

DIR28S2\1094

Using invasive alien trees to support conservation and improve livelihoods

Several invasive alien species impose significant threats to Malagasy biodiversity and rural economy. At Pointe à Larrée, the invasive *Melaleuca quinquenervia* outcompetes native plant species and degrades ecosystems. Within the protected area, we will control *Melaleuca* by transforming its wood into charcoal as a new revenue stream for charcoal producers thereby assisting natural regeneration of native species. The sale will be ensured by local cooperative with technical support from partners including capacity building and elaboration global management strategy.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Missouri Botanical Garden
Phone	[REDACTED]
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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Using invasive alien trees to support conservation and improve livelihoods

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

DIR28S1\1528

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

Freshwater (streams, rivers and lakes)

Biome 3

Palustrine wetlands (flooded forests, wetlands, marshes, floodplains)

Conservation Action 1

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

Conservation Action 2

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 3

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

Threat 1

Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases

Threat 2

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

Threat 3

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

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.

Several invasive alien species impose significant threats to Malagasy biodiversity and rural economy. At Pointe à Larrée, the invasive *Melaleuca quinquenervia* outcompetes native plant species and degrades ecosystems. Within the protected area, we will control *Melaleuca* by transforming its wood into charcoal as a new revenue stream for charcoal producers thereby assisting natural regeneration of native species. The sale will be ensured by local cooperative with technical support from partners including capacity building and elaboration global management strategy.

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 Madagascar
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 July 2022

End date:

31 March 2025

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

2 years, 9 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£98,636.00	£50,949.00	£47,821.00	£ 197,406.00

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?

Global Environment Facilities (GEF) and Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) de l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) will provide: 1) globally of staff salaries (Project manager, Assistant of Project Manager, and Head Forest Policing, Development Manager, Research Manager and Accountant, administrative and Finance Officer), 2) supports for the production and planting of native trees in the restoration zones (total=£

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?

No

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).

Madagascar's 123 Protected Areas (PAs, area = 7.5 million ha) mostly contain woody vegetation types. Despite designation as PAs, deforestation, rooted in poverty, loss of natural capital in formerly productive landscapes and political instability,

continues at an alarming rate. While conservationists battle to conceive and implement programs to reduce forest loss, historically they have over-looked the threat posed by invasive alien species (IAS) - a biological cancer that erodes the integrity of ecosystems, threatens native fauna and flora, and often is associated with diverse and important socio-economic costs. In Madagascar, the most recent data compilation work listed 101 invasive plant species (Kull et al. 2012) yet almost no research has explored the impacts of these species here. Nevertheless, globally biological invasion is considered as one of the main threats to biodiversity (Máiz-Tomé et al., 2018). Warned by scientists, the Malagasy government, as part of the development of Madagascar's NBSAP, includes work to combat invasive species (Rabarison et al. 2015).

The Pointe à Larrée PA on Madagascar's central-eastern coast is an old dune complex including very rare littoral forest and swamp forest, marshes and lakes supporting rich fauna and flora including scores of threatened and locally endemic species. This natural wealth is threatened by the non-sustainable exploitation of native trees by impoverished local people for timber and fuel and the impact of a number of alien invasive plants. Most local people living in this landscape are subsistence farmers or fisherfolk and have precarious lives - often impacted by environmental events (floods, droughts, catastrophic winds, fires) which have become increasingly prevalent and frequent due to the effects of climate change. At such times they resort to plundering the remaining forest for timber or charcoal for sale. Since the definitive creation of this PA in 2015, charcoal production has remained problematic and, despite the prohibition of this practice, the activity continues because of the high local and regional demand for charcoal. In Madagascar, 90% of households use wood for cooking. Charcoal production creates gaps in native forest that favor the installation and proliferation of fast growing, light-loving invasive species much to the detriment of native species. While the landscape hosts several consequential IAS, perhaps the most significant is the marsh-loving pyrophile tree *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, because it dries marshes, promotes wild fires and out-competes native woody plants since its seeds germinate prolifically and grow rapidly after wild fire (<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=45>). The aquatic ecosystems of Pointe à Larrée home several species of endemic and threatened wild birds and a rich aquatic flora and their habitats are reduced by invasion of *Melaleuca*. Currently, despite its extraordinary abundance in this landscape, *Melaleuca* is little used by local people for fuel because its wood is surrounded by a very thick layer of spongy bark that makes the trees difficult to process. However, the wood of the species makes a good-quality charcoal which has calorific value 4400kcal/kg. (https://apps.worldagroforestry.org/treedb/AFTPDFS/Melaleuca_quinquenervia.PDF). This project aims to remove obstacles to the use of *Melaleuca* for charcoal with benefits for both biodiversity and local people.

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)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

Madagascar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the sustainable management of biodiversity (2015-2025) aligns with several international conventions and treaties, 22 already ratified. This project contributes to the realization of several of these conventions:

- 1) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (ratification in Madagascar: decree n°95-695 of 03 November 1995 Article 8 (h) to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species . The IAS targeted by this project are in full expansion phase at Pointe-à-Larrée and Madagascar is more generally leading to the degradation of ecosystems of high biodiversity value and socio-economic loss. For this convention, objective 9 of

Madagascar's NBSAP has defined four main actions and this project contributes to: Action 2) Develop and implement a National Strategy and programs to combat the invasive species, emphasising prevention and control while involving the local community in these processes and; Action 4) Encourage research for the valorisation of invasive species and set up dissemination/extension programs (RABARISON, et al. 2015).

2) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (ratified in Madagascar 24/03/98, Resolution VII.14, 7th Meeting in 1999) deals specifically with promoting adequate measures on the prevention, eradication and control of invasive species in favor of wetland conservation. The Pointe-à-Larrée is dominated by wetland ecosystems where Melaleuca is seriously impacting ecological functionality. This species dramatically dries up water resources through high evapotranspiration and alter hydrology (MAZZOTTI et al. 1997). Combating to Melaleuca aligns with the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, Goal 1: "Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation" in which it fits into Target 2: "Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfill their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone" and Target 4: including priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated (https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/ramsar_convention_strategic_plan_poster_english.pdf)

3) Madagascar has also ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Climate Agreement according (Law No. 2014-022 of 10/12/14 ratifying the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and Law No. 2016-019 of 10/08/16). This project aims to promote adaptation and mitigation measures through enabling natural regeneration of native trees and reducing the risk of forest loss through wild fires. In addition, this project promotes native forest restoration in the Melaleuca-free zone. This is part of the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) of Madagascar, Strategic Priority 2: Implement a large-scale restoration program for the most threatened ecosystems (MEDD, 2019).

4) The project also contributes to SDGs (ratification in 1995) as mainly expressed in Chapter 4 of the NBSAP (Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development). The implementation of this convention is multifaceted, encompassing several sectoral programs in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Document (DSRP, 2005). Valorising Melaleuca for "green" charcoal mainly contributes to promoting lucrative activities without compromising the integrity of ecosystems, equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilisation of natural resources, promoting equal rights between women and men.

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.).

Missouri Botanical Garden has managed Pointe-à-Larrée reserve for 13 years while promoting community-based conservation and income-generating activities. During this period, we have learnt how to succeed for such projects.

1) Involvement of stakeholders in the project

To manage Pointe-à-Larrée PA, MBG has collaborated with local and regional stakeholders with positive results. This inclusive approach will be adopted in this project involving various partners: grassroots communities, local authorities and the technical services (Regional Direction of Environment and Sustainable Development (RDESD) and Regional Direction of Industry, Trade and Consumption (RDITC). At launch, the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder will be clarified through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to ensure that all parties know their rights and responsibilities. Local communities will: 1) work to eliminate populations of Melaleuca (charcoal workers and women's groups) and thereby enable forest restoration (around 600 members), grouped in five Associations (COBA) federated under the name Lovasoa - a non-profit organization and will be in charge of mobilisation membership, organization of activities and awareness-raising; 2) invite local charcoal producers to join a local cooperative called SAMY ANTSIKA which is a lucrative organisation that already has obtained a trade agreement and that will operate to promote the sale of Melaleuca charcoal. The technical services (RDESD and RDITC) will facilitate the actions of local communities, validate and issue authorizations for the exploitation and selling of charcoal. The local authorities (Mayors, President Fokontany) will intervene especially in the case

of conflicts which could arise during the implementation of the project. MBG will coordinate and manage the project and act as grant manager to partners.

2) Capacity building of local stakeholders

Stakeholders must acquire sufficient technical skills before implementation phase. Thus in YR1, Project Manager (PM) and the president of the charcoal makers will organise an exchange trip to Indonesia to learn efficient techniques for making Melaleuca charcoal. On their return to Madagascar, they will train the charcoal producers. Capacity for the Cooperative Leaders will also be strengthened through a series of training workshops: including financial management, associative management, entrepreneurial culture, good governance, negotiation, and marketing. The three first themes will be provided by RDITC and consultants will be recruited to deliver other themes.

3) Promote transparent management

By working with local communities for over a decade, management transparency is essential for the success of community-based projects. Poor management (especially governance) causes tension with members and leads to failure. Thus, a participative workshop will be organised to develop a manual of procedure and to revise internal rules as framework documents.

5) Support a lucrative and sustainable Melaleuca charcoal business

From 2012 to 2017, MBG represented Rainforest Alliance certification program and worked with more than 12,000 certified producers of vanilla, clove and cocoa. The RDITC team by collaborating with several projects (e.g PROSPERER), has also acquired strong experiences of success, also failures, all of which could serve as basic guides. The success of such a community project depends on three parameters: 1) the economic profitability of the activity, 2) good organization of the group, and 3) operational traceability system. These parameters will form the basis of the business plan developed to orientate the investment. The decision of a family to commit on an activity depends a priori on lucrative value. Currently, charcoal from native species from natural forests is prohibited according to note n°134/20/MEDD/SG/DREDD-ANLJ/SRCEF of 17 April, 2020 issued by the forest administration. Melaleuca charcoal will be a welcome alternative. To support the cooperative, four graduates originated from the region will be recruited to develop this document, including two from marketing and two on accounting management. They will be supervised by RDITC and by a businessman/women with demonstrable success in working with cooperatives. As the product is new to the area, a strong marketing strategy will be developed. In this document, a solid sale processing system is required to ensure the reliability of supply to buyers. Also, a clear policy and associated mechanism on product traceability will be defined. At launch of operations, the cooperative will be supported in materials and equipment including a start-up fund for the purchase of charcoal, a motorboat for transport at sea, rental of two sale's points, construction of a warehouse close by the sea and the repair of a current warehouse near the national road, provision of sale equipment (packaging, furniture) and remuneration of some staff (skipper, saleswomen, guardian). A part of the benefit earned by cooperative will be returned to charcoal producers who fully commit to respect regulations.

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.

Linking conservation with business is a major challenge in Madagascar. Many people think that these are two antagonistic poles. In this project, we will demonstrate that releasing the commercial value of invasive species could be a promising mechanism combining biodiversity conservation and economic development (Tardivel, 2018).

The technical services (RDESD and RDITC technicians) will benefit from cross-training through workshops and on-the-job training. At the end of the project, these technicians will perceive a new paradigm, the way of living with invasive species if eradication seems impossible.

For local communities, 300 charcoal burners and around ten cooperative leaders will be gaining their livelihoods through an environmentally-friendly business. At the end of the project, they will be more open to new ways of using natural resources. Currently, nearly all members of the cooperative, earn their living by exploiting cash crops such as cloves, lychees or vanilla. The cooperative itself has devoted itself to the marketing of these products. This Project will open a new horizons on the marketing of a new non-agricultural product. More importantly, the skills that they will capitalize through series of training projects could be used to other sectors of activity, creating jobs, increasing income and improving

livelihoods in rural areas. Among the trainees some will certainly to use the knowledge gained from this project for activities beyond the scope of charcoal production.

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.

In Malagasy societies, tasks are traditionally divided between men and women. However, there are some common activities with which family members help each other such that the work becomes a family operation. We have no intention of upsetting this functional system. Whatever the nature of the work to be done, with this project, compensation is equal between men and women and without distinction of age. For producing charcoal of Melaleuca, each family will operate its own production unit and the revenues will be for the household. Overall, the felling of trees or removal of bark will be reserved for men, while women help to build ovens and transport products. At Pointe à Larrée, we often encounter cases of single women with a few dependent children, abandoned by their husbands. They can be considered as a vulnerable groups. These single women will be prioritized for the removal of the young Melaleuca seedlings (to prevent regeneration in cleared areas). Also, many young people do not have fertile arable land, are unemployed, and often a source of social insecurity. They will be encouraged to join the charcoal Association. Insecurity is one of the reasons why women do not participate in work in the forests and to mitigate this we task Lovasoa to promote group work. For the restoration program, part of the plan (supported with match funds) will be to produce seedlings of native trees in nurseries and both women and men will participate in this activity, similarly for out-planting of seedlings. The leaders of the cooperative will be tasked with developing procedures and

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?

To be effective, the communication component must formulate key messages, identify the targets and choose appropriate channels for disseminating information. Charcoal producers are the primary targets and communication with this group will be done through village meetings and focus groups at Project' launch. Their motivation will be enhanced by initially receiving incentives to exploit this new raw material and using new technique to produce charcoal.

The cooperative will play the role of interface between charcoal producers and consumers. Their motivation is assumed to be based on the economic profitability of the activity as demonstrated by supporting documents such as the business plan that will demonstrate economic viability. Communication with the cooperative committee takes place through face-to-face discussion.

The third and most important link in the value chain will be with consumers. Communication to consumers about this new product will be done through mass awareness - broadcasting on the local radio and participating in events (e.g. festivals). The expected result is that, informed of the viability of Melaleuca charcoal as a heat source and ware of the harm done by IAS, consumers will change their behavior and develop loyalty to the product. The marketing strategy should be based on the brand and the image with an affordable price for the masses. Political leaders, as decision-makers are also targets and they are expected to change their vision on invasive species. While these decision-makers may be sluggish in perceiving the advantages of the project, by dint of observing social and economic advantages, ultimately they will act positively for policy regarding IAS.

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.

Environmentally, the impacts of Melaleuca can be seen in three aspects: 1) preventing the natural regeneration of forests, 2) reducing the area of marsh important for birds, fish and amphibians; 3) promote the spread and intensity of fire. Our experiences on forest restoration have shown that on the eastern coast of Madagascar, where the climate is hot and humid, the growth rate of native plants is quite high if such hindrance of IAS can be reduced. Some species, such as a rosewood *Dalbergia normandii*, *Uapaca* spp, *Intsia bijuga*, can, after three years, attain up to 3 m in height if IAS are eliminated. During the three years of the project, it is expected that the Melaleuca populations within the PA will be controlled and approximately 50Ha of invaded area will be released and able to resume normal regeneration. In areas where Melaleuca has been eliminated, out-planting of tree seedlings will accelerate ecosystem recovery. The current very dense monospecific stands of Melaleuca will become much more species diverse and the ecological functions of the ecosystems will return together with rare species of birds, fish and amphibians..

On the socio-economic level, over two decades, logging has been the main source of income for lumbermen around Pointe à Larrée reserve. From 2015, the legal creation of the PA, restrictions were established prohibiting charcoal production. Since, then a majority have decided to change jobs, others continue this activity illegally although the income is very meager. This latter group will be mainly the target of this project and after three years, around 100 families will enjoy an increase in income. The average monthly income in the area is around Ar 150,000 (around £28) (surveys carried out in 2017) and that a 25% increase in income is expected for charcoal producers. At the consumer level, currently no Melaleuca charcoal is on the market and charcoal from native species (with some also being provided from eucalyptus and grevillea) provides a large part of urban needs. At YR3, we expect to deliver 60 tons of charcoal from Melaleuca to local markets, corresponding to approximately 30% of urban consumption around Pointe à Larrée. Faced with the charcoal shortage in the region, Melaleuca's green charcoal will partially solve this social trouble, especially during cyclones, as the product will be always available.

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.

Our theory of change addresses two problems: threat posed by invasive species to biodiversity has little attention Malagasy population, then secondly very few investors are ready to invest in invasive species as a business (zero for Melaleuca because of the difficulty of removing the bark). Many are instead interested in native species for both production and consumption. So our theory of change is that: if the problem posed by IAS is perceived by the population through an awareness campaign (approximately 20,000 people sensitized annually), if the 100 charcoal producers are ready to invest in Melaleuca as raw materials, and if consumers become aware and change their behavior in favor of appreciating Melaleuca charcoal, at least 50ha of natural forest will be cleaned up in IAS, then Melaleuca brings in a stable income for the communities, the charcoal crisis will be solved (with a contribution of 30% of annual consumption in Year 3). In this trajectory, the communities will retain more motivation to eliminate Melaleuca populations while having a new source environmentally friendly income. This pragmatism will create a win-win situation for both biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement and this could be extended with other species or in other geographical zones.

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?


The sustainability of the actions depends on the efficacy of the cooperative in ensuring their role as an interface between charcoal producers and consumers. For this, two main parameters should be mastered: 1) technical capacity of the members of the cooperative to be autonomous in management; 2) financial capacity to operate and above all to maintain the mutually beneficial cooperation mechanism with charcoal producers. To achieve this, the start-up fund for purchasing charcoal will be continuously mobilized as revolving funds. During the project lifetime, the Leaders of the cooperative will be intensively trained to be up to managing the cooperative, and this training and coaching must be repeated in an iterative way so that it becomes routine by Project end. In the region, there is a good model of a rural cooperative: FANOHANA which started with 121 family members in 2011 and now has 542, and whose business figures have

multiplied by 10 times in 10 years (Mr Serge, Director of the cooperative FANOHANA, pers. Comm., <https://www.ethiquable.coop/fiche-producteur/fanohana-commerce-equitable-a-madagascar-litchi-ananas-epices>). The PM has actively participated in the preparation and technical training of FANOHANA Leaders since 2002. The management model for this project should be similar to that of FANOHANA although the latter operates only with agricultural products. To ensure that the necessary capacities are acquired, cooperation between the two cooperatives is envisaged so with FANOHANA serving as a mentor for SAMY ANTSIKA. For future development the Cooperative will have to extend actions, both geographically and in diversity of products, producing charcoal of other IAS such as *Grevillea banksii* and/or *Psidium cattleianum*, both of which are abundant at Pointe-à-Larrée. Cooperative should be able to sustain when getting start-up funds and used wisely as seed money when expanding membership in new geographical areas.

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

 [DIR28S11528-SUPPORTING INFORMATION Lehavana](#)

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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
<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>In this project, four partners will collaborate in implementation, each with their habitual ways of managing funds. If the partner does not have a rigorous control system, there is a risk of misuse of the funds and other resources.</p>	High	Likely	Medium	Since all partners work in the same region, the payment of funds will be made according to standard procedures of demand and financial reporting. Monitoring of the use of funds will be carried out by MBG financial officer to ensure management transparency, including especially authenticity of invoices.	Low
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>A large part of the work area is aquatic (river, lakes, sea), the team must use a lot of travel by canoe, canoe, boat. There is a risk of shipwreck especially the members of the cooperation which will transport charcoal from Pointe à Larrée to Sainte Marie</p>	High	Almost certain	High	Recruit a professional skipper for the Cooperative motorboat. Enforced rules will be established to prevent use of the motorboat in bad weather, to prevent overloading of boat and require use of a life jacket. A rescue system will also be set up with the other two MBG's on-site motorboats	Medium

Delivery Chain Consumers do not appreciate Melaleuca charcoal and insist on finding charcoal from native species. Hence, the charcoal producers are demotivated and they abandon the activity. At the cooperative level, the activity is not lucrative and the members no longer want to continue the business.	High	Unlikely	High	Intensify public awareness, adopt “push and pull” strategy, subsidise operations until consumers get used to and like the product. We can also change marketing strategy by specifying the product as premium, and changing the target, e.g., hotels, conservation organisations, tourist operators who want to sell the “green charcoal” brand.	Medium
Risk 4 Sales managers will be hired for each sale's point. Paying a large sum of cash to the cash register risks having a bad attempt at embezzlement. Same case for the withdrawal of funds from the bank	High	Possible	Medium	Whenever possible, payment is made by check in the name of a trusted person. In the procedure manual, at least two people are designated fund withdrawing and they will be accompanied by an MBG technician until full trust is established.	Medium
Risk 5 For producing charcoal of Melaleuca, charcoal producers could cheat by mixing the woods of native species. Similarly for sale, at the departure and arrival of the delivery point, those responsible could also try to ship other bags of charcoal from native species.	Medium	Likely	Medium	The Rangers under the supervision of the Head Forest Policing will control the forests daily to observe infraction and if this exists, a prosecution will be initiated with the Forest Service. Each embarkation and disembarkation by motorboat will be in the presence of a forest officer for control and validation.	Low
Risk 6 Consumers do not appreciate Melaleuca charcoal and insist on finding charcoal from native species. Hence, the charcoal producers are demotivated and they abandon the activity. At the cooperative level, the activity is not lucrative and the members no longer want to continue the business.	High	Unlikely	High	Intensify public awareness, adopt “push and pull” strategy, subsidise operations until consumers get used to and like the product. We can also change marketing strategy by specifying the product as premium, and changing the target, e.g., hotels, conservation organisations, tourist operators who want to sell the “green charcoal” brand	Medium

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-DIR28S11528_Darwin-Implementation-Timetable-Template-Lehavana](#)
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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](#)).

Following best practice, data will be collected by on a continual basis by different partners as integral part of their work. However, the Assistant Project manager will be in charge of collating and databasing the data and then analyzing the data. The data and the analyses will be verified by the Project Manager and restituted to all project partners as the basis of debate to inform adaptive management. Data collected by the technicians of RDESD and RDITC using their standard practices will be of great value, especially as part of efforts to engage the Government in reflections concerning the potential value of IAS.

As training of beneficiaries is an important component of the project, for the first two months after each training module, the trainers will intervene monthly to follow up adoption of the proposed protocols and if necessary to provide reinforcement. Each partner, will organize quarterly monitoring of activities to track progress of its own interventions. For LP and RDESD, the monitoring mainly concerns the impacts on conservation, i.e rates of exploitation of native trees with evidence based on the results of daily patrols within PA. RDESD will also ensure quarterly monitoring of the specifications relating to the exploitation of Melaleuca to evaluate whether the charcoal producers are complying with the operating clauses.

At the end of each semester, all partners (MBG, RDESD, RDITC and FL) with the local authorities (Mayors and Presidents of Fokontany) will organize a stakeholder workshop to track the progress of the project by taking into account all the indicators. Recommendations will be made for improvement and fine-tuning of actions.

For evaluation, an external expert will be recruited to evaluate the project in two periods: 1) mid-term evaluation scheduled one year after the start of the project. This first evaluation will inform all stakeholders (and the donor) the progress and give truly independent feedback especially concerning future orientations; 2) final evaluation, to begin three months before the end of the project with the aim of identifying the main lessons learned and providing detailed recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the actions undertaken. It will also evaluate whether the project was implemented in an effective and efficient manner. An annual financial monitoring of the program will also be scheduled to refine the future planning of activities and also to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of input uses.

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

178

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-DIR28S11528 Darwin-St2-Logical-Framework-MB](#)
[G PAL](#)
 31/01/2022
 21:57:45
 pdf 313.73 KB

Impact:

The ecosystems of the Pointe-à-Larrée PA are restored to a more natural condition while local people obtain needed fuel-wood and access improved livelihoods from “green” charcoal.

Outcome:

A self-sustaining approach to the use of IAS is launched that demonstrably reduces the threat of Melaleuca at Pointe à Larrée PA while providing fuel-wood and income for local people

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Melaleuca eliminated from high priority restoration zones within the PA thereby enhancing natural regeneration

Output 2:

Melaleuca charcoal produced preferentially by local people and accesses lucrative markets with livelihood benefits for locals

Output 3:

Melaleuca charcoal appreciated by urban populations and product sale strategy supported sustainably

Output 4:

Promising model of a new relationship with IAS demonstrated to land managers (including PA managers) and public awareness on IAS (threats and opportunities) increased

Output 5:

No Response

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.

- 1.1. Launch of project with full range of local stakeholders including: Regional launch, village meetings around PaL; radio broadcasts; courtesy visits with representatives of local government and decentralised technical services. Listen to feedback and address concerns.
- 1.2. Work with local government and decentralised technical services to provide a legal framework for this initiative
- 1.3 Work with Regional Direction of Environment and Sustainable Development (RDESD) to conduct research to develop annual prospections and developing exploitation plans and contract and specification clauses, map priority zones with PA for the elimination of Melaleuca (= restoration zones)
- 1.4. Research Manager (RM) and RDESD direct monthly members of the "green charcoal cooperative" (GCC) to the restoration zones and ensures exploitation protocols are respected.
- 1.5 Rangers ensure daily patrols to make sure none of the charcoal burners cut native species.
- 1.6 RDESD supports Rangers in law enforcement and control in the case of infractions
- 1.7 Federation Lovasoa (FL) organises, mobilises and plans intervention of community members for each Association COBA, removing seedlings and sapling of Melaleuca, tree planting.
- 1.8 Head Forest Policing (HFP) from Missouri Botanical Garden and FL direct three monthly participatory monitoring patrols to assess the cutting rates of native species within the PA
- 1.9 RM directs female members of the GCC in work to remove young plants of Melaleuca from restoration zones and pays them fair compensation for their work.
- 1.10 Assistant Project Manager (APM), RDESD conduct three-monthly monitoring for compliance with the clauses in the specifications of Melaleuca exploitation contracts.
- 2.1. Study trip by PM and President of GCC to Indonesia to identify best practice for the production of charcoal from Melaleuca
- 2.2. Purchase tools to enable efficient conversion of Melaleuca into charcoal
- 2.3. PM conducts training workshops for members of GCC in best practice for the conversion of Melaleuca into charcoal.
- 2.4. PM and Development Manager (DM) coaches the charcoal producers and GCC in best practice for two first months
- 3.1 Regional Direction of Industry, Trade and Consumption (RDITC) conducts diagnostic to identify strength, weakness, threat and opportunity
- 3.2. A small team of recent graduates in business (two graduates) and in accounting (two graduates) develop marketing strategy and business plan of the cooperative with assistance of RDITC
- 3.3 RDITC and a Consultant businessman coach graduates on developing marketing strategy and business plan
- 3.4 Workshop organised for all stakeholders to validate business plan, manual of procedure and internal rule of the cooperative
- 3.5 RDITC and Consultants conduct training the Leaders of the Cooperative on at least six topics.
- 3.6 GCC organises stocks of charcoal on site for transport, purchase charcoal from producers as start-up funds
- 3.7 GCC rents two sale's point (in Soanierana Ivongo and in Sainte Marie).
- 3.8 GCC hires two sale managers in Sainte Marie and in Soanierana Ivongo and one skipper
- 3.9 GCC builds one warehouse at Pointe à Larrée for facilitating the marine route transportation from Pointe à Larrée to sale's points and extend existing warehouse close to national road.
- 3.10 GCC purchases a motorboat and equipment for provision of supply from Pointe à Larrée to sale's points
- 3.11 Monthly, RDESD validates that charcoal for sale originates entirely from Melaleuca and conducts control of stock in the warehouse
- 3.12 RDITC delivers agreement of sale
- 3.13 GCC and DM implement marketing strategy for sale
- 3.14 DM conduct surveys for assessing the needs of consumers (risk mitigation activity).
- 3.15 DM coaches GCC for implantation of business plan
- 3.16 RDITC, following each training session, conducts monthly technical monitoring for the two first months, afterwards three-monthly monitoring to continue coaching

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.

 [DIR28S11528 1 MASTER Budget update Lehavana](#)
 31/01/2022
 22:04:04
 xlsx 82.27 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.

Missouri Botanical Garden is committed to the work ethic recommended in the guidance. Financial risk management has been carefully studied and mitigation measures have been proposed. At MBG-Madagascar, our internal regulations stipulate zero-tolerance whatever the forms of embezzlement or corruption or fraud. If the fact is proven to one of these reasons described above leads to dismissal. In practice, MBG's financial management system has a rigorous and effective control mechanism. All budgets must be justified with invoices in good and due form with accounting and an efficient transaction system. This minimizes the risk of such a situation occurring. We, through a memorandum of understanding to be established, will clarify and inform partners to respect these principles. It is the same for all consultants to be recruited to comply with it.

With regard to the risk linked to the fluctuating exchange rate, we have already taken this into account in the budget projection. In developing the activity schedule, the time required for international fund transactions is also taken into account to minimize loss in exchange rate.

Q26. Funding

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

- New Initiative

Please provide details:

Missouri Botanical Garden has been operating in Pointe à Larrée since 2008. During these times, we have established a situation of trust with the communities by promoting conservation while providing support for income generation. We are proud of the results and mutual trust has been built with partners. However, much remains to be done in terms of development. Since then, the problem of invasive species has remained our particular attention, controlling the spread of a few sporadic plants of IAS other than Melaleuca. This was funded by GEF/UN-Environment from 2017 to 2022 through a restoration program. For Melaleuca, in 2010, a study was conducted by producing prototypes of sculpture from this species (with strawberry guava) was funded by Conservation International but this was not completed until the sale. The present project to produce charcoal from the species is a new initiative, as it aims eliminating the population within PA. The implementation of the project will strengthen existing conservation initiatives and provide a solution for charcoal burner group. The problem of charcoal burner has never been tackled such way whilst its forest destroying effects. This project

will bring added-value for conservation and will provide socio-economic perspectives for local and regional livelihoods.

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

No

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.

Capital items to be purchased in this project include motorbike, laptop, digital camera, GPS, tools for removing bark of Melaleuca and a motorboat. To enable the charcoal burners to produce efficiently charcoal of Melaleuca, each of them will be equipped with a machine for removal of problematic bark. Also to facilitate the delivery of charcoal to sale's points, the cooperative will be equipped with a motorboat. These two items will be provided to beneficiaries of the project for maximising profitability of the activity and occupy about 64% of the total cost of the capital items. At the end of the project, the items will be left with the partners to allow them to continue coaching the beneficiaries. The same proposition for the woodworking machines and the motorboat, they will be left for the use of the charcoal producers and the cooperative respectively so that they can sustain their activities.

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.

Forest restoration is commonly accepted as difficult and expensive to implement compared to pure conservation, especially in developing countries like Madagascar where several technical, politico-economic situations are not always favorable. To maximize the efficiency of intervention, previous experiences will be capitalized and especially the existing human capital. A large part of the activities will be assigned to local communities. In this approach, we are convinced that the costs will be lower than introducing expensive technicians from outside. This latter will only be an option if local skills do not exist. We have an objective to restore 50Ha of forest, that would be very expensive if a private company were engaged but can be achieved at a much lower cost through direct intervention by the community. More importantly, at the end of the project, these communities will continue to pursue the actions since they have the capacity to do so and because they support lucrative livelihoods and contribute to restoring natural services (e.g. marshes for fishing). In rural areas, creating a community business is a major challenge in a context where poverty and political instability reign. To be successful, ownership of the investments by the beneficiaries is essential. We propose that once the objectives of the project have been achieved then the beneficiaries will consider the cooperative as their own enterprise. As the raw materials are on-site and the business will access regional markets, and because the work of each charcoal producer will be directly linked to the magnitude of gain,

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.

MBG-Madagascar does not have a country-specific safeguard measure and we apply that of our head-quarters in St Louis. Nevertheless, our internal regulations stipulate a code of good social conduct. MBG employees in Pointe à Larrée are accustomed to applying this policy, refraining from bad behavior that could harm others such as sexual harassment, abuse of power, etc. Partners and consultants working with us will also be informed and then trained to ensure that they comply. Previously at Pointe-a-Larree we supported a grievance and whistle blowing policy but this has fallen out of use and will need to be reanimated as part of this project. The highest risk for this project concerns the safety of personnel: both, sea and rivers in the area are choppy for motorboat transportation. To mitigate, we have included the purchase of life jackets in the activity and it will be an obligation systematically for all staff members to wear before each boarding. Also, we will set up a rescue system using two other motorboats permanently on site, an alert system will be put in place providing for rapid intervention in the case of accident.

Q30. Ethics

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

This project will fully respect Darwin Initiative's principles. Our actions will be guided by full compliance with laws and social norms. All actions will respect the laws in force. At the community level, Federation Lovasoa will interface with local communities and all planned actions will be discussed and validated by members as well as the wider community. Adhesion in the project is voluntary and based on informed consent. All personnel must respect local tradition and customs.

During official launch of the project, representatives from regional and local authorities, religious and traditional authorities will be invited and during this event the project will be explained and participants encouraged to express their concerns which will be recorded and treated seriously. Visits to each village will be scheduled during which the communities will be invited to share their points of view. Although Melaleuca is an exotic species it is a shared resource and the consent of the population for the exploitation should be sought. If there are groups that oppose the use of this species for any reason then a discussion will be initiated to find compromises.

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.

No

If no, why not?

I did not want to send an uncomplete application to the Embassy and now I send the complete version . But I do not anticipate any problems about working in this part of the country.

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?
Adolphe Lehavana	Project Leader	79	Checked
Dunael Tovonera	Assistant Project Manager	58	Checked
Nina Hertine RAZANAMIHARANA	Developement Manager	100	Checked
Angelos Stila Tianarifidy	Head Forest Policing	67	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Guy Rakotondrazandry	Accountant	100	Checked
To be recruited	Research manager	67	Unchecked
Four graduates	Supporting GCC	18	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked


No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	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.

 [CV DIR28S11528 all staff](#)

 31/01/2022

 22:37:34

 pdf 745.77 KB

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: Missouri Botanical Garden, Madagascar Research and Conservation Program (MBG)

Website address: <https://mobot.mg/conservation/> <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>

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

Missouri Botanical Garden has managed Pointe Forest since 2008 in collaboration with local and regional partners. We have a regional office in Fenerive-Est, capital of the region where there are facilities (bank, internet communication, etc.) and all the offices of the partner services. Since then, financial operations have largely been processed at the national office in Antananarivo, but since 2021, the regional staff has been reinforced, then increasingly autonomous in management. In this project, MBG directs the planning of activities, coordinates the implementation (including specific activities for MBG), leads the semi-annual participatory monitoring, distributes resources to partners, intervenes on the accounting while respecting Darwin Initiative's procedures and requirements and those of the MBG, controls expenditure and delivers technical and financial reports. If necessary, MBG supports and facilitates the intervention of partners. MBG also ensures the recruitment of all consultants and supervises their interventions. MBG also manages the budgets allocated to beneficiaries such as the cooperative and the communities for purchasing materials and equipment as well as all operating costs. Since 2004, Adolphe Lehavana, Project Manager, has acquired long professional experience as a grant manager within MBG. He will be accompanied by the regional staff for the technical and administrative tasks.

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

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:

Regional Direction of Environment and Sustainable Development (RDES)

Website address:

www.environnement.mg

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

Regional Direction of Environment and Sustainable Development is the regional Representative of the Ministry in charge of management of Protected Areas in Madagascar, including the Pointe à Larrée Protected Area. Since 2008, MBG has established a convention with RDESD with tacit renewals every two years for managing this PA. In this project, RDESD is mainly involved in monitoring compliance with the laws in force, provides technical support in charcoal producers, ensures monthly, quarterly and half-yearly monitoring, validates operations and issues permits. In the case of offenses in PA (e.g cutting of native species for charcoal production), RDESD ensures the verbalization and brings offenders in court. During monitoring, RDESD technicians collect data, then analyze it before being sent to MBG. The service will be represented by José Christian RAHENDRIMANANA, Agronomy and Forestry engineer as focal point. Since 2015, he has been Forestry Control Manager and from 2019 upwards, his responsibility has been extended as Chief Regional Service of Forestry, including forest restoration, monitoring, reporting of offenses and the issuance of logging permits such

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

2. Partner Name: Regional Direction of Industry, Trade and Consumption (RDITC)

Website address: www.micc.gov.mg

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Regional Direction of Industry, Trade and Consumption (RDITC), represents the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Consumption in the region of Analanjirofo. RDITC facilitates the emergence of development incentives including entrepreneurship, trade and catalyzes the consumption of new products. In this project, RDITC ensures the diagnosis of the cooperative in order to revitalization, issues sale agreement of green charcoal, conducts thematic training for the Leaders of the cooperative, participates in the coaching of graduates for developing marketing strategy, procedure manual and business plan. In addition, RDITC conducts monthly and quarterly monitoring of cooperative's capacity building, providing adaptive management. RDITC also participates in semi-annual monitoring to assess project progress, and then in the dissemination of results through exhibits during economic fairs. RDITC will be represented by the Director, Mrs. Adonia Denisse Rajaonarison, Commissioner for Trade and Competition. Before being appointed Director in 2021, she assured a high responsibility in Toamasina. During seven years, she has demonstrated efficiency in various development disciplines, such as cooperation with the PROSPERER project and coaching peasant cooperatives in the region.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

3. Partner Name: Federation Lovasoa

Website address: No

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Federation Lovasoa is a non-profit peasant Association, registration n°317-DIST/SI/ASS of 06 may 2011. Currently, it groups approximately 600 members. Since its creation in 2011, Lovasoa has played the roles of coordination of different activities related to conservation both within PA and in peripheral zones managed by COBA Associations. It is the interface between grassroots communities and authorities and technical services. It participated in fund raising to support conservation actions by COBA and improvement livelihoods of the members. In this project, it is represented by the President, Mr Clebert, based at Pointe à Larrée. Their roles consist of mobilizing community in elimination of populations of Melaleuca, then planting tree post-elimination. Each year, it will organize a festival of biodiversity during which several awareness-raising activities are carried out, including exhibition of green charcoal of Melaleuca. Lovasoa also participates in quarterly monitoring of conservation actions, semi-annual participatory monitoring of the project. Mr Clebert was recently elected as President (November 2021), he had been a member of Lovasoa since its inception. Despite the multiple challenges on conservation, he has shown unwavering dedication to moving forward and he has capacity to communicating the objectives to the communities and collecting their wishes and their concerns.

Allocated budget: ████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

4. 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 Yes
included a Letter No
of Support from
this
organisation?

5. Partner *No Response*
Name:

Website *No Response*
address:

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

Allocated *£0.00*
budget:

Represented on Yes
the Project No
Board

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

6. Partner *No Response*
Name:

Website *No Response*
address:

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

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.

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.

 [DIR28S11528 Cover Letter Lehavana](#)


 31/01/2022

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 [Letter of support all partners](#)

 31/01/2022

 22:54:53

 pdf 1.87 MB

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)?

No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead partner.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered? 01 January 1859

What is the legal status of your organisation? NGO

How is your organisation currently funded?

MBG's Madagascar Research and Conservation Program receives a modest amount of core support from our Head quarters but most activities are funded through project-specific grants from a diversity of donors including foundations, private philanthropists, charities and governments. At Pointe à Larrée, we benefit some international funds (two grants from GEF/UN-Environment through Ministry and Sustainable Development). We are partner for three current Darwin Initiative grants: DIR27S2\1039 (lead Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group); DIR27S2\1027 (lead Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and DIR27S2\1028 (North of England Zoological Society) and one historic grant - 23-004 ref 3339 (lead Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group).

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

Aims

MBG-Madagascar is the largest botanical Institution in the country. Conservation unit's mission: "discover, understand and conserve the plants of Madagascar in order to support and enrich life". Two of our vision are: 1) Our actions with partners preserve sustainably Madagascar's threatened forest; 2) Ecological restoration raises values of Natural Capital.

Activities

Conservation unit: community-based conservation of eleven priority areas for plant conservation including Pointe à Larrée (see: <https://www.mobot.mg/conservation/>) with full program of conservation activities including plant inventory, forest patrols, installation of fire breaks, forest restoration, control of IAS, environmental education, promotion of income generating activities, stakeholder capacity building

Achievements

Update of plant list in all conservation sites to feed national databases. Annually, more new species are discovered. For conservation, up-to-date indicators showed success with our community-based conservation approaches. (see:<https://www.mobot.mg/conservation/>). Overall, the local communities are more committed to conservation by benefiting from improved capacities and income generation.

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

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

Contract/Project 1 Title

Projet de structuration d'une filière Vanille et de soutien à l'agriculture familiale dans le District de Soanierano-Ivongo autour de l'aire protégée de Pointe à Larrée, funded by FFEM

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)

██████████

Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)

5 years (2019-2024)

Role of organisation in project

MBG gets involved in conception, implementation and delivers technical and financial reporting on an array of activities associated with the management of the Pointe à Larrée New Protected Area. As manager of PA, MBG ensures a communication to promote positive link of conservation and vanilla chain production.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project This project aims to link sustainable and lucrative agricultural production of vanilla, food security with the management of a biodiversity landscape at Pointe a Larrée. Promoting vanilla contributes to the improvement of incomes for the populations affected by definitive creation of the PA as one of social safeguarding without compromising conservation. At the end of the project, it is expected that livelihood of over 3000 vanilla producers improved and habitat and biodiversity preserved sustainably even extended through restoration program.

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail) 1) Livelihoods: Thomas Braschi, Head of Investment [REDACTED]
2) AFD : Rémi TISSOT, Chargé de projets Agriculture, Développement Rural et Pêche, [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 2 Title Conservation of endemic plant species high economic value and their valorisation for local communities at Agnalazaha and Pointe a Larrée Protected Areas.

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) [REDACTED]

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months) 5 years (2017-2022)

Role of organisation in project Conception and then implementation of species-focused plans to reduce the risk of extinction of endangered or critically endangered tree species located at Pointe à Larrée the Agnalazaha and Protected Areas. MBG manages the grant and submits three monthly technical and financial reports

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project By the end of the project, reduction of the risk of extinction of twenty threatened tree and bird species in Madagascar by planting 100ha (for 18 sites in Madagascar) while improving the livelihoods of surrounded populations by 20% inhabitants of the target villages and 75% of villagers receive benefits from economic incentives actions (including 50% of women). This project is funded by GEF/UN-Environment through Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail) COKETES: Eric Rabenasolo, Project National Director, [REDACTED]
COKETES: Rado Andrianirina, National Coordinator for flora, [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 3 Title Strengthening the Network of New Protected Areas at Pointe à Larrée and Makirovana-Tsihomanomby in Madagascar

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) [REDACTED]

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months) 5 years (2018-2022)

Role of organisation in project	MBG is involved in the conception of the project, then it ensures the implementation of activities including conservation, extension of the NAP of Pointe à Larrée and local economic development. MBG submits quarterly technical and financial reports.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Madagascar's strengthened network of PAs provides enhanced protection and better representation of key ecosystems, and deliver economic and environmental benefit to local communities. By the end of the project, Improved participatory management of 9 New PAs in Madagascar, Local communities develop Capacity, alternative sources of income and ecosystem restoration in collaboration with the PAs. This project is funded by GEF through Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	S2NAP: Sahobylvy Randriamahaleo, [REDACTED] S2NAP: Sehen RAMANANTSOA, [REDACTED]

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

Trustees

of

Missouri Botanical Garden, Research and Conservation Program, Madagascar

I apply for a grant of

[REDACTED]

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





Adolphe Lehavana

Position in the organisation Conservation site Manager


Signature (please upload e-signature)  [signature](#)
 31/01/2022
 23:33:10
 pdf 99.92 KB





Date 31 January 2022





Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [FINAL - Missouri Botanical Garden 2020](#)
 31/01/2022
 23:10:55
 pdf 563.3 KB

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

 [Report an Ethics Issue](#)
 31/01/2022
 23:12:06
 pdf 37.17 KB

 [MBG-Code of Ethics](#)
 31/01/2022
 23:12:01
 pdf 109.73 KB

 [MBG-2021 Employee Handbook](#)
 31/01/2022
 23:11:57
 pdf 3.2 MB

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).