and shea products produced by NTFPs, due to quality and volume improvements and use of MIS system.</p> <p>NTFP groups make contacts with potential buyers at fairs and events.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>1.1 Two community nurseries established with materials/supplies provided</p> <p>1.2 Trees raised and maintained in tree nurseries.</p> <p>1.3 Define and demarcate land for protection and deferred grazing</p> <p>1.4 Restore 7,846 ha of degraded lands by village communities, using SWC techniques</p>			

- 1.5 150 ha are defined and enriched with threatened, indigenous species
- 1.6 Agroforestry techniques and tree planting carried out on 3,623 hectares of land.
- 1.7 Establish firebreak (182 km) to protect restored lands.
- 1.8 GPS mapping of site locations and data shared with the Department of the Environment.

#### **Output 2**

- 2.1 Training in data collection and monitoring SWC, ANR, and planting activities for 41 Village Extension Officers.
- 2.2 Training in SWC (soil quality improvement) techniques for 1,282 people
- 2.3 Training in technical ANR techniques for 2,672 people (30% women) trained
- 2.4 Training in nursery management for 40 people (50% women)
- 2.5 Training of 246 people to form village monitoring brigades to monitor forest management.
- 2.6 Review the 5-year “Economic and Cultural Development Plan” (commune level plan - PDSEC), taking into account the forest management plans.
- 2.7 2 exchange visits to share experiences of forest governance from different localities (between village communities, municipal authorities, and technical services)
- 2.8 Training workshops on community forest management texts (covering the forestry code for NRM, management principles for forests, and transfer of powers to municipalities)
- 2.9 Training of 2 inter-communal associations of local NRM conventions (20 people in total, 30% women)
- 2.10 Establishment of 2 Forest Dialogue groups for forest management, composed of cooperative members, local authorities and technical specialists.
- 2.11 Forest Dialogues meetings (2 per group per year).
- 2.12 Develop short documentary for advocacy.
- 2.13 Roundtable advocacy meeting with project stakeholders, Ministers and National Assembly members.

#### **Output 3**

- 3.1 Installation of processing equipment with cooperatives (press, candle making, shea butter processing).
- 3.2 Training of cooperative bodies management to manage and maintain shea butter processing units and hives for honey, including roles and responsibilities
- 3.3 Training of 60 cooperative members to use the processing units
- 3.4 Participation in fairs, exchange visits and national events (committees of management units and officials of cooperatives)
- 3.5 Development of a Market Information System with local radio stations, to facilitate linkages with buyers.
- 3.6 Development and production of professional labels

#### **Project Start-Up, Monitoring & Evaluation**

1. Project Start Up workshop (Partner Agreement, M&E Plan, Security and Response Plan), including at community level.
2. Recruitment of new staff positions
3. Training/induction for new staff.
4. Baseline survey
5. Sahel Eco field monitoring
6. TREE Aid field monitoring
7. Final Evaluation

**25. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project (Q1 starting April 2017)**

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 shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1</b>																	
1.1 Two community nurseries established with materials/supplies provided	10 days																
1.2 Trees raised and maintained in tree nurseries.	15 months (5 months X 3 years)																
1.3 Define and demarcate land for protection and deferred grazing	15 days																
1.4 Restore 7,846 ha of degraded lands by village communities, using SWC techniques	4.5 months																
1.5 150 ha are defined and enriched with threatened, indigenous species	2 months																
1.6 Agroforestry techniques and tree planting carried out on 3,623 hectares of land.	9 months																
1.7 Establish firebreak (182 km) to protect restored lands.	4 months																
1.8 GPS mapping of site locations and data shared with the Department of the Environment.	6 months																
<b>Output 2</b>																	
2.1 Training in data collection and monitoring SWC, ANR, and planting activities for 41 Village Extension Officers.	7 days																
2.2 Training in SWC (soil quality improvement) techniques for 1,282 people	3 months																

2.3	Training in technical ANR techniques for 2,672 people (30% women) trained.	3 months																	
2.4	Training in nursery management for 40 people (50% women)	15 days																	
2.5	Training of 246 people to form village monitoring brigades to monitor forest management.	2 months																	
2.6	Review the 5-year "Economic and Cultural Development Plan" (commune level plan - PDSEC), taking into account the forest management plans.	15 days																	
2.7	2 exchange visits to share experiences of forest governance from different localities (between village communities, municipal authorities, and technical services)	1 month																	
2.8	Training workshops on community forest management texts (covering the forestry code for NRM, management principles for forests, and transfer of powers to municipalities)	20 days																	
2.9	Training of 2 inter-communal associations of local NRM conventions (20 people in total, 30% women)	10 days																	
2.10	Establishment of 2 Forest Dialogue groups for forest management, composed of cooperative members, local authorities and technical specialists.	10 days																	
2.11	Forest Dialogue meetings (2 per group per year).	20 days																	
2.12	Develop short documentary for advocacy.	7 days																	
2.13	Roundtable advocacy meeting (planning and implementation) with project stakeholders, ministers and National Assembly members.	7 days																	
<b>Output 3</b>																			
3.1	Installation of equipment with cooperatives (press, candle making, shea	1 month																	

	butter processing).																	
3.2	Training of cooperative bodies to manage shea butter processing units and hives for honey, including roles and responsibilities	15 days																
3.3	Training of 60 cooperative members to use the processing units	1.5 month																
3.4	Participation in fairs, exchange visits and national events (committees of management units and officials of cooperatives)	15 days																
3.5	Development of a Market Information System with local radio stations, to facilitate linkages with buyers.	1 month																
3.6	Development and production of professional labels	2 month																
<b>Project Start Up, Monitoring and Evaluation</b>																		
1	Project Start Up workshop (Partner Agreement, M&E Plan, Security and Response Plan), including at community level	7 days																
2	Recruitment of new staff positions	10 days																
3	Training/induction for new staff	1 month																
4	Baseline survey	2 month																
5	Sahel Eco field monitoring	120 days (10 days per quarter)																
6	TREE Aid field monitoring	180 days (15 days per quarter)																
7	Final Evaluation	30 days																

## 26. Project based monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, 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.

TREE AID has recently significantly invested in M&E staff, systems and tools which will be utilised within this project, to effectively measure the outcomes and feed learning into adapting on-going project management. Partner staff will be trained and supported to use these tools effectively.

A **project start-up workshop** will be carried out between TREE AID and Sahel Eco, which will include a logical framework review and establishment of a **detailed monitoring & evaluation plan**. This will articulate M&E methods, tools, roles and responsibilities, data collection timelines, and reporting processes between both organisations. A start-up workshop will also be held at the community level.

A **baseline study** will be carried out at project commencement, in order to assess current income levels for targeted NTFP producing households. Our current income increase target is based on our similar project's results. Project sites to be enriched will be geo-referenced progressively to determine their coordinates and area. Additionally, the study will determine the current state of biodiversity and characteristics of the land, by carrying out a tree and gramineae assessment.

These elements will be re-examined at project end through the independent **final evaluation**, so changes to household income and species diversification can be assessed, to understand how project interventions have translated into outcomes through comparison to the baseline. The methodologies (including use of household surveys, focus groups, and a gender analysis to understand outcomes for women), terms of references, and recruitment of qualified consultants for both initiatives will be developed in conjunction between TREE AID's Impact and Learning Advisor and Project Leader, along with Sahel Eco. A **project audit** will also be carried out at the end of the project.

The **Sahel Eco field staff** responsible for directly implementing activities will **use monitoring tools and keep activity records** to ensure appropriate data collection such as the details of participating beneficiaries in training and NRM activities carried out, species planted, etc. This will require close liaison with the local authorities, cooperatives, and village communities. Sahel Eco will provide quarterly reports to TREE AID. Sahel Eco management will carry out frequent monitoring visits each year and present monitoring and financial reports.

TREE AID's Project Leader will carry out **quarterly monitoring missions**, which will simultaneously include capacity building initiatives for local communities and the field teams. This will align to ensure presence at/or delivery of specific trainings for both stakeholders. Missions will often be carried out jointly with Sahel Eco, and/or include TREE AID regional or UK staff.

**Annual community assessments** will be hosted between cooperatives and the municipal authorities, inviting community representatives involved in project activities. The sessions will enable participants to discuss project progress at both the forest and village levels. TREE AID and Sahel Eco will participate in these sessions, and contribute their own monitoring data and reflections.

TREE AID will also organise **biannual programme workshops**, to review progress on project activities. This will involve all stakeholders, including members of both Forest Dialogue groups (with their own reports feeding into this process) and Sahel Eco.



Number of days planned for M&E	40 days (plus baseline & evaluation)
Total project budget for M&E	£17,910
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	4.9%

## FUNDING AND BUDGET

**Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. You should also ensure you have read the ‘Finance for Darwin’ document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.**

**NB:** The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

### 27. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(max 300 words)

**Economy/Cost-Effectiveness:** TREE AID Mali worked with Sahel Eco to draft the initial budget, establishing local costs and determining where savings could be made. This was further critically reviewed and negotiated with TREE AID UK, to ensure value for money in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and economy. Key assumptions include some change to exchange rates and inflation throughout the project, so this has been built in. TREE AID’s procurement policies will ensure fairness and best value, including obtaining 3 quotes for in procuring goods and services above a threshold.

**Efficiency:** The project will be working with villages near the targeted forests to be overseen by two locally-based partner staff, thus minimising logistical costs. Trees will be grown in nurseries and then used in planting activities, creating planting cost efficiencies while increasing capacities. TREE AID country and regional teams and Sahel Eco staff will frequently carry out joint monitoring visits to minimise M&E costs.

**Effectiveness:** The project is within our on-going programme in Mali, one of the poorest and most fragile nations in the world, in an area with significant environmental and human needs. We have strong partnerships and linkages to these communities, and proven experience implementing similar projects successfully to achieve the desired outcomes. The project activities have been developed in consultation with beneficiary communities and local authorities, as part of developing FMPs, and are thereby appropriate and effectual.

The project offers good value for money, with a cost/restored hectare of **£31.84<sup>15</sup>**. For the beneficiaries participating in VTE work, the household income will increase by 25% by project end. Based on average household income in the region (**£365<sup>16</sup>**), this would increase to **£456** per household. This represents an excellent return on investment for Darwin that improves both the environment while delivering poverty reduction outcomes.

<sup>15</sup> Calculated by taking the total project cost divided by hectares restored, although this is an overestimate as some of the budget will also be directed to supporting livelihood activities. .

<sup>16</sup> Based on 2012 household data from the Samine area of the Segou region, which shares similarities to Tominian. Average annual income of the targeted households will be established during the baseline study through use of household surveys.

**28. 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.

(max 150 words)

**Honey and shea processing equipment** – These items will be procured by TREE AID and provided to the cooperative, who will continue to own and maintain them following project completion, and be given training to do so effectively.

The following items will remain the assets of TREE AID and/or partners as relevant, and will continue to be used for charitable activities following the end of the project.

GPS equipment Sahel Eco

Motorcycles (x2) - Sahel Eco

Computers (x2) – TREE AID to procure for Sahel Eco.

Digital Cameras – Sahel Eco

Office Furniture/Equipment – Sahel Eco and TREE AID

### FCO NOTIFICATIONS

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

**Yes (no written advice)**       **Yes, advice attached**       **No**

## CERTIFICATION

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

I apply for a grant of **£310,000** in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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

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

- I enclose CVs for key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports

<b>Name (block capitals)</b>	John Moffett
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Signed\*\***

See scanned signature page attached.

**Date:**

**If this section is incomplete or not completed correctly the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.**

### Stage 2 Application – Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you <b>read the Guidance</b> ?	<b>X</b>
Have you read and can you meet the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	<b>X</b>
Have you provided <b>actual start and end dates</b> for your project?	<b>X</b>
Have you provided your <b>budget based on UK government financial years</b> i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	<b>X</b>
Have you checked that your <b>budget is complete</b> , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	<b>X</b>
Has your application been <b>signed by a suitably authorised individual</b> ? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	<b>X</b>
Have you included a <b>1 page CV for all the key project personnel</b> identified at Question 10?	<b>X</b>
Have you included a <b>letter of support from your key partner organisations</b> identified at Question 9?	<b>X</b>
Have you <b>been in contact with the FCO</b> in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	<b>X</b>
Have you included a <b>signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts</b> for the lead organisation?	<b>X</b>
Have you <b>checked the Darwin website</b> immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	<b>X</b>

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Monday 5 December 2016 to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the application number (from your Stage 1 feedback letter) and the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). You are not required to send a hard copy.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.