
DIR25S2\100033

Maximising Conservation and Community Benefits from Plants of Mount Mulanje

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PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Kirsty
Surname Shaw
Organisation Botanic Gardens Conservation
International
Website (Work)
Tel (Work)
Email (Work)
Address

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Kirsty
Surname Shaw
Organisation Botanic Gardens Conservation
International
Website (Work)
Tel (Work)
Email (Work)
Address

GMS ORGANISATION

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

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Maximising Conservation and Community Benefits from Plants of Mount Mulanje

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR25S1\100123

DIR25S1\100208

Q4. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Malawi	Country 2	<i>No Response</i>
Country 3	<i>No Response</i>	Country 4	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date: 01 April 2019	End date: 31 March 2022	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months): 3 years
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Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total request
Amount:	£121,296.00	£114,488.00	£102,468.00	£ 338,252.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

WeForest: \$X (2019).

UNEP-GEF: \$Xyr (2019-2023).

TXyear (remaining funds for planting elsewhere).

BGCI and MMCT in-kind: Staff time, travel.

Essential oil sales, years 2-3. Sales estimated to provide 150 people with \$X/year by year 3. This is a conservative estimate, based on estimated 1% oil extracted from harvested material, estimated price:

\$Xkg (frankincense: \$X/kg, lemongrass: \$X/kg). Estimates will be refined in year 1 feasibility study.

Scottish Government Climate Justice Facility: £X (2019–2021) assisting cedar planting. Proposal submitted.

Unsure of result so not in budget.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost 25

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Darwin project 23-026 successfully created a local and national market for Mulanje Cedar seedlings, improving the income of >600 local people. The proposed new project will expand opportunities for community benefits from cedar seedlings by improving cedar restoration protocols and establishing cedar essence enterprises, based on a precedent developed by The Body Shop in South Africa for a closely related species. The conservation-commerce model developed for Mulanje Cedar will be applied to other over-exploited species, maximising conservation and community benefits.

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q8. Lead organisation summary

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
4201	Kirsty Shaw	Supply and Demand: Restoration in Uganda for People and Biodiversity
3217	Paul Smith	Domestication of the Mulanje Cedar for Improved Livelihoods
3319	Suzanne Sharrock	Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development
10002	Julia Willison	People and plants – training Darwin mentors in India
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q9. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) 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 Letters of Support for each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B. There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name:	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Website address:	www.bgci.org
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	<p>BGCI will lead this project, drawing on our expertise managing Darwin Initiative projects, including in Malawi, to ensure successful delivery of this project. We will also mobilise the expertise of our international network of plant conservation organisations to improve project outputs. For example, restoration ecologists from the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens (http://www.erabg.org/), a global consortium of botanic gardens leading science-based ecological restoration projects around the world, coordinated by BGCI, will be deployed to design restoration trials on Mount Mulanje to improve survival rates of planted cedar. BGCI also coordinates the Global Trees Campaign (http://globaltrees.org/), a global species-focused programme to save threatened tree species from extinction in their natural habitats, through which we have gained a lot of experience related to threatened tree species conservation, including leading sustainable use projects.</p> <p>BGCI will manage this project (activities and finance), develop sub-contracts for project partners, ensure partner activities are carried out well and on time, promote the project, identify appropriate expertise to support project delivery, including from the BGCI network, and produce project reports. Regular contact will be maintained between BGCI and all other partners, including via phone, email and visits to Malawi at least three times per year.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust

Website address: www.facebook.com/SaveMountMulanje/

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): MMCT is a community-based NGO that aims to provide long-term reliable support for biodiversity research, conservation of biological diversity and sustainable utilisation of natural resources of the Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve. MMCT works in collaboration with the Malawi Forestry Department (FD) through the district forestry offices in Mulanje and Phalombe. The main objective is to manage the resources in the forest reserve by bringing in community participation and maximising benefits among resource users. Ibrahim Mitole, MMCT's project leader is managing a current Darwin Initiative project. Henry Chinthuli, MMCT's Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring Officer, has experience developing and implementing M&E mechanisms for biodiversity projects, including a Darwin Initiative project. Moffat Kayembe, MMCT's Livelihoods Officer, has experience leading projects that improve rural livelihoods, including establishment of associations to ensure equitable sharing of benefits among communities. Jeffrey Juwawo is a FD employee, seconded to MMCT, to support nursery establishment and planting activities. MMCT will be responsible for project management in Malawi, including recruitment and training of essence extractors and public awareness. MMCT will sub-contract FRIM and external consultants.

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

2. Partner Name: Forestry Research Institute Malawi (FRIM)

Website address: www.frim.org.mw

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

FRIM is the Government of Malawi Forestry Department's research institution. Its mission is to: Provide guidance, plan, coordinate, facilitate and promote active participation of all stakeholders in the sustainable management, development and utilization of forest resources, goods and services for socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

Malawi's Forestry Department is responsible for all forest management activities on Mount Mulanje, and FRIM leads on providing the technical support for cedar restoration on Mulanje. Dr Chanyenga, FRIM's project leader in this project, is the leading world expert on the seed biology and natural regeneration of the Mulanje cedar, and has led efforts to plant the cedar on Mount Zomba and Mulanje for the past 30 years.

In this project FRIM and local forestry officers, will provide continued technical support for community nurseries, as well as be responsible for cedar seed collection, processing and distribution. FRIM and local forestry officers will work with experts from BGCI's Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens (ERA) to design restoration trials on Mulanje and will manage and monitor trials. FRIM will also provide technical support for establishment of community cedar gardens for essence extraction.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

TRAFFIC

Website address:

www.traffic.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

TRAFFIC's mission is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC developed the FairWild standard, which certifies whether wild harvested plant products are legally and sustainably sourced. TRAFFIC has developed guidance materials and delivers training on Non-Detrimental findings for CITES listed species and FairWild best practice.

TRAFFIC will support successful delivery of Outputs 2 and 4. With regard to Output 2, TRAFFIC will provide training on CITES Non-detrimental findings to support the intended international trade in Mulanje Cedar essential oil (derivatives), and to determine if future wild harvesting of Mulanje Cedar leaves (instead of from community gardens) is appropriate.

With regard to Output 4, TRAFFIC will help to determine if wild harvesting is suitable for any of the plants with economic potential identified during survey work and, if so, will provide training on FairWild Standard best practice.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name: Department of Forestry, Malawi

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The Forestry Department of Malawi will support this project by helping to protect, manage and monitor planted Mulanje Cedar stands on Mulanje mountain, including restoration trial plots. The district forestry extension workers in Phalombe and Mulanje districts will support community nurseries and supervise planting activities.

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

5. Partner Name: Environmental Affairs Department, Malawi

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) will provide a representative to sit on the project steering committee. EAD will provide guidance and training on Access and Benefits sharing to the project team and to communities involved in this project to ensure there is a good understanding of implementation requirements and adherence to best practice.

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

6. Partner Name: Union of Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)

Website address: www.ethicalbiotrade.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): UEBT is a non-profit association that promotes respectful sourcing and supports and verifies companies' commitments to innovation and sourcing that contribute to a world in which people and biodiversity thrive. UEBT set good practices for how companies and their suppliers source natural ingredients. They are internationally recognised for their work advancing business contributions to sustainable development goals. UEBT will sit on the project steering committee and help to identify potential commercial purchasers of essential oil.

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

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

With support from our appointed essential oil consultant, Arthur Stevens (letter of support detailing his experience included), and the Union of Ethical BioTrade, the project will engage potential purchasers of essential oil. Samples will be produced from seedlings currently in the community nurseries and sent out to potential purchasers before / during year 1 of the project to ensure early engagement. Additional partners will be approached after the feasibility study (year 1) which will identify the best uses of essential oil. We have interest already from the following partners:

Partner name: Lush

Website: www.lush.com

Details: Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics will receive samples of Mulanje Cedar essential oil for a quality check and to determine if there is interest from their perfumers to use this material.

Email showing interest from Lush included.


Partner name: Amaravi


Details: A business based in Blantyre, Malawi that makes natural products using predominantly local ingredients. Products include body soaps, bath and body oils, etc. Amaravi will use Mulanje Cedar essential oil in their products, purchasing oil from community enterprises.

Letter of support included.

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.


 **Letters of support compiled**


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 **BGCI covering letter**

 03/12/2018

 15:43:48

 pdf 612.02 KB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q10. Key project personnel

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Kirsty Shaw	Project Leader	38	Checked
TBD	Project Manager, BGCI	51	Checked

Paul Smith	Project Adviser	5	Checked
Ibrahim Mitole	Project Manager, Malawi	60	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Henry Chinthuli	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	22	Checked
Moffat Kayembe	Livelihoods Officer	20	Checked
Tembo Chanyenga	Technical Adviser	10	Checked
Arthur Stevens	Essential Oil Consultant	5	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above. Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 **CVs compiled**

 03/12/2018

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Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 7 - Problem Statement & Conventions

Q11. 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?

Mulanje Cedar, Malawi's national tree, is found naturally only on Mount Mulanje, but is now extinct in the wild as a result of uncontrolled logging. Darwin project 23-026 successfully established ten community nurseries around Mount Mulanje and initiated a large-scale restoration programme for Mulanje Cedar. The project also created a local and national market for cedar seedlings, improving the income of >600 people from rural communities around Mount Mulanje. Darwin project 23-026 will formally end in March 2019, but communities working in cedar nurseries will continue to benefit from seedling sales.

Project 23-026 demonstrated that livelihoods can be improved through sustainable utilisation of plant resources, rather than short-term gains through unsustainable exploitation, and instilled pride in the cedar amongst local people growing and planting the cedar back onto the mountain. However, successful

re-establishment of the cedar, and continued demand for cedar seedlings, is not assured until optimal protocols for cedar establishment on Mount Mulanje have been developed.

Furthermore, human population pressure remains high around Mount Mulanje, employment opportunities are limited and, whilst communities are now planting Mulanje Cedar within their homesteads, this will not yield harvestable timber for c.30-40 years. Additional, short-term sustainable businesses that improve livelihoods and take pressure off the mountain are needed.

The proposed new project will expand opportunities for short-term community benefit from Mulanje Cedar by establishing sustainable cedar essence enterprises, harvested from cedar hedges and based on a precedent developed by The Body Shop in South Africa for a closely related species. This will increase the number of people benefiting directly from sustainable utilisation of Mulanje Cedar. The conservation-commerce model developed for Mulanje Cedar will be applied to other over-exploited plant species found on Mount Mulanje, maximising conservation and community benefits.

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

↓ **The Body Shop Widdringtonia**

📅 03/12/2018

🕒 08:05:23

🖼️ jpg 35.51 KB

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. 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.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Q12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. 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.

This project supports the CBD objectives by contributing to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Strategic Goals.

This project contributes to:

Strategic Goal A by raising awareness of the values of biodiversity and the steps that people can take to conserve and use Mulanje Cedar and other plant species sustainably (T1). By ensuring biodiversity values are integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies, by demonstrating that livelihoods can be improved through sustainable enterprises based on plants and developing a model that can be replicated across Malawi and more broadly for other plant species with economic value (T2). By creating positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of plants of Mount Mulanje that are aligned with local and national socio-economic conditions (T3). By working with government and businesses to ensure sustainable production and consumption of Mulanje Cedar and other plants, shifting the focus

from wild harvesting to domestication of plants for production and identifying safe ecological limits for wild harvesting where deemed appropriate (T4).

Strategic Goal B by reducing the loss of natural habitats by reducing extraction of Mount Mulanje's plant resources (T5), by enabling sustainable management of the forests of Mount Mulanje (T7) with a focus on planting Mulanje Cedar rather than exotic species, thereby reducing the risk of introducing invasive species (T9).

Strategic Goal C through conservation of Mulanje Cedar and other species of over-exploited plants with economic potential on Mount Mulanje, including through prevention of unsustainable extraction, developing sustainable production and harvesting practices and planting (T12). By working with FRIM and following best practice to collect seed of Mulanje Cedar and other species, this project will ensure remaining genetic diversity of target species is conserved in ex situ collections, and planted in community gardens and restoration trials (T13).

Strategic Goal D by restoring populations of Mulanje Cedar on Mount Mulanje, and taking pressure off future planted resources by developing community enterprises that benefit local poor communities, particularly women (T14). Restoration of degraded forests on Mount Mulanje will enhance carbon stocks and contribute to climate change mitigation (T15).

Strategic Goal E by ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities surrounding Mount Mulanje in relation to traditional uses of biological resources (T18).

This project also supports the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol. Cutting of Mulanje Cedar to date has led to the extinction of mature individuals on Mount Mulanje, bringing short-term and minimal benefit to communities who are now experiencing the detrimental effects of deforestation. Other plant species are also harvested at rates that are becoming unsustainable due to population expansion. Through this project, >150 local community members (in addition to those benefiting from Darwin project 23-026) will benefit from sustainable use of plant materials. Infrastructures will be put in place to ensure benefits are shared equitably, including certification of products and establishment of an association representing essence enterprise members. This will be monitored through a socio-economic impact study in the first and third years of the project.

Q12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS/ABS/ITPGRFA/CITES/CMS/Ramsar focal point in the host country?

Yes

Please give details:

The project team have been in touch with the Environmental Affairs Department of Malawi (ABS focal point) about this project and a representative will sit on the project Steering Committee.

Mulanje Cedar is being proposed for listing on the appendices of CITES. The project team have been providing information for this proposal, which will allow international trade of Mulanje Cedar derivatives, including essence products. The CITES focal point for Malawi, from the National Parks and Wildlife Authority, will be invited to sit on the project Steering Committee at project initiation.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

This project contributes to the following SDGs:

SDG1 by providing employment opportunities that increase income and reduce poverty of rural communities living around Mount Mulanje. Communities will be trained to establish essential oil enterprises and essential oil purchasers will be engaged to ensure continued demand beyond the project. Opportunities will also be available to receive payments for transporting and planting seedlings in restoration trials.

SDG4 (indirectly) as increased income can be used to ensure children attend school and have materials (income obtained in project 23-026 supported this).

SDG5 by ensuring women are part of essential oil enterprises. 60% of members will be women, addressing a lack of current employment opportunities for women in the area.

SDG7 (indirectly) as restoration trials will improve planting on Mount Mulanje, restored forests will improve water supply, allowing for additional hydropower schemes to be established.

SDG8 by providing decent work opportunities for rural communities.

SDG9 by purchasing capital items enabling communities to establish essential oil enterprises.

SDG10 by reducing inequalities between men and women (project 23-206 increased male-headed household income by 90% and female-headed household income by 277%. All nursery workers received equal payments, highlighting the previous inequality).

SDG12 by enabling sustainable utilisation of natural resources that does not harm the target species, or result in degradation or pollution along the whole product life cycle.

SDG13 through public engagement and planting. Climate change mitigation is a key driver for restoration on Mount Mulanje.

SDG15 by improving protocols for Mulanje Cedar restoration and delivering species conservation.

Section 8 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome 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.).

This may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you should update or refine as necessary.

Project management infrastructures will be established. A Steering Committee will meet bi-annually to monitor progress. Detailed briefs will be written for external consultants.

Activities according to outputs include:

1. Improved planting protocols developed for Mulanje Cedar resulting in continued demand for seedlings for restoration.

The nurseries established in project 23-026 will continue to produce and sell up to 400,000 seedlings per year, for restoration (200,000/year@0.14USD/seedling), to commercial buyers (100,000 in years 1 and 200,000 in year 3@0.28USD/seedling) and for community cedar gardens (100,000 in year 1@0.14USD/seedling). FRIM will monitor and manage nursery certification, provide advice to the Cedar Growers and Planters Association (CGPA) established in 23-026, ensuring seedling quality. FRIM and BGCI restoration experts will design planting trials that will be established at 8 sites on Mount Mulanje. Trials will be monitored, optimal planting protocols developed and followed, improving survival rates on Mount Mulanje and resulting in continued demand for seedlings for restoration. If survival rates don't improve, there is a danger that exotics will be planted by the Forestry Department instead.

2. Flagship cedar oil conservation-commerce model researched, developed and documented.

The first priority in year 1 will be to assess potential uses and markets for cedar oil, identify potential local and international commercial partners and estimate income in future years. A still will be set up to investigate optimal extraction techniques of leaf oil from young seedlings. The oil will be tested to identify its profile and suitability for use in different products. Analysis of supply and value chains will follow. Nagoya Protocol implications and access and benefit sharing requirements for international trade of oil will

be determined. A feasibility study will guide next steps. Commercial partners will be engaged. Public outreach will continue to grow demand for seedlings and oil. The Mulanje Cedar conservation-commerce model will be published.

3. Development of products from Mulanje Cedar essence resulting in short-term benefits from Mulanje Cedar cultivation.

150 people from ten communities around Mount Mulanje, identified by Traditional Authorities, will be trained to plant and manage community cedar hedges for sustainable harvesting, oil extraction, processing and business skills. The project will engage with commercial partners, including cosmetics (aromatherapy oil, perfume, soap) and other industries (timber and floor polish). Essential oil producers will be encouraged to join the CGPA and given training in Intellectual Property and market models. Oil sales will result in essence enterprise members earning at least USD250/year from sales (by year 3). This will drive national demand for cedar seedlings for essence extraction, supporting the continued market for local nurseries.

4. Conservation measures implemented for other over-exploited plant species, and conservation-commerce model replicated.

Other genera being unsustainably harvested on Mulanje include Podocarpus (timber), Vellozia (brooms), Satureja (bushtea), Kniphofia (ornamental) and Encephalartos (ornamental). We will survey over-utilised plant species on Mount Mulanje with potential uses and commercial value (year 1). All species will be conserved, ex situ, and seed/plant material will be raised in nurseries. Conservation-commerce project concepts will be written and submitted to funders for three such species.

Q14. 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 (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. 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.

The extinction of mature Mulanje Cedar from Mount Mulanje has cut off a vital income source for local villagers who have harvested and sold the timber for >100 years. People are now removing other timbers from the mountain including planted Cypress and indigenous Podocarpus milanjianus, exacerbating the detrimental effect on forests, biodiversity and the watershed. Harvesting rates of other plants are becoming unsustainable as more people are looking for alternative income.

Darwin Initiative project 23-026 successfully set up ten community nurseries around the base of Mount Mulanje to grow Mulanje Cedar seedlings to sell for restoration and commercial sales. The income of 150 nursery workers (60% women) increased by 90% for male- and 277% for female-headed households, respectively. Since project initiation, 600 people have received payments for planting cedar and >500,000 seedlings will have been planted on Mount Mulanje by project end (325,000 already planted). However, restoration efforts have been hindered by low cedar survival rates. Despite its designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Forestry Department has previously planted exotic timber species on Mount Mulanje. If survival rates of Mulanje Cedar don't improve, it is likely that planting of exotic species will continue to be preferred, missing biodiversity and conservation benefits, and a vital opportunity to support the community nurseries established in 23-026. The proposed project will establish planting trial plots, develop optimal restoration protocols and improve survival rates, resulting in a continued demand for

cedar seedlings for restoration that i) helps to ensure a continued market for seedlings produced by community nurseries, as well as continued labour opportunities through restoration planting, and ii) reduces the risk that exotics will be planted.

As Mulanje Cedar seedlings take 30-40 years to reach harvestable size, the commercial market for seedlings for timber is based on long-term returns. This project will expand the market further by establishing cedar essential oil enterprises that benefit local communities, and create a short-term return for seedling purchasers. We will work with experts to identify optimal essence extraction techniques, investigate the suitability of cedar oil for different products, engage with local and international companies, and train community groups to grow cedar hedges and extract oil. An additional 150 people from communities around Mount Mulanje will obtain an income of 250USD/year from sustainable production of Mulanje Cedar essential oil, reducing direct dependence on mountain resources for income.

Finally, by maximising the investment already made in developing nursery, business and marketing skills in local communities, the project will investigate and develop sustainable commercial uses of other over-exploited plant species on Mount Mulanje.

380 community members will receive income through this project. 150 nursery workers appointed in 23-026 will receive payments from this project for sale of seedlings for restoration trials and planted hedges. 150 additional people (60% women) will form essence extraction enterprises and receive payments@560 Malawian kwacha/day for planting cedar hedges (year 1) and 250USD/year from oil sales (by end of year 3). 80 additional people will receive payments@560 Malawian kwacha/day for transporting seedlings and planting in restoration trials.

Q15. Gender

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

This project is committed to ensuring both gender equality and equity. 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 communities surrounding Mount Mulanje are currently limited. Improving the livelihoods of women around Mount Mulanje was an objective of Darwin project 23-026, and >60% of nursery workers appointed in that project were women. Our socio-economic study showed us that the income of women-headed households involved in the project increased by 277%, and 90% for male-headed households. As a result of increased income, families were able to pay school fees, and diets diversified. This demonstrates that such a project model, which is replicated in the current application, has a strong positive impact on the women involved.

The essence extraction enterprises established in the current project will include 60% women, increasing recognition that women can bring income to households, and making control over assets more balanced as a result.

Essence extraction enterprise members, male and female, will have equal decision making powers. This will be ensured by establishing a certification scheme for oil with equitable sharing of benefits and decision making as criteria.

A potential risk is that men may not support the involvement of women in the enterprises. After initial benefits of project 23-026 were observed, men supported the participation of women in the nursery groups. Lessons learnt from project 23-026 will be shared with communities engaged in the new project and Traditional Authorities will be involved in all stages of the project to minimise this risk.

Younger generations will be engaged through public outreach, promoting sustainable use of Mount Mulanje's plant resources by future generations.

Q16. 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?

Measures will be put in place to ensure that the project continues to bring community benefits after formal support from the Darwin Initiative ends.

By training 150 people, we will ensure that even if some essence enterprise members leave the group, there will not be a complete loss of skills and members will be able to train newly recruited members. In project 23-026 only three out of 150 nursery group members left as all others could clearly see the benefits.

In project 23-026, a nursery certification scheme was established to ensure good quality seedlings and a Cedar Growers and Planters Association (CGPA) was established to enable nursery groups to continue to work together and set a standard price for seedlings beyond the project timeframe. Essence producers will be encouraged to become part of the CGPA. As part of the feasibility study for essence products conducted in year 1, additional infrastructures will be assessed to ensure high quality oil, including establishing a certification scheme for essence enterprises.

Working in collaboration with commercial partners and establishing links between commercial partners and the CGPA will ensure demand for oil from community enterprises is sustained beyond the timeframe of the project.

Please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below:

No Response

Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q17a. Harmonisation

Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Development of existing work

Please give details:

The Mulanje Cedar Management Plan (2014-2019) produced by the Malawi Forestry Department recommends that large-scale ecological restoration of the cedar should be undertaken on Mount Mulanje. Planting trials (Output 1) will improve success rates of Mulanje Cedar planting on Mount Mulanje. Matched funding from WeForest and UNEP-GEF and unconfirmed funding from the Scottish Government, is supporting Mulanje Cedar planting on Mount Mulanje.

The mission of MMCT and aim of its programme of work, is to manage the resources in the Mount Mulanje forest reserve through community participation and maximising benefits among resource users. MMCT has a number of current projects working towards this aim that will be complemented by this project.

Seedlings for planting trials and community cedar hedges will be purchased from community cedar nurseries established in Darwin project 23-026. That project demonstrated that livelihoods can be improved through sustainable utilisation of plant resources, rather than short-term gains from unsustainable exploitation, and instilled pride in the cedar by local people growing and planting the cedar back onto the

mountain. This new project will bring benefits to additional people living around Mount Mulanje, reducing dependence on, and unsustainable exploitation of Mount Mulanje's natural resources further.

Q17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

Q18. Ethics

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

This project will meet all relevant legal and ethical obligations of both the UK and Malawi, including access and benefit sharing legislation pertaining to the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and the UK Government's human rights obligations and values. Guidance produced from Darwin project 3319 "Promoting the use of plant resources in research and development" will be followed. The project includes strong leadership and participation from Malawi, including from traditional leaders, MMCT and FRIM. Rural communities surrounding Mount Mulanje will be directly involved in the project, including involvement of Traditional Authorities to ensure the project fully aligns with local interests, needs and customs. The value of traditional knowledge is fully recognised in relation to use of plants on Mount Mulanje, and its utilisation will be consistent with the Nagoya Protocol, as well as local perspectives. The rights, privacy, and safety of people who are involved in project activities will be respected. Prior Informed Consent (PIC) will be obtained for operations on Mount Mulanje, including seed collecting and establishment of planting trial plots (the attached letter of support from the Forestry Department demonstrates our existing working partnership) as well as for national and international trade of essence products in accordance with relevant legislation (Nagoya Protocol and CITES. The attached letter of support from the Environmental Affairs Department demonstrates our existing working partnership). The project will protect the health and safety of all staff working full and part-time on this project, uphold the credibility and ensure all contributors to any research and other findings are fully and fairly attributed.

Q19. Safeguarding

(see Guidance Note 3.8)

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, we would like projects to ensure they have the appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please tick the box to confirm you have relevant policies in place and that these can be available on request.

Checked

Section 10 - Biodiversity & Project Information

Q20. 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?

Public outreach is a strong component of this project, particularly the promotion of the value of sustainable uses of Mulanje Cedar and other native plants of Mount Mulanje. Changes in attitude and behaviour will be

measured through a year 1 baseline survey of the communities involved in the project, which will then be repeated in the final year of the project.

Public outreach and marketing will also promote the purchase of sustainably sourced essential oil that is benefitting communities to commercial partners within Malawi and internationally. Correspondence indicating potential interest from commercial partners is uploaded with the letters of support. Potential commercial partners will be engaged from year 1 of the project to ensure production aligns with demand. A conservation-commerce model will be produced and published for Mulanje Cedar by the end of the project. BGCI will work with TRAFFIC and the Union for Ethical BioTrade and the BGCI and Global Trees Campaign networks to promote this as a model thereby raising awareness globally of the potential worth of plant species and encouraging the model to be replicated for other plant species identified with economic potential.

The lead project partners (BGCI, MMCT and FRIM) have been involved in preparing the proposal for listing of Mulanje Cedar on the appendices of CITES, and updating the Mulanje Cedar Management Plan beyond 2019, thereby already influencing policy locally and nationally.

Q21. 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.

Capacity building is a strong component of this project to ensure community benefits continue to be realised beyond the direct support provided by Darwin Initiative funding. This project will train 150 people (60% women) from ten communities around Mount Mulanje in planting and management techniques for cedar hedge plantations by the end of year 1. Training in sustainable harvesting techniques, FairWild certification best practice, essence extraction and processing, business skills and marketing will be provided to the same 150 people by the end of year 2. Training in FairWild certification, business skills and marketing will enable communities to continue to develop products suited to local and international markets beyond the time frame of the project, and apply the skills learnt to scale up enterprises to work with other plant species identified with economic potential through the project.

Communities will be trained by experts, including from TRAFFIC and our appointed consultant, Arthur Stevens, benefiting from international experience gained through implementation of similar projects over many years.

Community capacity will also be improved through the provision of capital items provided to local communities to extract essence, which will be the property of the community essence extracting enterprises, managed under the Cedar Growers and Planters Association that enterprise members will be part of.

Planting trials will be established on Mount Mulanje to improve Mulanje Cedar restoration success. Trials will be designed by restoration ecologists from the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens (www.erabg.org) and established and monitored by FRIM and the Forestry Department. This will provide FRIM and the Forestry Department with improved restoration skills, that can be applied during implementation of Malawi's National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy.

BGCI and MMCT staff will work closely on project management, benefiting from each other's experience, and providing additional skills to be applied to future projects.

Q22. Access to project information

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

All datasets, articles and technical reports from the project will be free and open access, and will be made available for publication on the Darwin Initiative website as appropriate. These data will also be published

on FRIM and BGI's websites on specific project pages that will be developed at the expense of BGI. Peer-reviewed publications and technical reports resulting from project outputs 1, 2 and 4 will be published in open-access journals at the expense of the partner institutions. Funds are requested from the Darwin Initiative to cover publication costs of the conservation-commerce model developed for Mulanje Cedar, so a pdf and printed document is available to be shared widely through the BGI, Global Trees Campaign and TRAFFIC networks.

Staff records, essence extraction enterprise sales records, and socio-economic survey results will be publicly available, and policy-relevant information such as ABS models (output 3) will be widely disseminated by Malawi's CBD Focal Point, the Environmental Affairs Department, which supports, and has agreed to participate in this project.

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q23. Logical Framework

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome if funded. 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.

Impact:

The Mulanje cedar is a sustainably managed commercial product, generating income for local households and the Malawian economy, and no longer threatened in the wild.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
-----------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

Outcome:

Communities living around Mount Mulanje receive short-term benefits from sustainable utilisation of Mulanje Cedar and opportunities are identified for sustainable commercial use of other over-exploited plant species of Mount Mulanje

0.1 Restoration protocols developed for Mulanje Cedar on Mount Mulanje improve survival rates by 30% compared to project 23-026 baseline, resulting in continued demand for seedlings for restoration.
0.2 Documented example of the conservation-commerce model for Mulanje Cedar developed by end of year 3.
0.3 Optimal extraction techniques identified for Mulanje Cedar essence by end of year 1 and essential oil produced and sold by communities, resulting in benefits for 150 local community members (60% women) and a market for Mulanje Cedar seedlings for essence extraction by end of year 3.
0.4 Over-exploited plant species of Mount Mulanje are investigated for potential sustainable use by end of year 3.

0.1 Planting protocols published. Seedling survival rates. Records of seedling sales from nurseries.
0.2 Written record of model project methodology.
0.3 Extraction methods published. Training course attendance figures and certificates. Socio-economic survey reports. Essence producers sales figures. Records of seedling sales.
0.4 Seed collection and ex situ collection records. Mount Mulanje annual report and accounts. Funding applications.

- Continued participation of local communities.
- Local politics and ethnic differences do not hinder progress of project activities.
- Income obtained from seedlings and essential oil replaces income from illegal exploitation activities and is regarded as an alternative, not an additional activity.
- Technical expertise is available to solve planting issues.

Output 1:

1. Improved restoration protocols developed for Mulanje Cedar on Mount Mulanje, resulting in continued demand for seedlings for restoration.

1.1 Ten nurseries, established and certified in project 23-026, continue to produce a minimum aggregate total of 400,000 Mulanje Cedar seedlings in years 1, 2 and 3 (seedling production figures have not increased compared to project 23-026 due to limited seed availability) for restoration, commercial sales (timber and essence) and community cedar hedge plantations (output 3), continuing to benefit 150 community nursery workers (seedling will be sold to this project for restoration trials and cedar hedges)

1.2 FRIM and restoration experts from BGCI's network design and implement planting trials at 8 sites on Mount Mulanje by end of year 1, benefiting 80 additional community members employed @560 Malawian kwacha/day to transport and plant seedlings on Mount Mulanje.

1.3 Improved planting protocols for Mulanje Cedar developed by FRIM and restoration experts in BGCI's network by end of year 3.

1.4 Mulanje Cedar seedling establishment and survival rates increased throughout

1.1. Nursery sales records. Register of commercial planting sites.
1.2 Trial plot records.
1.3 Planting leaflets.
1.4 Planting and survival figures, MMCT annual report.

- Enough seed is produced from FRIM stands to continue to supply nurseries with sufficient seed
- Communities continue to be interested in nursery work.
- Restoration and commercial market for seedlings is maintained.

life of the project (target
30% improvement
against baseline by end
of project 23-026).

Output 2:

Conservation-commerce model developed and documented for Mulanje Cedar

2.1 Expert consultants appointed and project steering committee established by end of year 1, to guide and monitor project progress and development of conservation-commerce model.

2.2 Feasibility study commissioned to improve understanding of Mulanje Cedar potential uses and markets, including identification of local and international commercial partners and quantifying potential income from essence manufacture, complete by end of year 1.

2.3 Workshop held in year 1 involving the Union for Ethical BioTrade and TRAFFIC to determine Nagoya Protocol implications and requirements regarding access and benefit sharing in preparation for international trade of certified essence product and assess whether wild harvesting might be appropriate in future. Potential international purchasers engaged in years 2 and 3.

2.4 Public outreach campaign in years 2 and 3 to grow demand for purchase of Mulanje Cedar seedlings (for timber and essence extraction) and essential oil.

2.1 Steering Committee minutes. Consultant contracts. Monitoring and evaluation reports.

2.2 Published feasibility study.

2.3 Minutes and guidance produced from workshop.

2.4 Leaflets, newspaper articles, radio and TV shows.

2.5 Nursery certification register. CGPA register.

Essential oil producer certification scheme developed and certification register.

2.6 Training course attendance figures and certificates.

2.7 Published report.

• Malawians will continue to respond to public outreach campaign.

• Local politics and ethnic differences not inimical to creating a cohesive and representative essence producer association.

2.5 MMCT and FRIM monitor nursery certification scheme and Cedar Growers and Planters Association (CGPA) established in project 23-036, which becomes fully inclusive of planters for essence extraction by end of year 3.

2.6 Training delivered in business and marketing skills and Nagoya compliance to Mulanje Cedar essence producers in year 2.

2.7 Model conservation-commerce project for Mulanje Cedar documented and published by end of year 3.

Output 3:

3. Manufacture of products from sustainably sourced Mulanje Cedar essence generates income for additional local households in the short-term and results in a larger market for cedar seedlings.

3.1 Optimal sustainable extraction techniques for Mulanje Cedar essence are identified in year 1.
3.2 Samples sent to potential national and international purchasers by end of year 1, with continued engagement in years 2 and 3.
3.3 150 people (60% women) from ten communities around Mount Mulanje are identified with help from Traditional Authorities, and ten trial cedar hedge plantations are planted at sites around the base of Mount Mulanje for essential oil extraction by end of year 1 with payments to communities @560 Malawian kwacha/day for labour and ten community cedar essence extraction enterprises fully equipped at start of year 2.
3.4 150 people (60% women) from ten communities around Mount Mulanje are trained in planting and management techniques for cedar hedge plantations by end of year 1, sustainable harvesting techniques, processing, business skills and marketing.
3.5 150 people selling essential oil and earning at least USD250/year from sale of Mulanje Cedar essential oil by end of year 3.

Scientific papers.
Manuals for extraction.
3.2 Partnerships with national and international purchasers.
3.3 Essence enterprise member records. Cedar hedge plantations in place. Equipment and consumables in place.
3.4 Training course attendance records and certificates.
3.5 Sales records. Socio-economic surveys.

- Expertise is available to optimise extraction techniques and develop essence products.
- Communities are receptive to new business establishment.

Output 4:

4 Conservation measures in place for other over-exploited plant species on Mount Mulanje and conservation-commerce model replicated for five important plant species on Mount Mulanje.

4.1 Survey conducted to identify other plant species of Mount Mulanje and their potential uses and commercial value in year 1.
 4.2 Seed collected from all over-exploited rare and threatened plant species on Mount Mulanje (estimated 10 additional species) in years 1 and 2, stored at FRIM and distributed to at least ten botanic gardens for ex situ conservation.
 4.3 Propagation protocols developed by FRIM, tested by community nurseries and published for all collected species by end of year 3.
 4.4 Pilot studies for at least 3 other over-exploited plant species with commercial potential on Mount Mulanje, diversifying income streams by end of year 3 and helping ensure the conservation of those species.
 Candidate enterprises include propagation of *Kniphofia mulanjeana* and *Encephalartos gratus* (Vulnerable) for sale as ornamental plants (matched funding dependent).

4.1 Survey report.
 4.2 Data capture forms from seed collection. FRIM records. Material Transfer Agreements. BGCI's PlantSearch database of ex situ collections.
 4.3 Published protocols.
 4.4 Enterprise model project concepts and funding applications.

- Seed is available for collection from target species within the project time frame.

Output 5:

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities (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)

The word count for each individual activity should be no more than 25 words.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.1

Activity Details

Ten nurseries, established and certified in project 23-026, produce a minimum aggregate total of 400,000 Mulanje Cedar seedlings in years 1-3, benefiting 150 nursery workers.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.2

Activity Details

Design and implement planting trials at 8 sites on Mount Mulanje by end of year 1, benefiting people employed to transport and plant seedlings.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.2

Activity Details

FRIM and restoration experts from BGCI's network monitor planting trials in years 1, 2 and 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.3

Activity Details

FRIM and restoration experts from BGCI's network publish improved restoration protocols for Mulanje Cedar by end of year 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.4

Activity Details

Publish a review of survival rate improvements (target 30% improvement from Darwin project 23-026 baseline) by end of year 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.1

Activity Details

Write contracts for consultants by end of year 1.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.1

Activity Details

Establish project steering committee to guide and monitor project progress and development of conservation-commerce model.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.2

Activity Details

Commission study to improve understanding of Mulanje Cedar potential uses and markets, identify commercial partners and quantify potential income, complete by end of year 1.

Activity details**Activity Number**

2.3

Activity Details

Workshop involving UEBT and TRAFFIC, determining Nagoya Protocol implications and ABS requirements for international oil trade, assessing whether wild harvesting might be appropriate in future.

Activity details**Activity Number**

2.4

Activity Details

Run a public outreach campaign in years 2 and 3 to grow demand for purchase of Mulanje Cedar seedlings for timber and essence extraction.

Activity details**Activity Number**

2.5

Activity Details

MMCT and FRIM monitor nursery certification scheme and CGPA (established in project 23-036) which becomes fully inclusive of planters for essence extraction by year 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.6

Activity Details

Provide training in Nagoya compliance to Mulanje Cedar essence producers in year 2.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.6

Activity Details

Model conservation-commerce project for Mulanje Cedar documented and published by end of year 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.1

Activity Details

Identify optimal sustainable extraction techniques for Mulanje Cedar essence by end of year 1.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.2

Activity Details

Send samples to potential national and international purchasers by end of year 1 (and before project starts using existing seedlings).

Activity details

Activity Number

3.2

Activity Details

Continue to engage potential purchasers to expand markets in years 2 and 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.3

Activity Details

Work with Traditional Authorities in year 1 to identify 150 people (60% women) from ten communities around Mount Mulanje to form essence extraction enterprises.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.3

Activity Details

Communities plant ten trial cedar hedge plantations using established seedlings at sites around the base of Mount Mulanje by end of year 1.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.3

Activity Details

Equip communities with essence extraction equipment at start of year 2.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.4

Activity Details

Train 150 people (60% women) in planting and management techniques for cedar hedge plantations by end of year 1.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.4

Activity Details

Train 150 people (60% women) in sustainable harvesting techniques and processing, business skills and marketing by end of year 2.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.5

Activity Details

Essential oil sold to commercial buyers for product manufacturing in years 2 and 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.5

Activity Details

Carry out socio-economic study in years 1, 2 and 3 to monitor income obtained by essence extraction enterprises.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.1

Activity Details

Conduct survey to identify other plant species of Mount Mulanje and their potential uses and commercial value in year 2.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.2

Activity Details

Seed collected from est. 10 additional over-exploited species in years 1 and 2, stored at FRIM and distributed to at least ten botanic gardens.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.3

Activity Details

FRIM develop propagation protocols, communities test protocols and publish protocols for all species by end of year 3.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.4

Activity Details

Develop sustainable small enterprises pilot studies for at least 3 other over-exploited plant species with commercial potential.

Section 12 - Implementation Timetable

Q24. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add 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.

-
- ↓ [Darwin R25 - Stage 2 - Implementation Timetable](#)
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Section 13 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see "[Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance](#)").

M&E is a core part of BGCI and MMCT staff time on the project. The BGCI Project Leader and Project Manager will spend 10% of time funded by the project on M&E each year (£4,376 and £3,255 respectively, 50% BGCI travel costs/year). MMCT's M&E Officer, will spend 20% of his job role evaluating this project each year (£4,172 in-kind).

The Project Steering Committee (SC) 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. For example, for stakeholder engagement, this might include standards for the number of people involved and the ways in which gender issues are addressed. These standards will provide the baseline against which performance will be measured.

The SC will review progress at six-monthly meetings (part BGCI and MMCT meeting costs each year). 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 requirements.

The project has also built strong baseline, mid-term and final surveys into its methodology. These include:
Output 1: Target for survival rate of seedlings planted on Mount Mulanje to improve by 30% by the end of the project, which will be measured against the baseline established at the end of project 23-026.

Output 2: Feasibility study in year 1 to assess potential uses and markets for cedar oil, identify potential local and international commercial partners and estimate income in future years. Project progress will then be measured against updated projected income costs.

Output 3: Baseline socio-economic survey of recruited staff (disaggregated by gender) carried out by a socio-economic consultant, assessing household income levels, income sources, use of natural resources and attitudes to cedar and natural resource conservation and management. Survey repeated in years 2 and 3.

These surveys will be carried out by independent consultants who will bring expertise and objectivity to the monitoring and evaluation work they carry out. Their terms of reference will include a strong evaluation component, with recommendations that will form part of the adaptive management approach adopted by the project management team.

Summary M&E costs are provided below. A full breakdown of M&E costs is available on request.

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

Number of days planned for M&E	156
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	10

Section 14 - Funding and Budget

Q26. Budget

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

Darwin and IWT Budget Template

Please refer to the [Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance](#) for more information.

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 Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

↓ [Budget St2 - Darwin R25 IWT R25 BGCI](#)

📅 03/12/2018

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Q27. 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.

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

- Timesheets tracking input.
- Consultancy contracts in place before work commences and payment dependent on timely provision of deliverables to the proscribed 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.
- Quarterly finance reports from the Malawian partners will be reviewed by the BGCI Project Leader. In line with current BGCI practice, the Project Manager will have quarterly meetings with BGCI's Head of Finance. In meetings, management accounts for the quarter are reviewed, variations against budget investigated and any remedial steps agreed. 'Costs to complete' are also 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.

In-kind staff contributions are committed from BGCI and MMCT.

The budget was prepared using a 3% inflation factor for years 2 and 3 for salaries. The budget assumes that Sterling will not lose value against the Malawian Kwacha.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

Capital items have been minimised in this project, by making full use of existing infrastructures, vehicles and other capital assets, from MMCT and FRIM. The project will purchase capital equipment for extracting essential oil from Mulanje Cedar. 150 people will use shared equipment (e.g. stills purchased for essential oil extraction) to produce essential oil. Sharing will be effectively managed through membership of the CGPA and support of Traditional Authorities. These facilities will outlast the project and will become the property of the community enterprises established by the project.

Q29. Match funding (co-financing)

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

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, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
WeForest (www.weforest.org) and UNEP-GEF		GBP	For Mulanje Cedar on Mount Mulanje. This funding will support establishment and management of restoration trial plots on Mulanje.
MMCT		GBP	Contributing to staff time and travel costs within Malawi.
BGCI		GBP	Contributing to staff time.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Unsecured

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

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 April 2019	Purchasers of essential oil		GBP	Sale of essential oil by community enterprises to local, national and international markets, including large-scale cosmetic companies.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

No
Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

No
Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q30. Financial Risk Management

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.

Income for essence extractors will come from essential oil sales. The feasibility study will start at project initiation. If essence extraction is not deemed feasible at the scale proposed, less hedges will be planted and less equipment purchased (timetabled for year 2). Any unused budget will be returned and new budgets for years 2-3 submitted to Darwin. However, we are confident that the oil will be successful because of The Body Shop precedent and correspondence expressing interest from commercial partners, including Lush. Seedlings already growing in nurseries will be used for samples to send to potential purchasers. Outreach and marketing is a strong component of this project. This will ensure high demand for oil. As income is based on sales, it will ensure that enterprise members produce a high standard of oil to meet market demand.

BGCI and MMCT will continue to seek funds for related projects, including expanding restoration on Mount Mulanje, and establishing similar enterprises for plants with identified commercial value (Output 4).

Risks will be minimised through management by project team members, all of whom have experience working in Malawi, and careful appointment of community members to work in enterprises, which will be supported by Traditional Authorities.

Section 15 - FCO Notifications

Q31. FCO Notifications

Please put an X in 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.

Unchecked

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 Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 16 - Certification

Q32. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

I apply for a grant of





£338,252.00

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 uploaded CVs for project principals and letters of support.**
- **I have uploaded our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report.**

Checked

Name	Kirsty Shaw
Position in the organisation	Head of Ecological Restoration and Tree Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 KS-Signature  03/12/2018  09:54:55  jpg 11.82 KB
Date	03 December 2018

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance (including Guidance for Applicants and Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance)	Checked

Have you read, and can you meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	Checked
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Checked
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP?	Checked
Have you checked that your budget is complete and correctly adds up?	Checked
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?	Checked
Have you uploaded a 1 page CV for all the Project Staff on this project, including the Project Leader?	Checked
Have you uploaded a letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations?	Checked
Have you included a cover letter from the lead organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed?	Checked
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Checked
Have you uploaded a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	Checked
Have you checked the Darwin website to ensure there are no late updates?	Checked
Have you read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK?	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 this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organization, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).