
DIR28S2\1040

Improving community sustainable natural resource management of Mount Mulanje

The project will develop sustainable livelihoods options from native plants and fungi from Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve as alternatives to current practices that damage mountain ecosystems, reducing biodiversity and livelihood opportunities. The project partners will work with businesses and local communities to access local, national and international markets, including through certified sustainable products. Community co-operatives and a social enterprise will be established and supported to manage market opportunities, and degraded, co-managed land will be restored by replenishing over-exploited economic species.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Improving community sustainable natural resource management of Mount Mulanje

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR28S11172

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

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

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Intensive land-use systems (agric., plantations and urban)

Biome 3

Savannas and grasslands

Conservation Action 1

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

Conservation Action 2

Species management (harvest, recovery, re-introduction, ex-situ)

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

Threat 3

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Q5. Summary

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 the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project will develop sustainable livelihoods options from native plants and fungi from Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve as alternatives to current practices that damage mountain ecosystems, reducing biodiversity and livelihood opportunities. The project partners will work with businesses and local communities to access local, national and international markets, including through certified sustainable products. Community co-operatives and a social enterprise will be established and supported to manage market opportunities, and degraded, co-managed land will be restored by replenishing over-exploited economic species.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. 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 Malawi
1

Country *No Response*
2

Country *No Response*

3

Country *No Response*

4

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 June 2022

End date:

31 March 2025

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

2 years, 10 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£114,243.00	£177,186.00	£174,688.00	£ 466,117.00

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



Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding of [REDACTED] will be provided by WeForest through management costs and operational costs for miombo restoration. MMCT has complementary projects that will provide funding estimated at [REDACTED] and seedlings to a value of [REDACTED] over the project period. Total confirmed matched funding is [REDACTED]

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



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

MMCT has applied for a [REDACTED] project from Jersey Overseas Aid – the CLIMB Project (Conservation Livelihoods in Mountain Biospheres). This project, if funded, involves direct restoration & environmental management activities - all activities in miombo woodlands and adjoining community lands.

The current project outcome and outputs are not dependent on this funding.

Section 4 - Problem statement

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?

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 methodology page).

Across Southern Africa, miombo woodlands are under threat from unsustainable practices despite their natural ability to regenerate from roots and stumps (Muvengwi et al, 2020; Jew et al., 2016). Miombo is a biodiverse ecosystem, comprising around 8,500 species of plants, including 334 tree species of which 162 are endemic, and so its degradation results in large biodiversity losses and resource deprivation for local people (Dwees et al., 2011). The levels of endemism in miombo across its range makes it a conservation target at a global scale (Mittermeier et al., 2003).

Miombo is important to local people's livelihoods, providing timber, NTFPs for foods and medicines, and wood for firewood and charcoal - estimates of between 40-75 million people rely directly on miombo, with between 15-25 million urban dwellers reliant on miombo for charcoal (Tynnelä & Niskanen, 2000; Dwees et al., 2011; Hudson et al., 2020). Poorly developed markets for less destructive products (e.g. NTFPs) mean overall the economic drivers favour destructive and unsustainable practices leading to deforestation and degradation.

Human impacts are causing deforestation and degradation in and around Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve. Poverty, and a lack of employment opportunities and land drive this, with people reliant on mountain resources to make up livelihoods' deficits. This includes the firewood and charcoal industries, which are expanding and degrading swathes of miombo woodland all around the mountain.

The local problems in Mulanje have been identified by MMCT's long involvement in the conservation of the area, and particularly the increasing impact of firewood collection and charcoal production noted over the past 6 years in two Darwin Initiative funded projects led by BGCI and MMCT.

An ethnobotanical survey in the previous Darwin Initiative project in 5 villages around Mount Mulanje has also helped to identify 25 species of high importance to local people (including with local markets), that have become harder to find and that some have even attempted to grow themselves. Many are species of widespread importance to many communities around the mountain, including *Annona senegalensis*, *Fadogia ancyrantha*, *Uapaca kirkiana* and *Oxytenanthera abyssinica*. All of these species are exploited in the wild but are now in need of restoration, new sustainable management strategies and local knowledge and skills.

Some tree species are specifically targeted for charcoal production, e.g. *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Pericopsis angolensis*, *Faurea saligna*, and *Azelia quanzensis*, all of which are also valuable timber trees. *A. quanzensis* and *Pterocarpus angolensis* have been grown by a few community members but the knowledge and practices are not currently widespread. Most miombo species can be coppiced, and will recover over a 10-15 year cycle, so could be used to provide charcoal / firewood more sustainably as part of a future management strategy (Chidumayo, 1987).

The proposed project will combine replenishment and restoration of economic species in co-managed lands with use of the FairWild Standard to assess and improve the sustainability of pre-selected native useful plant and fungi species, to develop value chains, and improve access to markets, increasing their value to local communities.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

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

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

Malawi's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan:

By improving participation of local communities and increasing local capacity for biodiversity management and conservation, the project addresses the challenges highlighted in Malawi's NBSAP (2015-2025). Local community stakeholders are integral to selecting the native species to be focused on and will be trained to manage resources sustainably. The inclusion of government institutes in the project will ensure successes can be replicated more widely in Malawi.

Nationally Determined Contributions:

The project will help Malawi achieve its targets for emission reductions by lowering rates of forest degradation from unsustainable fuelwood harvesting, and enhancing carbon stocks through restoration. Two of the four key intervention areas within the Malawi NDC, are agroforestry (wood, fruit and fodder) and sustainable forest management. Harvesting through rotation systems that are based on coppiced biomass will contribute to the country's unconditional NDC goal of more efficient charcoal production.

Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III):

Through the development of post-harvest handling, storage, and new products from native plants, and improving education and research into their use, propagation and conservation the project will provide technologies the MGDS III strategy identified as needed for improving nutrition and food security in Malawi. The project will also promote exports of new native plant commodities, with the potential of further value addition through sustainability certifications such as FairWild, which the MGDS III describes as increasing agriculture market development, agro-processing and value addition. Finally, by piloting new sustainable land management of native plant resources this project will contribute to the MGDS III outcome of enhancing agricultural risk management.

Access and Benefit-Sharing:

In the currently funded Darwin Initiative project, ABS has been important for Mulanje cedar developments and ethnobotanical work. Non-Disclosure Agreements have been signed by partners, suppliers and researchers involved in the project. The Malawian ABS National Focal Point, Ms Mphatso, helped to ensure activities are ABS compliant with data gathered under Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms agreements. This project builds on this by further developing the useful species identified so that the model can be used to up-scale locally and in other parts of Malawi, and Africa.

Convention on Biological Diversity:

This project will contribute to the following Aichi targets:

-7: Co-managed degraded areas on and around Mount Mulanje will be restored to improve the conservation of biodiversity.

-14: Developments will allow remaining natural and restored landscapes to provide essential livelihoods to local people, including some of the world's poorest, targeting women's involvement.

-16: The project will ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits by working closely with communities in project development and training activities.

Sustainable Development Goals:

The project mainly targets SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems) by developing income options for local Mulanje communities as an alternative to firewood and charcoal. In the long-term it will support the Malawian government to reach targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.4 and 15.6. The full implementation of FairWild Standard/certification will also contribute to SDGs 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12.

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

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your

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.).

Ethnobotanical work in Darwin project 26-017 has identified over 100 economically important native plant and fungi species, based on interviews with key informants and focus groups from five Mulanje communities. Current markets, interest in future markets and domestication attempts were also recorded. A short list of 10-15 species will be baseline inventoried to assess stocks in Mulanje before the current project is due to conclude in March 2022. A workshop with community collectors, entrepreneurs, and experts will be convened to establish a baseline of current pressures and identify knowledge gaps.

The new project will build on this knowledge to improve the resource base available to local people. The project outcome will be 500 hectares of miombo woodland and 500 hectares of smallholder farm agro-forestry woodlots, comprising economically important native plants and fungi, restored/managed sustainably benefiting biodiversity and supporting >10,200 people's livelihoods. The lessons from this approach will be further scaled up to support the restoration of 7,500 hectares of co-managed land, benefiting >6,000 households north of Mount Mulanje over the next 10 years.

The following activities will be undertaken:

Output 1: The economic opportunities from 10-15 native miombo plant and fungi species will be assessed for sustainable use opportunities by a market consultant with FairWild and WeForest support, including market analysis and value chain mapping. Local charcoal and firewood industries will also be mapped to identify the drivers of resource depletion and the actors in the chain carrying out collection, processing, transport, and sale. At least five species showing the most promise for sustainable use will be selected for further development.

Output 2: FairWild tools and resources will be used to assess the resilience of the selected species to harvesting pressures and to develop sustainable harvesting protocols for them. Depending on the status of new value chains, FairWild audits or pre-audits will be undertaken. For fungi, the audit will involve an innovative trial of adapted FairWild Standard performance indicators for fungi that are in development in consultation with fungi experts.

Output 3: MMCT will work with existing co-management structures to establish a series of co-operatives, each with approximately 50 community members, as well as a social enterprise entity. MMCT has received expressions of interest from Candlex, KWOS, Amaravi, Harvest table, Muhinje Farm and Satemwa Tea Estates, all companies and co-operatives interested in supporting the social enterprise and marketing natural products in Malawi and further afield (see Letters of support). The social enterprise will act as a sales channel for the community co-operatives, handling product development and sales opportunities within national and international markets, overseeing aspects of resource management, quality control and value addition, and certification processes. The social enterprise will use a similar model to Nature Connect India, that works with FairWild in India's Western Ghats (<https://www.natureconnectindia.com/>). The co-operatives and social enterprise will be trained to sustainably harvest and process the selected species, and will receive support from the Ministry of Industry and Trade to become registered. Community members will be consulted on how the social enterprise should operate, ensuring their knowledge and interests are respected. Business incubation support will provide information on legal structures and registration. The social enterprise team will receive entrepreneurship training and be supported with the registration process. The socio-economic impact of the co-operatives and social enterprise will be measured through a baseline economic survey undertaken in year 1 and a follow up survey at project end to assess and measure livelihoods improvements.

Outputs 4 & 5: Finally, a land use assessment of co-management forest blocks, involving local community groups, will be led by WeForest to integrate the co-operatives/enterprise into existing co-management governance structures. This includes fair and transparent agreements with the Forest Block Committees on benefit/profit sharing and service charges to co-operatives. BGCI, FRIM and the Ecological Restoration Alliance will support restoration planning, providing scientific expertise to match the traditional knowledge of communities. Plans will include a monitoring strategy that measures the economic plant species as biodiversity indicators. 500 hectares of degraded co-managed land will be restored and 500 ha will be planted as woodlots, incorporating native species, including those identified in (1) above. Materials will be propagated at local community nurseries, with support from FRIM, MMCT and BGCI. 500 local community members will be trained to cultivate and manage the planted sites.

The project will be co-managed, co-delivered, and co-branded through a project Steering Committee with representation from all partners. The Committee will meet formally at least twice a year and be responsible for overseeing project planning/implementation, monitoring and evaluation, risk mitigation and adaptive management.

Q14. Capability and Capacity

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

This project will directly support approximately 1,700 households and 10,200 people to develop and access value chains for new products from native plant and fungi species to improve their sustainable management. Newly developed institutional structures and connections will support this. Application of the FairWild Standard will ensure sustainable resource management of the wild harvested species and support the development of equitable trade partnerships, with the potential for value addition in international markets through FairWild certification. Local training will be provided to assess the impacts of use on natural resources.

Training will also be provided to local community members of co-managed areas in the skills and knowledge to manage economic native plants sustainably – from planting, to managing and harvesting them - through piloting restoration methodologies that incorporate economically important miombo species. The results will feed into WeForest's plan to restore a further 7,500 ha of degraded miombo around Mchese and Fort Lister. This new knowledge can also be applied to WeForest's Zambian miombo projects. WeForest have a long-term commitment to Mulanje miombo restoration for the next 10 years.

The support, training and education provided to communities will empower them to plant and manage plants that are important to them and will give them alternatives to wild collection and over-harvesting. The establishment of a social enterprise will support new co-operatives to connect to higher value markets by offering value addition, branding and marketing, and an institution that is eligible for certification (e.g. FairWild, organic).

Existing community nurseries established in previous Darwin Initiative projects will receive training in propagation techniques for additional native plant species, providing them with extra incomes from seedling sales for WeForest's miombo restoration over the next 10 years and to support the FairWild, social enterprise and co-operative new business opportunities for local people.

Q15. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

Livelihoods opportunities for men and women are different in Mulanje. Women are the main wild product harvesters. There are also many female-headed households in the communities around Mulanje, varying by Traditional Authority. In 2020 a survey by MMCT indicated 132,374 female-headed households in Mulanje and Phalombe districts out of 224,005 households in total (i.e. 59% are female headed).

MMCT has a proactive gender policy, including a majority of women (minimum 50%) as beneficiaries of training and economic activities in projects, which will continue in this project. In the socio-economic survey, the project baseline income for participating households, including gender-disaggregated data, will be collected with a second survey showing the changes attributable to the project interventions. In addition, this project will (together with matched funding) support 300 single-headed household vulnerable women from firewood head-loading backgrounds to work in small production groups making soaps, oils, polishes, creams, candles, etc for local sales using natural products.

The FairWild Standard also includes consideration of gender equality issues. For example, no discrimination against collectors based on gender (or other diversity factors) is allowed, equal pay and contract conditions must be offered for equal work, and protections must be in place for workers in risk groups, including pregnant and nursing women.

Collaborative-managed areas already provide benefits for responsible community forest management with women identified as key decision-makers and resource users.

Other disadvantaged groups will also be considered and monitored in the project, such as youth and disabled people. We will ensure engagement and up-skilling also includes these groups to allow them to benefit and to participate in the implementation and decision-making processes so that their aspirations for the future are realised too.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

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

The main stakeholders identified by this project for improved public awareness and understanding of change are the 224,005 households that live around Mount Mulanje that are key resource users and drivers of over-exploitation.

A public awareness campaign will be launched in the local area by MMCT, with BGCI support, to share knowledge with community members about the links between biodiversity and poverty, including the negative impacts of unsustainable firewood and charcoal industries on NTFPs, water resources, soil erosion and agricultural production. For firewood and charcoal, the campaign will highlight alternative more sustainable ways to manage these resources, including rotation and protection of fuel resources enabling natural regeneration, active restoration and the planting of woodlots.

A KAP survey on knowledge, attitudes and practices seeking opinions on biodiversity conservation, restoration and the impacts on livelihoods will be carried out prior to this campaign within communities all around the mountain. This will be repeated at the project end to assess changes in awareness and understanding from the project, aiming to have increased understanding in at least 10% of the population.

The information from the public awareness campaign will be freely available on the radio, in local schools and with materials produced for public events, like the porters' race in July 2023. School materials will be provided to the schools to use to educate children about the links between biodiversity loss and poverty. These will stay with schools beyond the project for re-use. Recordings for radio programmes will also be posted online following their airing so that they can be listened to again in the future.

Finally, local leadership, including traditional leaders and government officials represented in the governance structures of the co-managed forest blocks will be key influencers bringing about the change needed for more sustainable solutions to resource use.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

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

Short-term change - livelihoods

The project focuses on building mechanisms and infrastructures that will link producers and consumers of native plant resources on Mount Mulanje through a social contract. Community nurseries will raise native plant seedlings for restoration and local use, supporting new business opportunities whilst gaining incomes from seedling sales during the project and beyond. Community members exploiting natural resources will receive support to sustainably use and market native economic plant and fungi species, creating further opportunities for the community nurseries.

Around 1,700 households (comprising 10,200 people) will benefit directly from the project. These include:

- 250 people trained and benefiting from 5 natural product co-operatives
- 300 single-headed household vulnerable women from firewood head-loading background working in small production groups making soaps, oils, polishes, creams, candles etc. (co-funded)
- 50 nursery workers trained and selling seedlings (co-funded)

- 500 community members trained in agroforestry and restoration with native species
 - 200-300 people employed in restoration and tree planting (co-funded)
 - Several hundred other people who harvest natural products from the miombo woodlands being restored and managed.
- In addition, an estimated 75,000 people will be reached through the project public awareness programme, including radio shows and printed media.

Medium-term change - biodiversity

Over 100 native plant species in the miombo and surrounding habitats are currently over-exploited and threatened (see supplementary list). In the medium term, the restoration of 500ha of degraded miombo woodland and at least 500ha of native species woodlots will measurably increase native plants and their associated biodiversity (including the threatened economically important species), and the involvement of WeForest in this activity will ensure that the results can be scaled up to restore over 7,500ha of miombo in collaboration with co-management block communities in Kazembe, Tchete, Fort Lister and Mchese over the next 10 years.

Long-term change - livelihoods and biodiversity

In the long-term, there will be reduced degraded land in co-managed areas in and around Mount Mulanje. This will safeguard the biodiversity of the local miombo woodlands as restoration becomes more viable for local communities by providing them with direct and indirect income. Over 1,700 households (10,200 people) from the co-management blocks will be connected to markets through the new co-operatives, a newly established local social enterprise and further trade partnerships consistent with the FairWild equitable trade principles. By replicating the positive results in the wider area, a further 6,000 households in a 2 km buffer zone around the co-managed woodlands will also receive livelihoods improvements through WeForest's 10 year workplan. Developed business and marketing plans will guide communities beyond the project and as these markets grow, more community members will be able to become involved, with measures to ensure supply does not outstrip demand.

The involvement of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Environmental Affairs Department, and Department of Forestry in the project will ensure that evidence reaches policy makers to support the scaling-up of this model elsewhere in Malawi. In addition, learning from this project will be applied by WeForest in Zambia.

Q18. 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.

Miombo woodlands across Southern Africa are threatened by over-exploitation, negatively affecting biodiversity. They also offer traditional products to people that, without formal value chains, do not offer incentives for conservation.

Our Theory of Change is that IF the project can add value through improved market options to known useful plant and fungi species to identify those able to compete economically with firewood and charcoal (Output 1). And, secondly, IF implementation of the FairWild Standard (Output 2) creates new market connections for products (domestic and international) and provides raised price opportunities through certification and improved negotiation abilities. THEN the creation and support of co-operatives and a local social enterprise will allow local communities to be the beneficiaries of sustainable management of natural resources via a formal value chain (Outputs 3 and 4). And THEN communities will gain improved bargaining power, reduced costs and government support with training, promotion and accessing markets. AND by training local community members to protect, manage and restore their natural capital, including over-exploited economic species (Output 5), THEN they will gain the skills to manage wider miombo resources sustainably (7,500 hectares outcome), securing the supply of natural products and at the same time restoring biodiversity.

Q19. Exit Strategy


How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

By the end of the project, restoration and cultivation of miombo woodlands that include species important to local people and with newly developed products and value chains will have been demonstrated. Local institutions will also have been formed to support business development, complementing existing co-management Village Natural Resource Management Committee (VNRMC) and Forest Block Committee (FBC) structures and management contracts developed since 2008.


WeForest are working to revitalise these co-management committees, building in new ways to manage miombo sustainably based on what is learnt during this project and their experiences in Zambia. WeForest will be able to incorporate this new knowledge into the development work that they have committed to for the next 10 years, creating more diverse miombo-based income opportunities for people around Mulanje and in other countries.

The methodologies, skills, governance structures and business models developed by this project are designed to be self-sustaining, and include the knowledge and skills required for restoration, natural resource replenishment, new co-operatives that work alongside co-management VNRMCS, and a local social enterprise entity that supports these developments in the long-term. Beyond the project, the social enterprise will have the skills and infrastructures to continue new value chain developments using native plants and fungi. The relationships formed between the co-operatives and social enterprise will ensure developments are mutually inclusive and that the benefits to the provider communities in the co-operatives are sufficiently advantageous that they do not want or need to operate as private traders. The use of the FairWild Standard in assessments of value chain activities will also help to ensure the results are positive for the local environment and equitable to those involved. In the long term, it is hoped that experienced co-operative members will pass on their knowledge to future members that join as they expand.

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

 [Project Area Co-management blocks](#)


 26/01/2022

 18:07:00

 pdf 620.32 KB


 [Mulanje economic plant and mushroom species](#)


 26/01/2022

 18:04:19

 pdf 573.17 KB

 [References](#)

 26/01/2022

 17:01:02

 pdf 548.71 KB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

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

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Partners receiving sub-grants do not use the funds for intended purposes.	major	rare	moderate	Mitigated by working with known partners that BGCI has collaborated with before. Previous projects were well-managed and reported on. Appropriate financial checking systems are already in place, in which partners deliver to BGCI bi-annual financial reports and receipts for expenditures associated with the project, accounting for all project funds.	minor

<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Partners and collaborators break code of conduct and ignore principles of safeguarding during training courses, collaborating with local communities or carrying out other project activities.</p>	severe	possible	major	<p>Mitigated by including code of conduct, safeguarding, and other policies as condition of funding, part of training and project initiation.</p> <p>Mitigated by working with reputable organisations already well known to us</p>	minor
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Benefits are usurped by elite stakeholders or more powerful individuals within the co-operatives and not shared equitably with disadvantaged groups with reprisals for any protests leading to disenfranchised groups and reduced impact on behaviour change away from unsustainable practices</p>	major	possible	major	<p>Mitigated by co-operatives contracts that define roles, responsibilities, and remuneration. Disadvantaged groups, e.g. women and youth, will be involved in the project equitably so that they receive benefits.</p> <p>WeForest ensure livelihoods opportunities include a wide range of community members (e.g. nursery workers, tree planters) and not just VNRMC members.</p>	moderate
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>Community members do not want to work within co-operatives and with the social enterprise in newly developed value chains, preferring to sell what they produce directly to local markets reducing the impact of co-operative and social enterprise elements of this project.</p>	moderate	possible	major	<p>Mitigated by explaining the benefits of co-operatives and social enterprises during community engagements: access to government training, loans, and trade fairs; and increased potential incomes from group bargaining power, better marketing and access to higher value markets. FairWild also ensures value chains are fair, equitable and inclusive to maintain engagement.</p>	moderate
<p>Risk 5</p> <p>When the project ends, community members lose interest in co-management Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMC) and the value of restoration strategies developed in this project reducing the effectiveness of restoration and adherence to sustainable management of natural resources in the longer term.</p>	major	possible	major	<p>Mitigated by including co-management VNRMCs as architects of sustainable approaches, and owners of the model adopted. Also mitigated by long term involvement of WeForest, who will continue to provide technical and financial support to VNRMCs in the area for at least 10 years, keeping communities engaged</p>	moderate

Risk 6	major	possible	major	Mitigated by WeForest/MMCT's commitment to continue monitoring the biodiversity beyond the project timeframe to show change over more than 3 years. The methodology will also investigate un-restored and restored degraded areas, with a baseline before restoration, to be able to robustly evaluate relative change based on the restoration interventions.	minor
Due to the short timeframe of the project, the impact on biodiversity of the new restoration strategy cannot be fully measured reducing the evidence for the positive impacts of the project to support scaling up.					





Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

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

[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.

 [R28-Darwin-Implementation-Timetable-Mulanje mio mbo](#)
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 pdf 530.72 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

As in previous Darwin Initiative projects BGCI has led, a steering committee of national and international experts, including the main project partners and stakeholders, will be established to guide the project. This group will meet twice a year to monitor and evaluate project progress, including any challenges that have arisen, and will implement adaptive management, as needed. These will help to define how the co-operatives and social enterprise are established; the restoration trials are designed and monitored; and which species will be selected for economic development and what products will be produced.

Restoration activities will be monitored with a baseline biodiversity survey carried out on the sites to be restored compared to control sites before restoration activities are carried out. A survey will then be repeated at the project end to show the change that has occurred due to restoration activities. Similarly, the impacts on livelihoods within the project will be monitored through a socio-economic survey of households involved in the project versus households that are not. A baseline survey will be carried out at the project start that is repeated at the project end.

In addition, the resources assessment activities, built into the FairWild certification methodology and repeated on a yearly basis, will feed in to the adaptive management of the economic plant and fungi resources investigated in this project. These assessments of resource distribution and abundance, trends and gaps in knowledge are dependent to a large degree on local knowledge and involvement and will comprise a combination of fieldwork and consultation meetings and workshops. It is essential that adaptive management measures are adopted – and ideally suggested – by the local communities who are using those resources.

All project impacts on local communities will be monitored throughout the project via continuous engagement with local groups, and via the Steering Committee, ensuring these include women and other disadvantaged groups (e.g. youth) in the conversations. They will be able to report if there are any problems they have with the strategy or with their ability to engage with the strategy (e.g. for female headed households, are they able to engage alongside their other family commitments?). These consultations will give these groups the opportunity to raise concerns and contribute to project decisions, adapting project activities accordingly.

These engagements will also allow local communities to influence the decisions made depending on what they value most. This will be particularly important when deciding which economic species will be incorporated into the restoration strategy, i.e. including plant species they most value, have seen losses of and would like to see more available again in the future. They will also be the ultimate decision-makers in how the co-operatives and social enterprise should be set up, the roles and contracts that result and how the groups should work together and share benefits.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)

██████████

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)

██

Number of days planned for M&E

118

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q23. Logical Framework

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

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

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

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

🔗 [R28 Darwin St2 Logical Framework Mulanje miomb](#)
o FINAL
📅 31/01/2022
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📎 pdf 334.28 KB

Impact:

Plants and fungi from 7,500ha of miombo woodland surrounding Mount Mulanje are restored, managed and used sustainably by local communities creating biodiversity conservation and economic benefits

Outcome:

500 hectares of miombo woodland and 500 hectares of smallholder farm agro-forestry woodlots, comprising economically important native plants and fungi, are restored/managed sustainably benefiting biodiversity and supporting >10,200 people's livelihoods

Project Outputs

Output 1:

The opportunities for sustainable use and market potential of at least 10 local plant and fungi species assessed

Output 2:

FairWild assessment carried out for 5 plant species and fungi species to identify gaps in knowledge to achieve FairWild certification

Output 3:

At least 5 community co-operatives established (with at least 50 community members in each, 50% female) and trained to cultivate, harvest and process products from the 5 selected target species, and >75,000 households with raised awareness of the importance of sustainable management practices to biodiversity and people.

Output 4:

A social enterprise established, and people trained and supported to formalise and certify the value chains of 5 plant or fungi taxa

Output 5:

1000 hectares of degraded co-managed land under restoration and cultivation with useful native plants and fungi to benefit people and biodiversity

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer 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.

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)

- 1.1 Establish project steering committee and meet twice yearly to discuss project progress and make adaptive management decisions as needed
- 1.2 Local, national and international market analysis and value chain mapping, including firewood and charcoal industries
- 1.3 Value addition assessment
- 1.4 Species selection workshop to assess which 5 species are best to take forward
- 1.5 List of 5 prioritised native economic plant and fungi species produced

- 2.1 Risk analysis conducted to identify resilience of target species to harvesting pressure
- 2.2 Harvesting trials carried out
- 2.3 Sustainable harvest protocols produced for 5 economic plant and fungi species
- 2.4 Resource assessment fieldwork
- 2.5 Resource assessment workshops

2.6 FairWild checklist applied in audit or pre-audit, including fungi assessment pilot, for all 5 economic plant and fungi species

3.1 Community groups selected to be in co-operatives based of their interest, knowledge of the species

3.2 Co-operative groups trained in cultivation, sustainable harvesting and processing methods

3.3 Co-operative groups cultivating, harvesting and processing products from economic plant and fungi species sustainably

3.4 Co-operative managers / administrators selected

3.5 Ministry of Industry trains manager / administrators and registers co-operatives

3.6 Baseline Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey undertaken to assess the general populace's thoughts on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources

3.7 Conservation and sustainable use of miombo promoted, with the target species on local radio, television, in schools and at events like the yearly porters' race

3.8 Second KAP survey to assess success of public awareness campaign and highlight activities still needed

4.1 Community and stakeholder engagement workshops to understand opinions on enterprise development options

4.2 Feasibility analysis for requirements to establish enterprise, including identification of business incubator option (legal structures, registration etc.)

4.3 Business incubator supports social enterprise to become officially established

4.4 Training on conservation entrepreneurship and support to establish for enterprise team

4.5 Relevant new product research carried out to create value added products from the 5 selected species

4.6 New product(s) developed from research

4.7 FairWild training delivered

4.8 Branding and product promotion training

4.9 Business plans for the co-operative and social enterprise developed

5.1 Land use assessment workshops to assess community co-management areas

5.2 Restoration strategy designed using the target species involving community co-management communities, local scientific expertise, expertise from the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens

5.3 Collection and propagation training

5.4 Propagation of target species at community nurseries

5.5 Baseline biodiversity data collected from degraded co-managed land areas

5.6 Training to plant and manage restored sites

5.7 500 hectares of co-management areas restored, including with assisted natural regeneration of native plant and fungi species

5.8 At least 500 hectares of woodlots of useful native species under cultivation

5.9 Repeat biodiversity monitoring of sites

5.10 Analyse and report on biodiversity changes

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. 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 all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

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.

 [Budget_Mulanje_miombo_FINAL](#)
 31/01/2022
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 xlsx 80.64 KB

Q25. Financial Risk Management

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

It is BGCI's policy to conduct all of our business in an honest and ethical manner. We take a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and are committed to acting professionally, fairly and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships wherever we operate, and implementing and enforcing effective systems to counter bribery. This policy applies to all individuals working for or on behalf of BGCI at all levels and grades, whether permanent, fixed term or temporary, and wherever located, including consultants, contractors and partner organisations.

Regarding potential fluctuating foreign exchange rates, the value of the Malawian Kwacha has fluctuated by about 10% over the past 3 years against the GBP (from a maximum of MK913 to GBP1 to a minimum of MK1,011). We have budgeted accordingly, and are confident that, barring a major crash in GBP value, currency fluctuations will be favourable or manageable.

Equipment for research and development is often hard to acquire. Nevertheless, BGCI's standard procurement procedure is to seek multiple quotes from different suppliers and to carry out checks of suppliers to assess their interest and engagement with community development projects as well as to assess value for money.

Q26. Funding

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

Development of existing work

Please provide details:

This builds on previous Darwin Initiative projects that have established native tree nurseries in eight communities surrounding Mulanje mountain and which have also developed the skills and equipment to establish an essential oil industry from the Mulanje Cedar tree at the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust offices. The equipment provided for producing essential oils, may also be used to produce essential oils from other native species selected within this project, adding value to the previous project. Further development of the products and value chains will continue to take place through the present initiative, including through the new social enterprise to be established, in addition to the novel work around species and value chains originating within the Miombo restoration areas.

WeForest have also been working to reinvigorate the co-management block contracts and provide communities that have signed them with sustainable use options (beekeeping and honey production) that they have been working on for the past 2 years.

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

Yes

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

WeForest has been working in Zambia and Malawi on miombo community led restoration for 11 and 2 years respectively.

This involves supporting the governance structures, forest management plan development, law enforcement, fire management and income strategies (e.g. beekeeping) to ensure financial sustainability of the community management entities, and working towards the sustainable management of the forests. Their work has not targeted economic native plant and fungal species specifically because WeForest has not yet been able to support sustainable offtake and value chain linkages of such NTFPs for income generation. This project will focus on these elements, improving livelihoods and biodiversity outcomes from managing miombo woodlands. WeForest will be able to use the results in Zambia as well.

FairWild Foundation and TRAFFIC have highly complementary work in other countries worldwide and this provides a network with opportunities for experience exchange with other FairWild-certified operations and implementation projects, and access to business engagement efforts. FairWild have also been developing the criteria and indicators to apply the FairWild Standard to wild harvested fungi, and this project will act as a pilot for this initiative, with the support of the IUCN SSC Fungal Conservation Committee.

Q27. Capital items

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

Some capital items will be purchased to support further research and development of new products from native plants and fungi that can add value to these species and that local communities can benefit from. The exact equipment will be dependent on which species are selected to take forward. Distillation equipment costs have already been covered by the current Darwin Initiative project. Capital costs will not equate to >10% of the overall budget.

Q28. Value for Money

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

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

- Timesheets tracking input.
- Procurement procedures that include the requirement for at least 3 tenders for contracts above [REDACTED]
- Consultancy contracts in place before work commences and payment dependent on timely provision of deliverables to the 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.
- Half yearly finance reports from the partners will be reviewed by the BGCI Project Leader.

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

TRAFFIC also has extensive experience with managing Darwin projects, and will support delivery of FairWild Foundation's commitments in this regard.

The budget was prepared using a 2-3% inflation factor for years 2-3 salaries.

The project brings an estimated [REDACTED] in confirmed matched funding and in kind support.

WeForest has committed to a further [REDACTED] for restoration at EOP as further matched funds to the project. This will cover many activities include governance support, livelihood support, and forest management support to ensure sustainable community-led forest areas.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

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 on certification page)	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 safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. Please highlight any key safeguarding risks, including human rights issues, their assessment and measures to mitigate and manage them.

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

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

As outlined in question 12.b., this project builds on existing ABS work carried out in the previous Darwin Initiative project – such as the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements and Prior Informed Consent contracts with providers of use information. Any development that involved species outlined in that survey will be subject to the development of Mutually Agreed Terms that outline how benefits will go back to the knowledge providers. We will also make sure to include those groups in the training and engagement activities if they wish to be.

Q30. Ethics

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

This project is designed to meet all legal and ethical obligations of both the UK and Malawi. In particular, we recognise the value and importance of traditional knowledge to ensuring this project is a success.

The rights, privacy and safety of local people will be safeguarded with optional refusal to be part of activities if individuals or groups do not want to participate. Any results from community engagement will be published anonymously so that no internal conflicts or tensions might be caused. This will be particularly important when engaging with charcoal and firewood collectors.

The project includes a wide variety of stakeholders, including local communities, local conservation organisations and national and government organisations. These will help to shape and make decisions for the project, adhering to local community needs and national policies for development and environmental protection.

The credibility of evidence, research and other findings is of vital importance to the project to validate any positive impacts so that others can take the lessons learnt and scale up for restoration in Mulanje (WeForest), Malawi (Department of Forestry and Environmental Affairs Department) and other Southern African countries with miombo woodlands (e.g. Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo).

The project will respect the rights, privacy, and safety of people who are impacted directly and indirectly by project activities and use Prior Informed Consent principles with communities. It will also protect the health and safety of all project staff.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q31. FCDO Notifications

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

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes, advice attached

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

 [FCDO Advice Mulanje miombo](#)

 31/01/2022

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

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

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Alex Hudson	Project Leader	40	Checked

Dominic Grantley-Smith	Public Awareness Officer	40	Checked
Kirsty Shaw	Restoration Advisor	10	Checked
Thokozani Chikapa-Chavura	Community Forest Manager	30	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ruben Foquet	WeForest Co-ordinator	10	Checked
Bryony Morgan	FairWild Executive Officer	7	Checked
Emily King	FairWild Business Engagement Officer	5	Checked
Rebecca Holmes	Project Support Officer	2	Checked
Kondwani Chamwala	MMCT Public awareness officer	20	Checked
Ibrahim Mitole	MMCT Project Manager	33	Checked
To be recruited	MMCT Project Co-ordinator	80	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

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.

 [CVs - combined Mulanje miombo](#)

 31/01/2022

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 pdf 3.69 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner - i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name: Botanic Gardens Conservation International

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

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

BGCI is the world's largest plant conservation network with over 650 member organisations in >100 countries. Our mission is to mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet. There are an estimated 60,000 scientists, horticulturists and educators in BGCI's network, and we co-ordinate global consortia engaged in tree red listing (<https://globaltreeassessment.org/>); tree conservation (<https://globaltrees.org/>), and; ecological restoration (<https://www.erabg.org/>). BGCI led the recent State of the World's Trees report, which involved >500 contributors, and which, highlights that at least 30% of the world's tree species are threatened with extinction.

BGCI's main strength is its partner institutions, which have unparalleled technical knowledge relating to botanical diversity as well as extensive experience in public engagement. BGCI will play a co-ordinating role, leading this project, providing technical support, biodiversity data and public awareness expertise. In addition, international support will be provided by members of BGCI's Ecological Restoration Alliance (www.erabg.org).

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

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes No

Do you have partners involved in the Project? Yes

1. Partner Name: Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust

Website address: n/a

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. MMCT will be responsible for the establishment of community co-operatives, the assessment of plant and fungi resources with FairWild support and establishment of the social enterprise to support these co-operatives, with WeForest support. They will also lead on public awareness activities and the KAP survey to monitor changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

2. Partner Name: WeForest

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

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

WeForest works with communities, local organizations and NGOs to develop scalable reforestation projects, demonstrating that restoring our degraded landscapes is possible if we all work together.

WeForest will coordinate all miombo restoration-related activities and will utilize its ongoing community collaboration with Kazembe and Tchete Forest Block Committees (FBCs) in the Forest Reserve to:

1. conduct land use assessments of the co-management areas (including firewood/charcoal utilization), building on existing vegetation surveys (PFRA) and aligned with planned FLR assessments in the buffer area surrounding the Forest Reserve,
2. ensure community expectations are managed, clarifying the experimental nature of the project efforts,
3. align miombo product identification with community interests,
4. embed new co-operatives that focus on miombo valorization within the existing community governance structures,
5. restore and safeguard 300 ha of miombo woodland as part of the wider co-management area,
6. utilize pilot results post project within the planned WeForest co-management expansion areas of in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders.

Through its ongoing engagement with the Department of Forestry, WeForest will ensure benefit-sharing conditions are negotiated with relevant partners, ensuring revenue streams are transparently and equitably shared across forest shareholders. This will underpin the financial sustainability of community-led forest management entities.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

3. Partner Name: FairWild Foundation

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

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

FairWild Foundation is a Swiss non-profit organisation, registered in 2008. Its mission is to enable transformation of resource management and business practices to be ecologically, socially and economically sustainable throughout the supply chain of wild-collected products. Through the FairWild Standard and third-party audited certification scheme, FairWild provides a worldwide framework for implementing a sustainable, fair and value-added management and trading system for wild-collected natural ingredients and products.

FairWild works with a range of partners and stakeholders worldwide to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wild plants, fungi and lichen, focusing on species in international trade. They aim to improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of rural communities involved in wild plant collection – harvesters being some of the poorest and most marginalised members of society.

FairWild will support the implementation of an innovative new implementation of FairWild standard for fungi and support the training of local communities and organisations to carry out the FairWild assessments. Their communication platform and events will also provide a channel for disseminating information on the project and sharing experience and lessons learned. FairWild will also carry out a risk analysis of the target plant and fungi species to understand their resilience to different harvesting pressures.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

4. Partner Name: Forestry Research Institute of Malawi

Website address: n/a

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 provides technical support – e.g. for Mulanje Cedar restoration on Mulanje.

In this project FRIM and local forestry officers, will provide continued technical support for community nurseries, as well as field activities in the miobo. FRIM and local forestry officers will work with experts from BGCI's Ecological Restoration Alliance (ERA) to design restoration in the miombo.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

No

If no, please provide details

The letter of support wasn't received in time for the application deadline, apparently due to a cyclone that hit Malawi and brought power lines down in Zomba on January 29th. We believe it has been written but will forward it to the Darwin Secretariat as soon as we receive it.

5. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address:

No Response

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

No Response

Allocated budget:

£0.00

Represented on the Project Board

Yes

No

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00





Represented on the Project Board Yes No





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

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

We have also included letters of support from Candlex, KWOS, Amaravi, Harvest table, Muhinje Farm and Satemwa Tea Estates, all of which are interested in supporting the social enterprise and marketing natural products.

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

 [BGCI Covering Letter Mulanje miombo](#)
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 [Letters of support - combined Mulanje miombo](#)
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Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

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

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

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

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

I apply for a grant of





██████████

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

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

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





Checked

Name	Dr Paul Smith
Position in the organisation	Secretary General (CEO)
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 PS signature  28/01/2022  18:12:46  jpg 25.71 KB
Date	31 January 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 2019 annual report and accounts  28/01/2022  18:12:04  pdf 1.01 MB	 2020 annual report and accounts  28/01/2022  18:12:03  pdf 1016.58 KB
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 Safeguarding-Children-Young-Persons-and-Vulnerabl e-Adults-Policy  28/01/2022  16:08:19  pdf 281.61 KB
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Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial 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 Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.	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 Partner, 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 the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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