

DIR27S2\1020

Developing Rural Pathways to Community Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration

Boswellia forests in Ethiopia provide a major source of frankincense, alongside other important ecosystem services. However, these dryland forests are threatened by severe biodiversity loss and degradation. This project seeks to reverse this trend, through improved governance and inclusive decision-making. The introduction of viable harvesting and regeneration techniques for frankincense and promotion of sustainable land management on farmland will reverse forest degradation and increase farmland productivity, reducing agricultural expansion. Livelihood opportunities will be promoted, incentivising sustainable exploitation, whilst increasing incomes.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Miss
Name Becky
Surname Graham
Organisation TREE AID
Website (Work) <http://treeaid.org>
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CONTACT DETAILS

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Name Cheru
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Tree Aid
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Developing Rural Pathways to Community Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR27S1\100123

DIR27S1\1028

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host 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	Ethiopia	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

- Yes
 No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 July 2021	30 June 2024	3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£129,398.00	£119,211.00	£107,846.00	£27,073.00	£ 383,528.00

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

- Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

£ [REDACTED] of funding will be secured from Tree Aids portfolio of trust, foundation and corporate supporters. Tree Aid has a strong donor portfolio, who donate annually from who we are confident we can secure the required funding.

Swansea University Co-I Dr Rosette is a Royal Society University Research Fellow. Her Fellowship role permits her to dedicate time to the management of her projects and overseeing her team's role. With an estimated 0.1 FTE required, and calculating [REDACTED] fixed overhead, this is an equivalent in-kind contribution of £[REDACTED] which is not included in the budget.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project). [REDACTED]

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.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Boswellia forests in Ethiopia provide a major source of frankincense, alongside other important ecosystem services. However, these dryland forests are threatened by severe biodiversity loss and degradation. This project seeks to reverse this trend, through improved governance and inclusive decision-making. The introduction of viable harvesting and regeneration techniques for frankincense and promotion of sustainable land management on farmland will reverse forest degradation and increase farmland productivity, reducing agricultural expansion. Livelihood opportunities will be promoted, incentivising sustainable exploitation, whilst increasing incomes.

Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q8. Objectives for the Darwin Initiative

Please indicate which of the fund objectives (listed on p.8 of the guidance) you will be addressing.

- To understand and tackle impacts of agriculture practices on biodiversity, livelihoods and climate
- To promote the responsible stewardship of natural assets
- To promote the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity
- Contributing towards reversing the increase in threats of extinction to the world's flora and fauna

Q9. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q9a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q9b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here.

Ethiopia has a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-20) for implementing the CBD at the national level. This project contributes to targets:

4: Habitat conversion due to agricultural land expansion is halved.

5: Unsustainable utilisation of biodiversity and ecosystem services are reduced.

10: Contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, is improved through increasing forest cover.

14: Stakeholders' integration including participation of local communities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilisation, is strengthened.

The project will contribute to these targets by promoting sustainable harvesting of forest resources (e.g. frankincense and honey) to support local livelihoods, reducing anthropogenic pressures on tree resources alongside strengthened forest governance (through Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMC)) and natural regeneration. Additionally, the promotion of sustainable land management and climate smart agriculture, will increase land productivity, reducing agricultural expansion. The reduction of damaging practices and increased forest cover will contribute to increased ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration.

Furthermore, this project will contribute directly to Ethiopia achieving its objectives under the CBD. The project will reduce anthropogenic pressures on *Boswellia* forests, and in particular to *Boswellia papyrifera*, and promoting their sustainable exploitation. This be achieved through promotion of the community-based Participatory Forest Management Cooperative (PFMC) model, which will empower the local community to manage their own forest resources. Bylaws will be developed, as well as a management plan for each PFMC to define how the landscape will be used going forwards (Aichi B7 and article 8f). Capacity building in PFMC members in order to sustainably harvest frankincense will help prevent further degradation of forest in the targeted area (Aichi B5). The project aims to increase local knowledge on the forests value, the sustainable use of trees for livelihoods, cultural purposes, and the importance of forests for wildlife (article 8d).

Actions through this project will protect *Boswellia* forests from further degradation, contributing to the safeguarding of vital ecosystem services including availability of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to support livelihoods taking into account specific needs and perspectives of women (Aichi D14). Additionally, the protection of *Boswellia* forests and reduction in further forest loss will promote carbon sequestration in the area, contributing to climate change mitigation and prevention of desertification (Aichi D15).

The project is based on a bottom-up approach where the design is centred on the needs of the local population. Project activities will build capacity within these communities who will be empowered to take practical actions to manage and restore biodiversity (e.g. tree planting and natural resource management (NRM)) (article 10c).

The project will protect and restore 25,388ha of *Combretum-Terminalia* woodland, contributing to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and so to the UNFCCC, which Ethiopia ratified on 9 March 2017.

Q9c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / CMS / Ramsar /

UNFCCC focal point in the host country?

Yes

If yes, please give details.

The Ethiopia Biodiversity Institute is the national focal institution for the CBD, and are also a confirmed implementing partner for this project, so will be directly involved in the projects implementation. A letter of support from the EBI is provided with this application.

The Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission is the national focal institution for the UNFCCC. Tree Aid has an existing relationship with The Commission and we will seek to continue to collaborate and share information throughout this projects implementation.

Q9d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

SDG 15: Capacity building of PFMCs to implement forest management plans will enable sustainable management of 25,388ha of Boswellia forest, reducing further deforestation and degradation (15.2). Promotion of sustainable land management, climate smart agriculture and agroforestry on agricultural land will seek to restore degraded land and soil, preventing the need for further agricultural expansion into forest areas, contributing to the reduction in desertification.

SDG 13: Increased capacity of PFMCs, to effectively manage and protect Boswellia forests, will contribute to the increase carbon sequestration in the area, and in turn the mitigation of climate change.

SDG 1. The development of enterprises for 360 households based on sustainably sourced non-timber forest products (NTFPs) will increase incomes for households living in poverty (1.2). Diversification and strengthening of sustainable livelihood opportunities, will increase the resilience of the local population to climate shocks and extremes (1.5).

SDG 5: The project will actively target women, enabling them to become a more effective voice and actor in Combretum-Terminalia woodland management. Women will be empowered through participation in appropriate activities, informed by a study into the gendered impacts of the intervention.

SDG 2: Developing viable income generating opportunities through B.papyrifera value chains and promoting land restoration practices will support farmers to increase productivity of degraded agricultural land and improve their income (2.3).

SDG 8: The project will increase decent work and economic growth by supporting women and youth employment through business development, education and training (8.3) based on the sustainable consumption of forest resources (8.4).

Section 5 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q10. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative or IWT Challenge Fund 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
25-029	Aboubacar Gadage	Rehabilitation of the ecosystem of the Park W landscape
24-022	Amadou Tangara	Strengthening Malian Forest Management to Protect Biodiversity and Alleviate Poverty
20-019	Cheru Tessema Mammo	Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response

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

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 Tree Aid Annual Accounts 2019-20
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 TREE AID Annual Accounts 2018-19
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Section 6 - Project Partners

Q11. 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 the Lead Organisation and 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: Tree Aid

Website address: <https://www.treeaid.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Tree Aid is an international NGO with over 30 years' experience working across the drylands of Africa. Tree Aid employs natural resource management (NRM), forest governance, food security and enterprise development approaches to alleviate poverty and protect the environment. Since establishment, Tree Aid has grown 22million trees and directly supported 1.85million people out of poverty in Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Niger. Tree Aid has worked in Ethiopia since 1991.

As lead institution, Tree Aid has led on project development and will have overall responsibility for the successful implementation of project activities and will work with our partners to deliver the project on-the-ground and in synergy with local government authorities. Tree Aid Ethiopia's Country Programme Manager (Project Leader), based in Addis Ababa, will have responsibility for overseeing the execution of activities, including coordination with SUNARMA, results monitoring and reporting.

Further ongoing technical support, financial management, monitoring and quality assurance will be carried out with support from Tree Aid UK. The UK Programme Manager will maintain project oversight and contact with Darwin. Additional support will be provided by the Lead Technical Advisor, Monitoring Evaluation & Learning Advisor, Finance Manager, with oversight from the Director of Operations.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? 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: Sustainable Natural Resource Management Association (SUNARMA)

Website address: <https://www.sunarma.org/>

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

The Sustainable Natural Resource Management Association (SUNARMA) is an environmental NGO (established 2000), with an experienced project management team and expertise in NRM and enterprise development. SUNARMA have been implementing a project around the frankincense value chain in the Metema area of Ethiopia area since 2017, has in-depth community development experience and strong links with local and national government. SUNARMA has collaborated with Tree Aid since 2013, on three separate projects and were heavily involved in this project's design.

SUNARMA will deliver the project on-the-ground with oversight and technical support from Tree Aid. They will be responsible for mobilising local communities, frontline delivery of training, organisational and business development, technical support for the Forest Management cooperatives, liaison with local and regional stakeholders, data collection and activity monitoring. They will be supported by Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute and University of Gondar. Their local team will consist of a Project Coordinator, Forestry Officer, Livelihoods Officer as well as a Finance and Admin Assistant and driver. This team, will have additional support from SUNARMA HQ, based in Addis Ababa, including Chief Executive Director, Programme Officer, Head of Administration and Finance, Administration and Finance Officer, office attendant and driver.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name:

Forest Research, UK

Website address:

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

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

Forest Research (FR) is the research agency of the Forestry Commission and Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research. FR is internationally renowned for the provision of science, research, evidence, data and services in support of sustainable forestry. Expertise relevant to this project include remote sensing applications and environmental sociology.

FR will provide technical support into:

1. Coordination of field data collection for training and validation of condition, distribution and the detection of quality variables of *Boswellia papyrifera* using field spectroscopy and lab analysis. The implementation of effective monitoring capabilities to increase control over the whole process and support improved decision-making, allowing local communities a synoptic view of processes that may intervene in the effective management of their resources. Additionally, technology transfer of EO products to local users building capacity to interpret remote sensing products.
2. Social science support developing and implementing socially inclusive interventions assessment and evaluation methodologies.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

Swansea University

Website address:

<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/>

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

The research of the Global Environmental Modelling & Earth Observation (GEMEO) group at Swansea University is focused on understanding how natural and man-made changes affect the biosphere using remote sensing data and environmental models.

Dr Jacqueline Rosette is a remote sensing researcher, specialising in forest inventory, assessment, condition monitoring and change detection. Her research has an applied focus to address forest management, monitoring and sustainability needs. She collaborates with leading international research institutes and government agencies in the UK, USA, Brazil and China, and has led several UK Aid-related Global Challenges Research Fund and Newton Fund Agritech projects.

Dr Rosette will oversee the remote sensing and GIS analysis component of this project, generating and delivering training in the use of cartographic products to directly benefit and build capacity of decision-makers and end users. Under Dr Rosette's supervision, her experienced postdoctoral research assistant will carry out the data analysis to derive the end products (0.33 FTE).

Using multiple sensors and high temporal and spatial resolution analysis techniques, remote sensing outputs are produced which specifically address the information and management needs required to raise impact of this project and to facilitate end user decision making for sustainable resource management.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI)

Website address:

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

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

The EEFRI, based in Addis Ababa and established in 2014, is an autonomous federal research institute established with the following four main objectives

- Identify, import, adapt, utilize and generate technologies that significantly contribute to forest development and environmental protection focusing on country priorities and user demand.
- Coordinate environment and forest research centre's or higher learning institutes
- Build capacity and establish a system that enables the environment and forest research activities to be efficient, effective and development-oriented.
- disseminate the environment and forest research outputs to users

The EEFRI will provide technical support to the project including sustainable harvesting analysis, alternative production arrangements, and the provision of training on sustainable frankincense production. Additionally, analysis of various value chains in place and development of new value chains, data collection and monitoring.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI)

Website address:

<https://www.ebi.gov.et/>

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

The Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, based in Addis Ababa, and established in its current structure in 2013, has power and duties related to the conservation and sustainable utilization of Ethiopia's biodiversity as well as associated indigenous knowledge. Ecosystem management is also recognized as one of the areas to be given priority by EBI. The Institute, on the basis of national legislation, has the responsibility and duty to implement international conventions, agreements and obligations on biodiversity to which Ethiopia is a party.

Within this project EBI will be responsible for the socio-economic and forest inventory as well as identification and demarcation of the site with high biodiversity potential, for in-situ *B.papyrifera* conservation. One benefit to in-situ conservation is that it maintains recovering populations in the surrounding natural habitat where they have developed their distinctive properties. Another is that this strategy helps ensure the ongoing processes of evolution and adaptation within their environments. EBI will support the handing over of the site to local administrations for long-term protection.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

6. Partner Name: University of Gondar (UoG)

Website address: <https://www.uog.edu.et/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The University of Gondar (established in 1954) is home to the College of Agriculture and Environmental with expertise including plant sciences, natural resource management, horticulture, rural development and agricultural extension, agricultural economics and general forestry.

In its research and community engagement endeavors, the college works in close collaboration and partnership with academic, research and development institutions both inland and abroad.

Within this project, UoG will provide technical support to the training of smallholder farmers in climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices. CSA proven practical techniques that UoG will be promoting within the project include practices such as mulching, intercropping, crop rotation, integrated crop-livestock management, integrated soil fertility management, agroforestry, improved grazing and improved water management at the field level.

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.


No Response

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

 [Cover letter and letters of support](#)

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Section 7 - Project Staff

Q12. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet

to be filled. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Cheru Tessema	Project Leader	30	Checked
To be recruited	Tree Aid Ethiopia Project Officer	50	Checked
Tekle Aregay Jirane	SUNARMA Chief Executive Director	30	Checked
Adamsu Kebede Eshete	SUNARMA Program Officer	30	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Wondwossen Getachew Debalkie	SUNARMA Head of Admin and Finance	30	Checked
To be recruited	SUNARMA Project Coordinator	100	Checked
To be recruited	SUNARMA PFM/Forestry Officer	100	Checked
To be recruited	SUNARMA Livelihoods Officer	100	Checked
Berhane Tesfaye Gameda	SUNARMA Finance and Admin officer	30	Checked
Pietro Carpena	Tree Aid UK Technical Lead Advisor	4	Checked
David Baines	Tree Aid UK Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Advisor	4	Checked
Sean McGough	Tree Aid UK Programme Manager	4	Checked

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

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

 [All CVs](#)
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 pdf 477.07 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 8 - Problem statement

Q13. 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?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the next page).

The dry forests of Ethiopia are diverse, dynamic and resilient ecosystems. Endowed with a rich biodiversity, they provide a multitude of natural resources and environmental benefits including the mitigation of climate change and desertification. Compositionally, dry forests are characterised by a high biodiversity of endemic plants and animal species(1), especially in the western, north-western and south-eastern lowlands of Ethiopia, where high numbers of Acacia, Boswellia and Commiphora species are found.

Managing dryland ecosystems including Combretum-Terminalia (broadleaved) deciduous woodlands is believed to greatly contribute to climate change mitigation in dryland ecosystems. The Combretum-Terminalia ecosystems have been found to sink higher carbon stocks both in the biomass and soil, than some other dryland vegetation reported in Ethiopia and elsewhere in the tropics. Therefore, these woodlands may play an important role in carbon sequestration in the long-term whilst supporting livelihoods of pastoral communities(2).

Combretum-Terminalia woodlands harbour diverse woody species which produce commercial gums and resins, such as Boswellia papyrifera. This tree is an important multipurpose tree species found in central and eastern Africa, growing on dry, rocky sites where other trees often fail. However, the species is declining rapidly and needs priority conservation interventions(3).

B.papyrifera accounts for 2/3 of global frankincense production, a resin which is collected through tapping the tree bark, and whose global demand has great potential to support livelihoods of rural communities living in poverty. However, over-exploitation and unsustainable land use, including agricultural expansion, overgrazing and bushfires, is leading to a collapse in the regeneration potential of B.papyrifera, as well as threatening the livelihoods of locals who depend on them.

B.papyrifera is particularly important in the landscape of Metema, an arid and semi-arid area in the north-western lowlands of Ethiopia, where it's distributed throughout Combretum-Terminalia woodland and can make up to 30% of agro-pastoral household income. This income serves as a safety net during the dry months, reducing risks associated with agricultural failures, exacerbated by climate breakdown.

Insufficient regeneration of B.papyrifera leads to intensified and unsustainable tapping on the remaining

Boswellia trees, negatively affecting tree vitality. Studies reveal Boswellia will produce fewer and lower-quality seeds when intensively tapped and can reduce germination rates from 80% (from untapped stands) to 14%(4). Studies indicate a collapsing B.papyrifera population and predict a 50% reduction of frankincense yield in the next two decades(5). Tree Aid conducted a community needs assessment in Metema (February 2020) involving extensive discussions with both the local community and local government. The assessment highlighted the decline in agricultural productivity, and production of forest products in the area

There is great need for effective tools to monitor land-use and frankincense regeneration and to determine and improve quality standards of extracted products. Additionally, the frankincense value chain is largely underdeveloped, with grading done by buyers rather than tappers, who lack the resources to do this effectively.

There is an urgent need for protecting and restoring Boswellia forests alongside the promotion of sustainable tapping, to prevent the collapse of the species, further habitat loss and land degradation.

Section 9 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q14. Methodology

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

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

Tree Aid recently secured FCDO funding for a 3-year project (2022-25) in Metema, aiming to increase climate resilience of 2,852 households through increased income from frankincense. The Darwin project, with a strong emphasis on sustainable management of Boswellia, would run alongside and build on the initiative to achieve greater impact across the region.

SUNARMA recently set-up Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMC) in Metema (2018-2020), including developing enterprises around frankincense and myrrh, benefiting 3,300 people.

The present proposal is building on learning and experiences gained through this work as through the work of Farm Africa on a frankincense value chain project being implemented in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (2015-21), about 600km south of Metema. Communities in this project are now able to obtain 15-30% above local prices with improved quality of frankincense resin and are more committed to forest management.

In order to improve governance of the vast forest resources in Semien Gondar Zone, this Darwin project will establish and/or strengthen 8 PFMCs, with 1,949 members (200 women), across 6 kebeles, responsible for managing approximately 25,388ha of Combretum-Terminalia woodland. 2,250 people (1,949 PFM members, 301 non-members) will be introduced to biodiversity conversation and environmental management as well as Amhara Region legal texts around NRM. PFMC leaders (80 members) will receive training in cooperative management. Bylaws will be developed, and a management plan for each PFMC, defining how the different landscapes in the forest resources under their stewardship will be used and managed going forwards. Community members will be sensitised to the need to protect natural resources including control of bushfires. Enclosure areas (one/PFM) will be established in areas of high B.papyrifera

degradation where regeneration will be promoted to protect and restore existing populations. 2,250 PFMC members will be trained in enclosure area management to support the *Boswellia* population structure and regeneration status.

To support conservation efforts and development of PFMC management plans, field data collection, led by Forest Research, will assist remote sensing analysis, providing data on *B.papyrifera* condition and distribution. Time-series remote sensing and GIS analysis by Swansea University will inform risk maps, providing a complete picture of frankincense, including climate and environmental conditions (e.g. bushfires) and vegetation assessment. These maps will be incorporated into PFMC management plans, providing a vital tool to guide community planning, implementation and monitoring of forest resources. To build local capacity, training and results on GIS and remote sensing will be provided to government and project staff.

The PFMC management plans will guide tappers from each PFMC on which areas have been gazetted/or placed under increased protection and which instead have been opened for tapping. This framework regulating tapping frequencies will greatly reduce tree damage.

Forest Research will facilitate the co-designing of a methodology to map, support and measure gendered impacts of interventions at community and household level, taking into account practical and strategic dimensions of gendered livelihoods analysis and implications for climate-smart adaptive strategies.

EBI will conduct field studies including a socio-economic and forest inventory of available dryland forest resources. A site will be identified and demarcated to establish an in-situ conservation area with high biodiversity potential for protection. Following project completion, this site will be given to local authorities for long-term protection.

To improve and inform sustainability of frankincense harvesting and increase vitality of *B.papyrifera*, EEFRI will undertake a comparative analysis on local tapping techniques currently used in Ethiopia, against an improved method used in India, considered to have potential to improve harvesting. 240 tappers will receive training and equipment, to become familiar and proficient with the technique and eventually adopt it. Government office staff and other stakeholders will also benefit from training.

To increase farmland productivity, reducing the need for further agricultural expansion into woodland areas, UoG will lead training for 2,250 farmers (all PFMC members) on CSA practices i.e. agroforestry, improved grazing and improved water management. Government staff will benefit, to support effective adoption by farmers in long-term. 540 households receive fodder tree cuttings and 3,000 fruit tree seedlings will be distributed for agroforestry improvements on farmland.

The project will increase incomes of 360 households (PFM members) by establishing 18 Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) (25% women) based on sustainably sourced NTFPs, including 12 frankincense VTEs (including 240 tappers) and 6 honey VTEs. Locally-led enterprises receive training and equipment, including how to improve drying, storing and grading of frankincense resin. VTEs will benefit from market access and linkage facilitation to support enterprise activities. This allows local people to diversify and improve livelihoods, whilst incentivising sustainable forest use.

Q15. 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?

This project will be implemented with support from the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, the CBD focal institution in Ethiopia. EBI's reputation and mandate and the regular communications between Tree Aid and EBI, will foster knowledge sharing and learning around project activities and outcomes, on a wider scale across Ethiopia.

This project aims to improve awareness of the value of biodiversity and the benefits of its protection and sustainable exploitation for both people and the environment, amongst the targeted population. Communication and knowledge sharing is key to this. PFMCs will be engaged from the outset, through training and capacity building, to empower the groups with the skills required to take forest management into their own hands. The eight PFMCs will have increased capacity to act as a conduit of information and knowledge within communities following tailored training and support in forest management.

Training in locally appropriate CSA practices and technologies for local government and community members will increase awareness of the impacts of land degradation and agricultural expansion.

The data collected on *B.papyrifera* condition and distribution, and development of risk maps, will provide a key tool to guide management of *Boswellia* forests going forwards. Training and results on GIS and remote sensing will be disseminated to government staff.

Learning from the comparative analysis between tapping techniques will be shared with relevant stakeholders, in order to promote best-practice frankincense harvesting on a wider scale.

We will share experiences gained through this project, learning and project evaluations with stakeholders (communities, local administrations). In addition, these documents will be available on our website. Social media platforms will also publicise the project and its outcomes, enhancing engagement and awareness of the work.

Ecological surveys will help to understand the diversity, the status of forest resources to inform appropriate management actions going forwards.

Q16. 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 key element of this projects design in order to ensure sustainability of project outcomes. Eight PFMCs, with 1,949 members, will have their capacity built in biodiversity conversation, enclosure area management, legal texts on NRM and implementation of forest management plans. PFMC leaders will learn skills on cooperative management, to support long-term functioning of the groups. Through this, the cooperatives will have increased capacity to understand their role, rights and responsibilities with regards to forest management.

Tappers, as well as government staff will have increased capacity for sustainable frankincense harvesting. Government staff will also benefit from training in GIS and remote sensing.

Community members and government staff will have increased capacity in locally appropriate CSA practices, in order to increase farmland productivity and resilience to climate extremes in the future. Farmers will also have increased capacity for agroforestry and forage development. Due to low literacy in

the area, the training will be practical and interactive, delivered directly in the field. To ensure high attendance, training will be held outside of the planting season. A training of trainers approach will be used, allowing an efficient and long-term dissemination of knowledge through a population.

VTE members will have improved capacity for frankincense and honey production, including through training and equipment. Enterprises will be supported with market access and linkage facilitation, in order to ensure the growth and sustainability of their businesses.

Tree Aid will also build partners capacity and technical knowledge across diverse themes including the PFM approach, NRM, GIS and enterprise development, which they will be able to replicate for other projects.

Awareness raising will inspire change within the wider community to make sustainable decisions that will benefit themselves and the environment in the long-term, whilst educating and empowering the next generation of decision makers.

Q17. Gender equality

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 sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

The project will actively target women and ensure inclusion in project assessment, interventions and outcomes. Tackling strategic gender interests will be through the active support of women, enabling them to become a more effective voice and actor in Combretum-Terminalia woodland management e.g. PFMCs.

Our needs assessment found women don't feel comfortable speaking out on their NRM concerns, particularly at communal level. Women will be supported to participate in governance structures (30% women in PFMC and in leadership positions – a realistic target given local context), increasing capacity and sense of ownership over natural resources, and will increase their voice and decision-making power.

A methodology will be co-designed that can map, support and measure the gendered impacts of the interventions at community and household level. This will take into account practical (i.e. needs/access relating to traditional roles) and strategic (i.e. challenging gender norms such as adjusting traditional decision-making power or control over resources) dimensions of gendered livelihoods analysis and any implications for climate smart adaptive strategies.

Tools, including our own Gender Index monitoring tool, will establish a gendered baseline, enabling onward assessment and monitoring of changes to availability and access to NTFPs and agricultural products, the non-income and income stream provided by NTFPs, differentiated impact on household economies and gendered distribution of benefits and track women voice, choice and control at both household and community levels.

Actions addressing practical gender needs will also facilitate women's access to income-earning activities, by inclusion in VTEs and training in business skills. Integrating women in this way should improve their confidence in raising income for their household and their ability to take up leadership positions, and access the benefits of new income resources subject to household decision-making. The organisation of training and other activities will be adapted to women's schedules in order to promote participation.

Q18. 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.

In the short-term, PFMCs (1,949 members including 200 women) will have their capacity built in effective forest governance, and will be empowered to internalise stewardship responsibilities and management of their natural resource base, supported by the development of by-laws and management plans. Sustainable frankincense harvesting will be promoted through alternative and improved tapping techniques. Additionally, the regeneration of *B.papyrifera* will be achieved through development and effective management of enclosure areas in order to prevent tappers from continuing to tap at an unsustainable rate. The project will encourage tapping on designated areas on a rotational basis to ensure tapped areas are given sufficient time to recover to the previous year's tapping. Together this will prevent further degradation of the landscape and restore the *Boswellia* population. The reduction in bushfires will also reduce pressures on *Combretum-Terminalia* woodland. Through these actions, the project will achieve a 5% increase in vegetation cover and production potential of 25,388ha of woodland area under PFM.

240 tappers will benefit from capacity building in sustainable harvesting, which will support their economic activities. Training in CSA practices will increase resilience of 2,250 farmers, through the skills and knowledge needed to increase agricultural productivity. 360 households (25% women) will be incentivised to sustainably manage forest resources through the establishment of 18 economically viable VTEs. VTE members will access training, equipment and support with market linkages, and based on our experience and market analysis, households engaged in the VTEs will experience an average 100% increase in income from NTFPs by the end of the project.

In the long-term, the 25,388ha of *Combretum-Terminalia* woodland ecosystem will continue to be sustainably protected and managed, through effective participatory and equitable forest governance structures and tools, strengthened by the project. *Boswellia papyrifera* populations will continue to increase through the actions of the project, securing this vital natural resource base for future generations. The restoration of degraded landscapes will increase land productivity and availability of tree resources, leading to healthier and more biodiverse forest ecosystems. This can support the livelihoods of local people and increase their resilience to climate change, alongside reducing the pressure on *Boswellia* woodland. Through these actions, the project will contribute to a thriving dryland forest ecosystem, including conservation of genetic resources of endemic plant and animal species. This will also provide long-lasting climate mitigation benefits through increased carbon sequestration as well as the prevention and control of desertification

The additional household income generated through the VTEs can help address key basic needs such as food, health and education, long after project completion. Communities will understand the need and benefits of sustainable exploitation of forest resources, providing the incentive for behaviour change around sustainable exploitation of natural resources in the long-term. Households will be empowered with new, alternative livelihoods to alleviate poverty and increase well-being, whilst preventing exploitation of resources in the area.

Q19. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall

project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project will strengthen governance structures, increasing capacity to sustainably manage Combretum-Terminalia woodland. Earth Observation technology will inform management plans, providing a key tool to support management in the long-term and capacity will be built in communities to utilise these technologies. Reducing pressures and promoting regeneration of Boswellia, will increase population numbers (output 1). Improved exploitation of existing stocks, will further enhance Boswellia populations. The value realised from the harvest as a viable climate-smart income generator will be improved to support development of frankincense livelihood opportunities (output 2). Improved governance, reduced human pressures and increased regeneration will enable sustainable management and improved stewardship across 25,388 hectares of Combretum-Terminalia woodland (outcome).

CSA and agroforestry will increase farmland productivity for 2,250 households, reducing agricultural expansion (output 3). Promotion of alternative livelihoods will increase incomes and food security, alongside incentivising sustainable exploitation of natural resources (output 4). Increased agricultural productivity and incomes will contribute to the reduction of poverty for 2,250 people (outcome).

Reducing pressures on natural resources alongside establishing sustainable management and restoration activities will contribute to the protection and conservation of genetic resources, improved biodiversity and enhanced forest ecosystems. Healthy forest ecosystems will in turn increase resilience and reduce poverty (impact).

Q20. Exit Strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”.

Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

The project is built around an in-depth understanding of community needs, and based on a bottom-up approach, ensuring sustainability of outcomes. The projects design will strengthen capacity of stakeholders to continue with improved practices without further support.





The 8 PFMCs, are set-up to take on the stewardship role assigned to them through the enabling national policy environment. Training in inclusive governance, biodiversity conservation, NRM legal texts and enclosure area management will provide the necessary skills for rehabilitation of the Combretum-Terminalia ecosystem beyond the project. PFM members will be financially incentivised to continue with their activities through involvement in forest-based enterprise development activities.

Collaboration with relevant stakeholders (EBI, EEFRI, various departments of the Woreda and Kebele administration) has been key to the design process and will ensure long-term impact and create the necessary momentum for replication.

Training in CSA and agroforestry will empower communities to restore and regenerate land after project end. Increases in agricultural productivity and B.Papyrifera availability will incentivise continuation of improved practices.

The VTE model provides farmers with skills to run a profitable business without further support, whilst emphasising sustainable use of natural resources. Facilitating market linkages will empower VTEs to continue their income-generating activities in the long-term.

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

-
-  [Map and References](#)
 -  09/02/2021
 -  21:02:51
 -  pdf 485.12 KB

Section 10 - Budget and Funding

Q21. Budget





Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget.

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

Please refer to the Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance for more information.

N.B.: 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.

-
-  [Tree Aid Budget Final](#)
 -  09/02/2021
 -  21:04:41
 -  xlsx 127.81 KB

Q22. Funding

Q22a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

The project outlined in this proposal seeks to build on Tree Aid's new 3-year project targeting the same PFMs in Metema, due to start early 2022 with funding from the FCDO. The FCDO project places greater emphasis on the frankincense value chain - working with tappers and the union through which all of the PFMs are required to sell their frankincense.

By strengthening the governance and monitoring of the forest through greater engagement with stakeholders and the adoption of technology using funding from the Darwin Initiative, the impact of the investment will be greatly increased. Furthermore, the investment into additional livelihoods and the

promotion of sustainable land use practices should improve communities' resilience and reduce pressure on the Boswellia forest.

This programme of work is designed to ensure mutually reinforcing projects with aligned objectives of protection and restoration of Boswellia forests alongside economic development for the local population. The aim of the programme is to enhance benefits for both biodiversity, whilst reducing duplication of effort, ensuring value for money for the donor.

Q22b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences. Explain 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.

Other organisations are working in Metema on complementary projects including the Sesame Business Network (marketing and research), Carter Center Ethiopia (health), the Food and Agriculture Organization and The Global Fund (agriculture). Organisations focused on children and education include Save the Children, UNICEF and READ-2.

Synergies between the projects could offer the opportunity to share knowledge and learning. Through effective relationships with other agencies, we will be able to implement a coherent and efficient project.

Q23. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q23a. 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
No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Q23b. 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. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency Code	Comments
01 December 2021	Paul Foundation	██████	£	Previous supporter of Tree Aid with a high chance of success
01 September 2021	Stephen Clarke 1965 Charitable Trust	██████	£	Previous supporter of Tree Aid with a good chance of success
01 November 2021	Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	██████	£	Previous supporter of Tree Aid with a good chance of success
01 December 2022	Paul Foundation	██████	£	Previous supporter of Tree Aid with a high chance of success

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 September 2022	Stephen Clarke 1965 Charitable Trust	██████	£	Previous supporter of Tree Aid with a good chance of success
01 December 2023	Paul Foundation	██████	£	Previous supporter of Tree Aid with a high chance of success
01 September 2023	Stephen Clarke 1965 Charitable Trust	██████	£	Previous supporter of Tree Aid with a good chance of success

Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

Q24. Outputs of the project and Open Access

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

The technical reports and data sets derived through the project will be made available as relevant through the Tree Aid website and shared with appropriate stakeholders (e.g. Kebele and Woreda authorities, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (Ethiopia's CBD focal points). This will include:

- Baseline Survey: The baseline will include household survey and a forest resource inventory to be completed at the start of the project.
- Biodiversity data: Fauna and flora data collected throughout the project will be shared with relevant authorities and institutions.
- Remote sensing, GIS analysis and risk maps
- 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.
- Comparative analysis of frankincense harvesting practices.
- 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.

All full reports will also be shared with The Darwin Initiative. The relevant costs for these initiatives are all included in the budget, as they are essential aspects of monitoring and evaluating the project.

Photos and case studies about the project will be shared through Tree Aids social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn) which includes over 30,000 followers.

Q25. Financial Risk Management

This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

Fraud/bribery: Tree Aid has robust policies and procedures in place to which partners need to adhere. Policies are included in sub-grant agreements, with training provided.

Foreign exchange: Detailed budgets are prepared in the local currencies and take into account in-country inflation as forecast by IMF. Tree Aid monitors exchange rates and aims for final budgets using realistic rates based on market information.

Storage of financial data: Tree Aid has a Data Protection and IT security policy. Financial data is held within our PS Financials cloud based accounting system, managed by the software provider under a contract. Regular backups of data are maintained. System access is restricted to relevant members of finance staff and is hierarchical.

Poor financial management through partner: Partners have been chosen based on capacity assessments and have development plans in place outlining training/actions required to ensure capacity. Tree Aid

undertakes annual internal audits of partners' finance and systems.

Q26. Capital items

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

Laptop (x2) - for Tree Aid Ethiopia

Equipment for field and spectral data collection will remain in the country for the local people to keep using it. This includes:

field spectrometer (x1)

spectral targets (x1)

solar panel charger (x1)

mavic mini (x4)

This totals 2.8% of the total project budget and is within the Darwin Initiative limits set for capital items. The items will be used solely for the project and once the project has finished will continue to be used for charitable purposes.

Q27. Value for Money

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

Economy: Tree Aid Ethiopia worked with SUNARMA to draft the budget, establishing local costs, determining the best returns on investment. The value for money was reviewed in UK. Key assumptions include fluctuation in exchange rates and inflation throughout the project. Partners will apply Tree Aid's procurement policies to ensure transparency and best value. We provide staff with training and a competitive salary, to ensure staff are retained and are able to deliver results, which are both key drivers of success.

Efficiency: SUNARMA project staff and Tree Aid Project Officer will be based locally minimising logistical costs. Trees will be grown by Tree Aid nurseries creating planting cost efficiencies while increasing capacities (compared to buying seeds from private nurseries). A training of trainer approach will be used in order to maximise training costs and ensure a long-term diffusion of the knowledge. Tree Aid and SUNARMA staff will frequently carry out joint monitoring visits to minimise M&E costs.

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

Equity: The projects targeted beneficiaries are from some of the most marginalised communities in Ethiopia. Activities are appropriately targeted to individuals, to take into account specific needs around gender and age, based on our experiences in the area.

Section 12 - Ethics and Safeguarding

Q28. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

This project will uphold all legal and ethical obligations of both the UK and Mali. Tree Aid is a beneficiary led and local partner-focused organisation with a bottom-up approach, encouraging equal partnerships with local partners. While, as defined in our Partnerships Policy, ensuring due diligence in all 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, and the highest possible returns for beneficiary communities. The project will empower communities with the knowledge to manage their own natural resources, as well as promoting local leadership to ensure the needs, perspectives and context of local people are fully taken into account.

This project will strive to respect the rights, privacy and safety of our beneficiaries, employing the principles of Free, Prior, Informed Consent, ensuring informed, non-coercive communication between all stakeholders prior to commencement and throughout project and partnership lifetimes.

Further strengthening our community engagement approach, we will apply our Code of Conduct to safeguard communities and ensuring Tree Aid has a positive impact in communities. As per our policies, we have a zero-tolerance approach to financial crimes, abuse and retaliation. Processes as defined in our policies will be closely followed throughout the project lifetime.

The health and wellbeing of all 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.

Q29. Corruption

This question specifically considers corruption. Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this. This may include financial corruption, but may also deal with gifts or inducements, or other types of dishonesty or deceit.

As defined in our Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, Tree Aid has a zero tolerance approach to corruption of any type or in any circumstances, whether perpetrated by staff, volunteers, contractors, partners or clients. Processes and procedures as defined in our policies will be closely followed throughout the project lifetime.

Tree Aid has policies in place against corruption, bribery and other financial crimes. These are contained within the Employment Handbook. All staff are trained in these policies and their relevant procedures. The policies are communicated to downstream delivery partners, who are required to adhere to the policies including our policy on procurement. This is set out in the Partnership Agreement and training in the implementation of these policies is included in the training and development session. Tree Aid will undertake necessary due diligence on implementing partners before entering into agreements and contracts with them.

Tree Aid carries out risk assessment to identify corruption risk and mitigates them through effective

financial management procedures with checks and balances to prevent any form of aid diversion. Tree Aid will review partner expenditure alongside supporting documentation. Tree Aid has a procurement policy and procedures to ensure transparency and value for money.

Q30. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

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

Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.

As described in Tree Aid's Safeguarding policy, Tree Aid recognises that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole organisation, and therefore covers Trustees, management, staff, volunteers and sub-grantees/partners working for or with Tree Aid. All staff members have a responsibility to raise suspicions to senior managers when noticing signs that may pose a threat to anyone in contact with Tree Aid through its activities. Tree Aid annually trains staff and partners on the Safeguarding policy.


We also include safeguarding as part of our sub-grant agreements with partners. The safeguarding policy identifies a designated contact person for safeguarding in each regional office with her/his contact information, as well as it details prevention and reporting procedures in place. Safeguarding is a standing item in all partner meetings.


Specific measures in place, include (but not limited to) posters displayed in Tree Aid offices to encourage incident reporting. A hotline has been established from country offices directly to the UK Compliance and

Risk Manager, for staff to report or discuss concerns. Safeguarding questions are included in the household RHoMIS surveys, allowing beneficiaries to raise concerns. Tree Aid has developed a 'Safeguarding Action Plan', detailing actions and responsibilities to continually review and improve our approach.

Please upload the lead organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [Tree Aid Safeguarding Policy](#)

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Section 13 - Logical Framework

Q31. Logical Framework


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


- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [Tree Aid Logical Framework Final](#)

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Impact:

Contribute to the improvement of forest ecosystems, biodiversity restoration and livelihood enhancement for vulnerable people in Ethiopia

Outcome:

Increased incomes for 2,250 vulnerable households through improved management of 25,388ha of Combretum-Terminalia woodland ecosystem in six kebeles (Das Gundo, Gubai Jejebit, Meshiha, Delello, Lemlem Terara, Agamwuha) in North Gondar.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance and environmental stewardship of Combretum-Terminalia woodland in six kebeles through eight Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs)

Output 2:

Building sustainable harvesting and regeneration techniques of frankincense (*Boswellia papyrifera*) in Combretum-Terminalia woodlands to promote responsible exploitation and reverse resource degradation

Output 3:

Improved farmland productivity through the adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices for 2,250 households

Output 4:

Income of 18 Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs) (360 members, 90 (25% women) based on sustainably sourced Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) (12 frankincense and 6 honey) established and increasing

Output 5:

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, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Sensitisation on biodiversity conservation and environmental management for 2,250 farmers
- 1.2 Undertake forest boundary demarcation and area mapping
- 1.3 Training on cooperative management for PFMC leaders
- 1.4 Conduct participatory forest management plan
- 1.5 Participatory identification of enclosure areas for hotspots of *Boswellia* degradation for regeneration (1 per PFMC)
- 1.6 Farmers forest day celebrations, and model farmer award events
- 1.7 Training on enclosure area management
- 1.8 Facilitate development of bylaws
- 1.9 Develop methodology that can map, support and measure the gendered impacts of the interventions at community and household level
- 1.10 Awareness on legal environment for PFMC members

- 2.1 Forest inventory, in-situ site establishment, and socioeconomic study
- 2.2. Site identification for comparative analysis of traditional vs Indian tapping method
- 2.3 Training on Indian tapping method
- 2.4 Distribution of improved tapping tool
- 2.5 Field and spectral data collection for inventory and condition assessment
- 2.6 Development of cartographic products using remote sensing to support the development of forest management plans
- 2.7 Training government and project staff on GIS and remote sensing
- 2.8 Determination of Frankincense quality variables

- 3.1 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for project staff and

local government experts

3.2 Training on locally appropriate climate smart agriculture practices and technologies for smallholder farmers

3.3 Distribution of agroforestry trees for individual beneficiaries 1,000 fruit seedling/year

3.4 Distribution of forage seeds, cutting, and seedlings for selected 540 households 50 per household

4.1 Establishment of 18 VTEs (12 frankincense, 6 beekeeping)

4.2 Training on drying, storing and grading of frankincense for 240 tappers

4.3 Material support for drying and storage of frankincense groups

4.4 Provide beekeeping training to members of 6 beekeeping enterprise members

4.5 Provide beehives and accessories to 6 beekeeping enterprise groups

4.6 Market access and linkage facilitation for PFMCs engaged in frankincense production

M&E 1 Undertake project familiarisation workshop

M&E 2 Establish Permanent Monitoring Plots (2 in each PFM)

M&E 3 Data collection from monitoring plots

M&E 4 Conduct Baseline survey (RHoMIS)

M&E 5 Beneficiary identification and follow up (once at the beginning and reviewed every year)

M&E 6 Group capacity assessment(once at the beginning and every year thereafter)

M&E 7 Monthly beneficiary families and groups visit by project staff

M&E 8 Information, education and communication materials/IEC productions

M&E 9 Field monitoring and follow up of research sites by EEFRI staff

M&E 10 Field monitoring and follow up of in-situ conservation site by EBI staff

M&E 11 Field monitoring, follow-up & support visits by HO

M&E 12 Tree Aid Ethiopia, joint project monitoring visits by Tree Aid

M&E 13 Undertake mid-term evaluation by government

M&E 14 Learning publications

M&E 15 Project terminal evaluations by external consultant

M&E 16 Project end survey (RHoMIS)

M&E 17 Audit

Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

Q32. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

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

Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q33. 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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).

Tree Aid have a technical support team (technical officer; MEL advisor) supporting project management with M&E planning, delivery and analysis. An organizational M&E manual, including indicator guide, is used by all projects. Data is collected in ODK on tablets using generic survey templates which are 'localised' for projects. Data is stored on ONA website.

A start-up workshop between Tree Aid and SUNARMA will review the logframe and M&E plan. Partner staff are trained and supported to use tools effectively in line with organisational standards.

Outcome indicators:

Tree Aid use the FCDO-funded Rural Household Multi Indicator Survey (RHoMIS), to measure socio-economic change. RHoMIS is a digital survey and analytical engine for monitoring household practices.

We will use RHoMIS to capture information on household income disaggregated by source (Indicator 0.1), crop yields (Indicator 3.1) and NRM techniques (Indicator 3.2).

RHoMIS will also collect data on food security, livelihood strategies and women's decision-making power. This will deepen understanding of wider impacts of the project on poverty and wellbeing of beneficiaries.

The project will conduct beneficiary group discussions and stakeholder review meetings to capture opinions and context on key issues. Tree Aid has developed standardised methodology and templates for Focus Group Discussions (FGD).

A forest ecological inventory, including the establishment of Permanent Monitoring Plots, will collect data on vegetation cover and tree density (Indicator 0.2 and 0.3), as well as forest conditions and land characteristics. Methodology and analysis is in line with global standards and generates data on species frequency, density and dominance (Indicator 2.4).

Outcome indicators are the responsibility of Project Manager, with support from UK technical team.

Outputs indicators:

The monitoring of Participatory Forest Management Cooperatives (PFMCs) is centred around project records (Indicator 1.1; 1.3; 1.4) and an organisational capacity assessment (Indicator 1.2). The assessment tracks membership, inclusion, and governance, as well as processing (Indicator 2.3), financial and management capacities.

The enclosure site will be mapped using our 'Land Use Survey' form (Indicator 2.1). This includes an accurate perimeter recorded with GPS.

Attendance sheets are kept detailing training/activity subjects and participants. Post training surveys are conducted on the day of training for immediate reflection and (b) six months post training to assess skill application/sharing, and changes to personal/family circumstances (Indicator 2.2).

Attendance data is integrated into the 'Beneficiary List', allowing us to monitor the number of direct/indirect, male/female, beneficiaries (and households) per activity and per operational quarter.

VTE group assessments are conducted annually. These allow us to monitor organisational structure, membership (gender disaggregated), as well as production and profit, skills and equipment, finance, management and market access. Business information records are updated annually showing turnover, profits and contracts with buyers (Indicator 4.1, 4.2, 4.3).

This project takes an adaptive management approach. Regular monitoring allows the project team to detect potential problems. Issues and lessons identified are discussed and modifications made accordingly. Feedback from donor(s), stakeholders or/and beneficiaries is discussed and appropriate adjustments made.

Output data is collected by the local partner organisation with support from Project Manager and UK technical team.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	377
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Section 16 - FCDO Notifications

Q34. FCDO Notifications

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

No

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.

No

If no, why not?

Tree Aid contacted British Embassy in Addis Ababa during the development of this proposal, but wasn't able to get a response before submission, so haven't yet received updated security advice. Tree Aid will endeavour to get this before project start up.

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

No Response

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Tree Aid

I apply for a grant of

£383,527.00

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

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

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Tom Skirrow
Position in the organisation	CEO
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 CEO Signature  09/02/2021  21:33:32  pdf 3.97 KB
Date	09 February 2021

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the key project personnel identified at Question 12, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 11, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the lead organisation's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have 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 organisation, 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).