
DIR29S2\1040

Better livelihoods for shifting-cultivators from conserving and restoring Malagasy forests

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we will combat this destructive and abusive relationship by enabling farmers close to Bongolava Forest to gain better income from conserving and restoring their traditional lands and, in the longer term, access viable livelihoods from the propagation and sale of native trees in support of Madagascar's ambitious reforestation targets

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Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Chris
Surname	Birkinshaw
Organisation	Missouri Botanical Garden
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
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Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Missouri Botanical Garden
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Better livelihoods for shifting-cultivators from conserving and restoring Malagasy forests

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

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

No Response

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 2

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

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 of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, 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.

Madagascar's dry-deciduous forests are now being destroyed rapidly through slash-and-burn agriculture for maize and beans for export/industry. Profits are mainly kept by entrepreneurs and farmers gain little. In

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we will combat this destructive and abusive relationship by enabling farmers close to Bongolava Forest to gain better income from conserving and restoring their traditional lands and, in the longer term, access viable livelihoods from the propagation and sale of native trees in support of Madagascar's ambitious reforestation targets

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 1	Madagascar	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2023	31 March 2026	3 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	£101,607.00	£92,538.00	£109,891.00	£0.00	£ 304,036.00

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?

Confirmed:

Missouri Botanical Garden a) Chris Birkinshaw - annually one month for technical advice (= £ [REDACTED] b) Jeannie Raharimampionona annually one month for support on issues regarding the good governance of FBM and safeguarding (=£ [REDACTED] c) Vola Raharijaona annually 2 months annually for grant management services (=£ [REDACTED] d) Support to develop and maintain website sale's interface (=£ [REDACTED])

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)

£ [REDACTED]

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

No Response

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. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite any evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

Until recently, Madagascar's highly biodiverse western dry-deciduous forests, were relatively unthreatened. Human populations were low, agriculture confined to valleys and forests locally appreciated as shelter for more or less free-ranging cattle in traditionally defined zones called "Kijanay". But now this situation has changed, and dry-deciduous forests everywhere in the country are being rapidly transformed by local farmers into fields of maize and beans mainly for export – a process promoted by powerful and influential businesspeople who gain most of the profits, leaving impoverished locals with a degraded and increasingly fire-prone landscape and meagre compensation for their hard labour (<https://news.mongabay.com/2019/02/illegal-corn-farming-menaces-a-madagascar-protected-area>; World Bank 2020). These changes are being felt in the Bongolava Forest Corridor Protected Area (Bongolava), managed by the local association Fikambanana Bongolava Maitso (FBM) and target zone for the project proposed here. Here the local farmers insist they do not want to destroy their own natural capital but are forced into doing so by a need to feed their families and the lack of alternative methods of gaining a livelihood. In 2006 this site contained 15,443 ha of forest but ten years later just 10,889 ha remained, a deforestation rate of nearly 3% per year (Goodman et al 2018). This tragic loss can also be attributed to relatively low capacity of FBM that, in turn, is due, in part, to the huge challenge they face, as a new Malagasy NGO, to access the significant funds required to manage a large and much troubled protected area (<https://news.mongabay.com/2017/12/abandoned-by-their-sponsors-madagascars-orphaned-parks-struggle-on/>). This situation is common in Madagascar where effective home-grown conservation NGOs are rare and conservation action is dominated by foreign NGOs - that arguably have less right to decide and act and less understanding of the complex socio-economic and cultural issues that are always fundamental to conservation problems.

In parallel with, and oddly disconnected from, this forest loss, the Malagasy State has made a commitment to reforest 4 million hectares of degraded land as its contribution to AFR100 (<https://afr100.org/content/madagascar>) but, as things stand currently, it is likely that any gains in forest area will be through plantations of eucalyptus - an alien species that associated with negative environmental impacts (e.g. Cao, 2011). Obstacles to using native trees for reforestation in Madagascar are: 1) high quality seeds and young plants of native trees are not reliably available in quantity and at reasonable cost and 2) best practices for the successful use of native tree species in such endeavours are unknown. This situation represents a “chicken and egg” scenario in which, because those promoting reforestation use eucalyptus, there is no market for native trees and, because native trees are not used, best practice for their successful deployment remains obscure.

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

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, 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.

This proposed project responds to one of the CBD main goals i.e. ‘the conservation of biological diversity’ by reducing degradation and restoring threatened dry-deciduous forest at Bongolava, a significant northward extension of the famous Ankarafantsika Protected Area and, like this site, habitat for a diverse and threatened biodiversity: 90 bird species (4 threatened), eight lemur species (5 threatened including *Microcebus bongolavensis* known only from Bongolava) and 738 plant species (8 known only from this site and less than four other locations and one a Bongolava endemic) (Miandrimanana pers.comm., Goodman et al 2018).

The vision of Madagascar’s NBSAP 2015-2025 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mg/mg-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>) is « By 2025, effective measures are set-up to effectively reduce the loss of biodiversity, to ensure the provision of essential ecosystem services and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity, for social welfare, economic and environmental development of current and future generations ». The current situation at Bongolava is at odds with this statement with biodiversity being lost and natural capital (wood and fertile soils) being eroded and benefiting few. By reducing shifting cultivation at Bongolava, restoring parts already degraded (including using tree species rare due to over-exploitation), and improving local livelihoods, the proposed project will contribute to the following strategic goals and associated objectives:

Goal-B: “Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use of natural resources” - Objective 5: “By 2025, the rate of degradation, fragmentation and loss of habitats/ecosystems is reduced”.

Goal-C: "Improve the biodiversity status by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity" -

Objective 11: "In 2025, 10% of terrestrial ecosystems ..., especially the areas of particular importance for biodiversity/ecosystem services, are conserved adequately in ecologically representative systems ...and managed effectively". Objective 12: "By 2025, the extinction of endangered species is reduced, and their conservation status improved"

Goal-D: "Enhance the benefits withdrawn to all from biodiversity and services provided by ecosystems" -

Objective 14: "In 2025, terrestrial ecosystems including forests, ...are protected and restored...". Objective 15: "By 2025, ecosystem resilience ...are strengthened, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems...".

Madagascar has pledged to reforest 4-million hectares of land by 2030 under its Bonn Challenge/AFR100 commitment. This project will make a minor direct contribution to this goal (with the reconstructive restoration of 75 hectares), but has the potential for larger impact by providing access to young plants of native trees to other reforestation initiatives and demonstrating how livelihoods based on destructive activities can be positively transformed.

The project will make direct contributions to the following SDGs: (Goals 1/2) by providing paid employment (for ca. 120 vulnerable local people); (Goal 3) by contributing to restoration degraded landscapes; (Goals 5) by providing equitable access to training and employment to women and men; (Goal 8) by nurturing sustained economic growth through a robust value chain based on the provision of tree seedlings; (Goal 13) by contributing to the reforestation of degraded landscapes using native trees; (Goal 15) by conserving the highly biodiverse Bongolava Forest; and (Goal 17) by MBG supplementing and building FBM's capacity in key areas.

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 reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Project success will require mastering challenging technical and socio-economic dimensions. Fortunately, the project team includes the necessary technical competence and, with FBM's long experience working at this site, we can understand and accommodate the dynamic and complex social aspects. In general, we will adhere to the community-based approach to conservation and development outlined in Freudenberger (2010). The project will be implemented in just one part of the protected area including ca. 500 ha. of forest and ca. 75 ha of abandoned fields requiring restoration. FBM will implement the work - with technical/administrative oversight/coaching provided by MBG staff. Inspired by the management tools used by Malagasy mining companies, we will weekly measure and visualize, on a project board, key indicators of progress associated with the work plan, resource needs, environmental/social parameters to

identify and address under-performance.

The main elements to the project are:

Communication

We appreciate the importance of appropriate communication initially and throughout the project to all stakeholders. Often when social issues threatened to derail conservation projects the root of the problem can be traced to poor communication. Project launch will use local radio broadcasts. The plan, methodology and expected results will be validated by stakeholders at village meetings where feedback will be encouraged, and project design modified as required. Farmers wishing to participate will self-identify - prioritising those with a traditional connection to the land.

Policing

Typically, reserve managers recruit a small team of professional forest rangers but recently we have had great success in engaging many more people in "community policing". Here 60 farmers will all participate in policing their local forests (including fire detection/ control). Minor infractions detected will be treated locally by an existing management committee, while major infractions will be reported to the Forest Service.

Restoration

Together Cyprien Miandrimanana (CM) and Chris Birkinshaw (CB) have over two decades of experience of implementing forest restoration projects in Madagascar and appreciate the substantial challenge of providing the social context and the environmental conditions in which tree seedlings, easily produced in a village nursery, can prosper in degraded landscapes. We have researched and published on best practice for forest restoration under various settings (see "references" pdf) and conclude there is no single protocol for success since environmental parameters and specific species' needs are infinitely variable. Rather, best practice for restoration at a particular location is best informed by observing natural regeneration and identifying and addressing specific key obstacles to tree survival and growth, while monitoring results to inform adaptive management. The real-world experiences of others endeavoring to restore Malagasy dry deciduous forest (e.g. One Planet at Ankarafantsika) are also of great value.

Participating farmers will identify abandoned fields within the PA where they wish to restore native forest. Intervention through tree planting will only proceed where natural regeneration is blocked. These fields will be mapped. Participating families will be organised and legalised as a formal association thus providing a legitimate platform on which to build the project. Five village nurseries will be installed, equipped and staffed by the farmer's wives and training provided in seed collection and propagation of native trees. Target species for propagation will be informed by local knowledge of trees most likely to flourish in the challenging conditions of the old fields. In addition, some key lemur food plants (identified from local observations and scientific publications) and over-exploited useful trees will be added to the mix. Young plants will be out-planted by the farmers at the start of the wet season. Different methods of site preparation, out-planting and care of young plants will be trialed (in simple experiments conceived by CM and CB and carefully monitored to inform best practice. Areas vulnerable to wild fires and grazing by cattle will be respectively protected with firebreaks and signs indicating zero-grazing zone.

Sharing knowledge

Knowledge acquired on best practice for forest restoration here will be summarised by CM and published as a well-illustrated, bilingual book (Malagasy and French) and made available.

Developing a value chain for young native trees

Certainly, with compensation, the farmers will work to conserve and restore the forest but the challenge is to maintain motivation beyond the 3-year project duration. Our solution is to conduct research (with project staff and a business consultant) to develop and then implement business plans for the nurseries

to enable project participants to sell native tree seedlings and their expertise to those managing restoration/reforestation projects elsewhere in the region. Key to these plans will be a dedicated website with a manager to ensure orders are forthcoming and satisfied professionally.

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, who will benefit, and the post-project value to the country.

One of the weaknesses of conservation in Madagascar is the overwhelming dominance of international NGOs and the rarity of home-grown NGOs and their inadequate capacity (Freudenberger 2010)). Although happily the staff of international NGOs is now largely composed of Malagasy, strategic direction and management approaches are typically dictated from above. Thus, the voice of Malagasy in the conservation of their fauna and flora, while improved compared to the recent past, remains compromised. In the project proposed here staff of MBG will act to enable FBM, a young Malagasy NGO, access to a normally inaccessible funding stream by managing the grant on their behalf, while also, at no cost to the project, provide coaching in administration, financial management, communication and safeguarding. This support represents capacity building with the greatest possible potential impact. FBM will also be the beneficiaries of technical support especially concerning possible approaches to reconstructive restoration effective in this site's specific environmental and social contexts. At a different level, local farming families at the intervention site will, through training and supervised practice gain knowledge, skills and confidence for activities such as seed collection and propagation and nurturing of native trees, and also the marketing and sale of these plants. This capacity can help the beneficiaries access new sources of revenue and contribute to Madagascar's ambitious reforestation goals.

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. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

Malagasy farming families work as teams with different family members completing tasks best aligned to their abilities. We will engage with the whole family and let this unit decide how they wish to provide services and receive compensation. Likely the men will mainly participate in patrols and tree planting while the women will work in the tree nurseries. While the tasks may be different, the number of each gender engaged with the work and the compensation received will be equitable. Women will be engaged and given a voice in meetings through gender-specific break-out groups followed by restitution.

While gender is an important inequity in society there are also others that are much less discussed but deserve consideration and accommodation. Therefore, in this project we will try to provide employment opportunities to the handicapped and also the elderly. This inclusion will not necessarily lead to a loss of productivity, but even if it does, such may be compensated by access additional knowledge, skills and influence.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who your stakeholders are, 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?

Rather than compartmentalising awareness-raising into a special activity we will endeavour to integrate this as an essential component of all activities. Local people are the target for this awareness-raising and in our relations with them we seek not just engagement but informed engagement: while they will be compensated for their work as part of this project, it is essential that they also understand why this work is important. Thus, before every meeting, during every training session and during each community event such as tree-planting, we will explain the value and plight of the dry deciduous forest at this site. Three key messages will be shared: a) this forest is your natural heritage and the source of a host of goods and services; b) this forest is being lost rapidly; c) the forest can be destroyed in a day but takes decades to restore. This communication will be facilitated by means of a series of large specially conceived posters printed on fabric that illustrate these ideas graphically. The extent to which these messages are understood, and more than understood, believed, will be monitored using the method of open interviews with a randomly selected sample of participants at the start of the project, half-way through the project and at the end of the project.

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) and the potential to scale the approach.

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.

Bongolava, like most Malagasy dry deciduous forests, is being rapidly and illegally converted to fields of maize and beans, soils are quickly exhausted forcing farmers to convert more forest into arable fields. The fires used for conversion sometimes burn out of control and destroy more forest that regenerates slowly (if at all) and is more vulnerable to further burning events. The farmers gain meagre subsistence compensation from harvests (since most profit is taken by intermediaries) and unique biodiversity is threatened. This is especially tragic when the World is seeking to address climate change.

Over three years this project will bring change by enabling 60 locals (likely, for security reasons, mainly men) to patrol the protected area to detect and report infractions; by engaging 60 women to restore degraded forest; by learning from the work to improve restoration protocols and by sharing this knowledge with others through workshops and a specially conceived "how to do it" booklet (and/or poster); and, through this work, enable 60-120 farming families currently gaining their livelihoods from destruction of the forest, to obtain improved livelihoods from conserving and restoring it. The term "local" is used here to specify those who are long term occupants in the landscape surrounding Bongolava Forest and have a certain traditional connection with the forest. Efforts will be made to integrate some elderly and handicapped people into this work. Compensation per unit time for work will be the same for both women and men.

Post-project, participants will continue to gain their livelihoods from constructive activities through the creation of an association that will maintain an interface whereby they can sell native trees as well as their expertise to those investing in reforestation endeavours. With an estimated and sales price of around £0.5

per tree seedling, farmers will need to produce and sell 150 plants per month to match the compensation they currently obtain from the cultivation of beans/maize.

In summary this project will transform 60-120 farming families, whose current livelihoods rely on destructive agriculture, to conservationists and competent restoration practitioners accessing better livelihoods through their new skills. This demonstration will show how conservationists can increase the value to their PAs for local people and also how landscape restoration projects can integrate locals.

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

Our Theory of Change seeks to create a durable win-win solution for biodiversity and people in which those farming families living close to Bongolava whose meagre livelihoods are currently founded on environmentally destructive activities can switch to improved livelihoods based on activities that have a positive impact on the environment.

Our Theory of Change is that IF we have the trust of the farming families who are currently destroying the forests of Bongolava through shifting cultivation, and IF we can provide sufficiently attractive financial incentives for these people to cease these activities and engage with us in the conservation and restoration of the forest, and IF the restorative endeavours are demonstrably successful, and IF Madagascar's and international donor's commitment to reforestation as part of AFR100 is serious, THEN lucrative markets will open for both plants of native trees and restoration expertise that, through a suitable "commercial" interface, can be accessed by farming families, THEN, as this new value chain consolidates, improved livelihoods based on the constructive and sustainable use of biodiversity will become increasingly compelling enabling the effective conservation of Bongolava while acting as a model approach to successful community-based conservation and restoration for application elsewhere.

Q19. Exit Strategy

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding?

How could post-project scaling of the approach (if proven) be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?

How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits?

FBM exists with the sole mission to conserve the Bongolava Forest Corridor PA, and thus at the end of the project the NGO will continue this work. However, though the coaching received during the project, this local NGO will have greater capacity in the key competences of administration, financial management and safeguarding, also, through their successful implementation of this work, they will have greater credibility with donors, and indeed, with local and regional government.


On the ground, the farming families implicated in this project will have gained the skills, capacity and confidence to access new improved livelihoods based on the production and sale of native trees for sale to reforestation projects. While skills and confidence are important, it will also be essential to facilitate


their access to markets for the young plants. Thus in the final year of the project a business plan will be researched and then implemented that will support the association of nursery women in the focused production, marketing, sales, and distribution of young plants and the management of revenue according to the principles of good governance. At this time too, leaders within the association will be identified and coached to take over these activities post-project.


The revenue generated will need to both motivate those producing plants and also fund the on-going costs of directing and managing this business.

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

 [Supporting information DIR29S2 1040](#)

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 pdf 719.79 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					
Very few Malagasy are truly financially secure and thus there is a tendency to seek to maximise personal benefits. Those leading proposed association of nursery women may seek to maximise their own income from the sale of tree seedlings while minimising the benefits for the farming families who produced them	severe	likely	severe	Risk reduced by creating and applying a manual of procedures that will clearly define division of benefits between various parties and then committing to an annual audit of its application by the FBM Board	Minor

Safeguarding

Not all local farming families can be beneficiaries of the proposed project. Those who are not selected may well be jealous of those who are thereby creating new tensions and divisions in communities.

major

likely

severe

Risk reduced by selecting beneficiaries through the transparent application of attributes defined by the community themselves.

Moderate

Delivery Chain

To be successful in the long-term this project requires that plants of native trees propagated by local farming families are purchased by organisations supporting reforestation endeavours. If such markets cannot be accessed then the value chain will not exist and the project will fail.

severe

possible

severe

Risk reduced by initially tasking the nursery manager to actively locate and nurture markets and by asking MBG staff to use its network of contacts in Madagascar (including through its work with the Global Biodiversity Standard) to identify buyers.

moderate

Risk 4

Currently 3 species of eucalyptus are used for nearly all reforestation work in Madagascar because they survive and grow well in degraded landscapes. Directors of reforestation projects are not likely to replace eucalyptus with native trees if the latter perform very poorly.

major

possible

major

Risk reduced by prioritising the trial of young plants of tree species that we judge (from local knowledge and our own experience) likely survive and grow well in degraded environments. However, we acknowledge that native trees will always underperform (in terms of survival and growth) compared to eucalyptus.

minor

Risk 5

Annual precipitation in the west of Madagascar is variable and periods of drought may impact the success of reconstructive restoration.

moderate

possible

major

Risk accepted but contingency plans developed so that young plants are planted during wet periods (even if these are not at the "normal" season) and/or watered after planting and planted adjacent to shading shrubs or otherwise provided with shade structures.

minor

Risk 6

The destruction of dry deciduous forest is being driven by markets for beans and corn. If this project successfully engages framing families in conservation and restoration, then these markets will merely be accentuated elsewhere - and the problem will have been transferred

Severe

likely

severe

Risk accepted for the moment in the expectation that the success of the project will ultimately enable other parts of Bongolava to benefit from the same or similar approaches

severe





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.

-
-  [BCF Implementation Timetable Template 20 22-23 Bongolava](#)
 -  12/12/2022
 -  07:31:02
 -  docx 37.73 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](#)).

At Project launch, the Technical Advisor (TA), the Project Manager (PM) and the two Assistant Project Managers (APM) will meet for two days to develop a set of pragmatic but science-based protocols to provide the evidence required to track the various indicators included in the logic framework. These protocols will be written down, and thereby fixed, as a monitoring guidelines. This document will also include model data-collection sheets - previous experience has shown that such sheets help to standardise monitoring protocols over time so that data collected is less subject to sampling errors due to shifts in methodologies. The APMs will be responsible (in their respective domains) for ensuring the application of these protocols according to the agreed guidelines - directing and coaching the rangers and the nursery women to collect raw data. While, generally, data collection by those implementing activities (compared to an exclusive monitoring remit given to one person only) is beneficial (because it facilitates reflection on the progress and results of an individual's work), at this site only a minority of people are literate and therefore we will need to identify these people and give them special responsibilities. The raw data will be analysed by the PM under the direction of the TA.

While monitoring and evaluation is often conducted at the request of donors, we believe that the primary beneficiary of such work should be the project itself through the use of the data to inform adaptive management, hence, progress will be continually monitored and exposed using a line-management project board on which project' resources, plans, targets and progress will be visualised and reviewed every 2 weeks. By this means, issues arising will be identified briskly enabling problem diagnosis, reflection and possible modification of methodologies. Information from monitoring and evaluation will also be used to enrich the project website enabling outside interested parties to objectively track the progress of the project. Both the TA and the PM have published peer-reviewed scientific articles and therefore have the capacity to design effective and eloquent monitoring protocols and to analyze and interpret the data gathered.

Annually the "Comité d'Orientation et de Suivi" (equivalent to Project Board), will meet to evaluate progress and these meetings will be much enhanced by data from monitoring. At the end of the project this information will be essential to demonstrate the success of the initiative and to enable other protected area managers to evaluate whether similar initiatives could be a worthwhile addition to their work programs.

The budget for M&E, as presented below, is based on the cost of 10% of the total time invested in the project by the PM and the APMs plus associated travel and subsistence and cost of the equipment used solely for monitoring (i.e. it does not include the cost of IT).

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	66

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q23. Logical Framework (logframe)





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](#)

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [BCF St2 and Single Stage Logical Framework Template 2022-23 FINAL DIR292 1040](#)
 10/12/2022
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 pdf 130.94 KB

Impact:

Model project shows how Malagasy ecosystems can be successfully conserved and restored by the large-scale mobilisation of local people through creation of new “green” employment opportunities.

Outcome:

Local farming families at Bongolava mobilised to effectively conserve and restore their forest and thereby access improved livelihoods

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Infractions in target forest rapidly detected and controlled by local farmers with help of forest service

Output 2:

Farmers launch reconstructive restoration on old fields within protected area

Output 3:

Best practices for the restoration of degraded dry deciduous forest defined and shared

Output 4:

Local farming families gain improved livelihoods through engagement with the project.

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.

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. Research by Project Manager to identify the project zone where local farming families are concerned about the loss of the forest and are willing to engage with an alternative greener vision of their landscape
- 1.2. 60 farmers in the host landscape identified and recruited as community rangers by local radio broadcasts and individual interviews
- 1.3. 60 local farmers trained by Assistant Project Manager- Patrols in community patrolling and the recording and reporting of infractions
- 1.4. Local rangers systematically patrol ca. 500 ha target zone to detect and report infractions under the direction of the Assistant Project Manager (patrols)
- 1.5. Infractions treated by the local management committee or the Forest Service (depending on severity)
- 2.1. 60 farmers (mostly women) identified and recruited as nurserywomen by local radio broadcasts and individual interviews
- 2.2. 60 women trained by the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries in best practice for the collection of seeds and the propagation and nurturing of seedlings of native woody plant species
- 2.3. 5 village nurseries installed in the target landscape by nursery women assisted by rangers, under the guidance of a consultant
- 2.4. Under the guidance of the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries, each nursery propagates 40,000 seedlings of native woody plants
- 2.5. Under the guidance of the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries and direction of the Project Manager, the nurserywomen out-plant 200,000 seedlings of native woody plants (some being planted within the framework of experiments to identify best practice)
- 2.6. Out-planted seedlings provided with post plantation care by nursery women
- 2.7. Samples of the out-planted seedlings monitored to determine survival and growth.
- 3.1. The Project Manager analyses results of monitoring to inform best practice for the reconstructive restoration of degraded dry deciduous forest
- 3.2. The Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries organises a workshop with project participants (and representatives from other organisations working to restore this habitat elsewhere) to present the results of monitoring of the survival and growth of out-planted seedlings and, partly informed by this information, to debate their perceptions on best practice for reconstructive restoration in the vegetation type
- 3.3. The Project Manager conceives and drafts a publication (could be booklet or perhaps poster) describing the principles for best practice for the restoration of dry deciduous forest, then shares this publication with others engaged in this activity
- 4.1. Project staff and business consultant develop business plan for a native tree value chain
- 4.2. Business plan implemented including development of webpage to attract potential buyers of young plants of native trees and to enable express interest in placing an order
- 4.3. Nursery women organised and legalised as an association and helped to develop a manual of procedures
- 4.4. Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries coaches the association of nurserywomen in the application of their manual of procedures
- 4.5. Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries places potential buyers in contact with one or more groups of nurserywomen where the buyer can seek their advice about which species may best satisfy their needs and then directly negotiate the purchase of these plants
- 4.6. Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries facilitates communication between buyers and the association of nurserywomen.

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 the Lead Partner's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [BCF Budget over 100k MASTER Apr22 DIR2](#)
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 xlsx 95.53 KB

Q25. Funding

Q25a. 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:

FBM has supported community-based conservation at Bongolava Forest Corridor since 2004 and maintains a site-based office and a small-site based team. With this capacity FBM implement's a conservation program in which forest patrols and fire control are key elements. To date, the tangible benefits derived from this protected area by the local community have been small and irregular, and we urgently need to respond to this lacunae in the work. Thus, this project will build on an existing conservation program - completing and important gap.

The project proposed here to develop a value chain based on the sale of young plants of native trees to provide tangible benefits for local people is a new initiative for the project team at the Bongolava, however the Project Manager has considerable past experience in reconstructive restoration and indeed was previously employed as a restoration ecologist within MBG's Madagascar program.

Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q26. Capital items

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

The capital items proposed for purchase will significantly include a motorbike (for the Project Manager), a moto-tricycle (for transporting plants), three laptops and software (for the Project Manager and the two Assistant Project Managers), three telephones for communication and five cameras for monitoring. Post-project we propose that these items will remain in the ownership of FBM because retention here will help to ensure the sustainability of the work

Q27. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

All this budget will be spent in Madagascar. The cost of this project is modest compared to its potentially huge impact in demonstrating an approach in which rural Malagasy lives are improved while simultaneously restoring degraded Malagasy forests. Funds will be used efficiently by an experienced on-the-ground Project Manager, and gains will be consolidated through FBM's long-term commitment to this reserve.

Costs have been minimised while maintaining an effective project by providing salaries only for Malagasy staff, and the sole ex-patriate implicated in this project will contribute his time at no cost to the grant. The budget for the project includes no air-flights and local travel will be by motorbike while rare national travel will use public transport (i.e. bush taxis). MBG's supplier relationships, procurement process, and IT support will deliver value for money on motorbikes, IT equipment, and software, maintained throughout the project, and the team will use some existing equipment which will also reduce costs. On-the-ground costs are based on first-hand experience of local staff.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q28. 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 all 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 and strengthen your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. If any of the responses are “no”, please indicate how it is being addressed.

MBG has a Staff Manual which generally covers safeguarding/whistle-blowing and staff conduct issues. This document has been uploaded but it will be noted that this text lacks adequate detail. Recently MBG-Madagascar has become a consortium member for a RBG-Kew led and DEFRA-funded project in Madagascar supported by the Biodiverse Landscape Fund. A condition of our membership of this consortium is that we strengthen our safeguarding policy including enforcement. For ease it is proposed the MBG's program in Madagascar will adopt RBG-Kew's safeguarding policy and recording and registration processes (documents attached). MBG-Madagascar will ensure that FBM also respect this safeguarding framework.

Q29. Ethics

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

The proposed project will meet Darwin's ethical principles, in particular:

- a) FBM is the recognised manager of Bongolava PA and as such will ensure that the activities proposed here will be integrated into work plans for the site – plans that will be formally validated - locally by communities, traditional leaders and regionally and nationally by the State.
- b) Those participating in the project will do so voluntarily and with full understanding of their rights and responsibilities (as expressed on written contracts and and also explained orally).
- c) At the launch of the project, the full array of local stakeholders will be informed using appropriate methods about the proposed activity, its methods and expected results and asked to share any concerns they may have and any suggestions they would like to share. These inputs will be seriously considered and a documented response will be provided and shared both locally and on the project webpage for global transparency.
- d) Health/safety guidance will be developed for each element in the project and materials provided to

minimise risk as necessary. The national "Code de Travail" will guide treatment of work injuries.

e) The project will not compete with any existing in-country businesses.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q30. 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 (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q31. 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?
Dr Chris Birkinshaw	Project Leader	8	Checked
Cyprien Miandrimanana (FBM)	Project Manager	33	Checked
Wai-Line Marie Rasharisoa	Assistant Project Manager - Nurseries	97	Checked
To de decided	Assistant Project Manager - Patrols	97	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
----------------------------	------	-------------------	--


Jeannie Raharimampionona	Coaching FBM in good governance, safeguarding	8	Checked
Vola Raharijaona	Grant Management and coaching FBM in administration	16	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	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.

 [STAFF CVs DIR292 1040](#)

 12/12/2022

 08:05:34

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Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q32. 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), Madagascar

Website address: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/> and <https://mobot.mg/conservation/> (for Madagascar Program)

MBG, one of the largest (ca. 350 payroll staff, annual turnover ca. [REDACTED] and oldest botanical gardens in the USA, has supported a research and conservation program in Madagascar for nearly 40 years. Currently, in Madagascar, MBG supports 94 staff (all Malagasy but one), has several offices, manages 11 protected areas, and has an annual turnover [REDACTED]. In addition to direct conservation interventions, MBG-Madagascar currently supports 3 national conservation NGOs: Tsimoka, Famelona and Mampita.

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

FBM (see below) approached MBG to submit this application as Lead Partner because alone they have neither the annual turnover nor financial track-record to access and manage this large grant. MBG agreed to provide this service and will also, should the application be successful, ensure grant management, good governance and safeguarding; support the development of the project website; and provide technical advice on the activities (especially best practice for reconstructive restoration): all at no cost to the Darwin Initiative Partnership. MBG, through its leadership role in restoration in Madagascar (e.g. leading the Malagasy Forest Restoration Practitioner's Network), will also be able to provide FBM with a platform to share its restoration knowledge and facilitate connections to potential buyers of seedlings.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£ [REDACTED]

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:

Fikambanana Bongolava Maintso (FBM) Madagascar

Website address:

none

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

The activities described in this application were conceived jointly by MBG-Madagascar and FBM, and will be entirely implemented by FBM, a local conservation NGO, founded in 2004 by Conservation International, and headquartered at Port Bergé close to the Bongolava Forest Corridor PA. FBM has 52 staff including a including a President, an executive Director and a Manager. FBM is recognised by the Malagasy State as the manager of the Bongolava PA and the team have nearly a two decades of experience implementing a diverse program of activities here in collaboration with diverse local associations and local authorities. A Comité d'Orientation et de Suivi (COS), composed of Regional representatives of relevant government Ministries and technical services, oversees FBM's work program to ensure that it is coherent with State the objectives of the Malagasy State and generally of adequate quality. FBM's Executive Director, Cyprien Miandrimanana (the Project Manager for the proposed project) previously worked as MBG's Restoration Ecologist but left this secure employment to defend the biodiversity of his home landscape at Bongolava.

Allocated budget:

£ [REDACTED]

Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name:

Direction Régionale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable - Sofia Region (DREED Sofia)

Website address:

<https://www.facebook.com/DREDD-SOFIA-102313315903516/>

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

DREED Sofia (often called "the Forest Service") are the regional representative of the State responsible for forest management in the Region where Bongolava is located. Sadly this managerial body (as DREED throughout Madagascar) is grossly under-resourced and consequently suffers from poor governance and falls very short of meeting its obligations. Nevertheless for legitimacy, it is necessary, to work with this organisation. Within this project the DREED will be responsible for: a) authorising the collection of seed from the protected area and the sale of tree seedlings by local people; and b) treating serious infractions within the protected area. Travel, lodging and subsistence costs of DREDD staff necessary to complete this work will be covered by the project budget.

Allocated budget:

£ [REDACTED]

Represented on the Project Board

Yes

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

3. 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

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 included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes No

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.


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.


 [LETTERS OF SUPPORT DIR292_1040](#)


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 [Cover letter MBG DIR292_1040](#)

 11/12/2022

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Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund 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
DIR28S2\1035	Chris Birkinshaw	Valorising Malagasy protected areas as seed sources for forest restoration
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Missouri Botanical Garden

I apply for a grant of

£304,037.00

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





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

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a 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 Chris Birkinshaw




Position in the organisation Technical Advisor - Madagascar Research and Conservation Program




Signature (please upload e-signature)  CB signature and stamp
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 png 238.07 KB




Date 12 December 2022




Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

[!\[\]\(8af806fb1314382d09bc5ec5b767526c_img.jpg\) MBG 2020 Form 990 Public Inspection](#)
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

[!\[\]\(bd1a142de767a21e5362c595f844a4ff_img.jpg\) IA AnnualReport 2021 FINAL for WEB](#)
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[!\[\]\(e2376d476d06eb31946dc01a69a4403a_img.jpg\) 2020 Missouri Botanical Garden Audit](#)
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

[!\[\]\(74d4806277d7e73349d8e8c0897931e9_img.jpg\) 2021 Missouri Botanical Garden Cons Audit](#)
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

[!\[\]\(830769b31eeeaca920791081939ff8ba_img.jpg\) safeguarding-policy-procedures for proposed use by MBG-Madagascar](#)
 11/12/2022
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 pdf 100 KB

[!\[\]\(0b5e7e25e8775f7e7e80906ada4f0021_img.jpg\) Report an Ethics Issue](#)
 11/12/2022
 09:26:54
 pdf 37.17 KB

[!\[\]\(8bba887393ca45b761e5cb49e755e762_img.jpg\) MBG-2021 Employee Handbook](#)
 11/12/2022
 09:26:41
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[!\[\]\(6bb0e4f14c4133b37d2887cb37e67ddd_img.jpg\) MBG-Code of Ethics](#)
 11/12/2022
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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 attached the below documents to my application	
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above)	Checked
• my completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, 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 32, 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 28.	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 Initiative 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).

Project Title: Better livelihoods for shifting-cultivators from conserving and restoring Malagasy forests

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Infractions in target forest rapidly detected and controlled by local farmers with help of forest service													
1.1	Research by Project Manager to identify the project zone where local farming families are concerned about the loss of the forest and are willing to engage with an alternative “greener” vision of their landscape	2	X											
1.2	60 farmers in the host landscape identified and recruited as community rangers by local radio broadcasts and individual interviews	2	X											
1.3	60 local farmers trained by Assistant Project Manager-Patrols in community patrolling and the recording and reporting of infractions	1		X										
1.4	Local rangers systematically patrol ca. 500 ha target zone to detect and report infractions under the direction and coaching of the Assistant Project Manager-Patrols	32		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.5	Infractions treated by the local management committee or the Forest Service (depending on severity)	32		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Output 2	Farmers launch reconstructive restoration on old fields within protected area													
2.1	60 farmers (mostly women) identified and recruited as nurserywomen by local radio broadcasts and individual interviews	2	X											
2.2	60 women trained by the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries in best practice for the collection of seeds and the propagation and nurturing of seedlings of native woody plant species	1	X											
2.3	Under the guidance of Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries, 5 village nurseries installed in the target landscape by nursery women assisted by rangers,	2		X										
2.4	Under the direction and coaching of the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries, each nursery propagates 40,000 seedlings of native woody plants	18		X	X	X	X	X	X					
2.5	Under the guidance of the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries and direction of the Project Manager, the nurserywomen out-plant 200,000	6							X	X				

Project Title: Better livelihoods for shifting-cultivators from conserving and restoring Malagasy forests

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	seedlings of native woody plants (some being planted within the framework of experiments to identify best practice)													
2.6	Out-planted seedlings provided with post plantation care by nursery women	12									X	X	X	X
2.7	Samples of the out-planted seedlings monitored to determine rates of survival and growth.	2									X			X
Output 3	Best practices for the restoration of degraded dry deciduous forest defined and shared													
3.1	The Project Manager analyses results of monitoring to inform best practice for the reconstructive restoration of degraded dry deciduous forest	1												X
3.2	The Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries organises a workshop with project participants (and representatives from other organisations working to restore this habitat elsewhere) to present the results of monitoring of the survival and growth of out-planted seedlings and, partly informed by this information, to debate their perceptions on best practice for reconstructive restoration in the vegetation type	1												X
3.3	The Project Manager conceives and drafts a publication (could be booklet or perhaps poster) describing the principles for best practice for the restoration of dry deciduous forest, then shares this publication with others engaged in this activity	1												X
Output 4	Local farming families gain improved livelihoods through engagement with the project.													
4.1	Project staff and a business consultant develop business plan for a native tree value-chain	1							X					
4.2	Business plan implemented (including development of webpage to attract potential buyers of young plants of native trees and to express interest in placing an order)	18							X	X	X	X	X	X

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4.3	Nursery women organised and legalised as an association and helped to develop a pragmatic manual of procedures to promote good governance	1							X					
4.4	Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries coaches the association of nurserywomen in the application of their manual of procedures (especially including aspects of financial management)	18							X	X	X	X	X	X
4.5	Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries places potential buyers in contact with association of nurserywomen so that the buyer can seek their advice about which species may best satisfy their needs and then directly negotiate the purchase of these plants										X	X	X	X
4.6	Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries facilitates communication between buyers and the association of nurserywomen and coaches leaders within the association to manage orders post-project.										X	X	X	X

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Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Model project shows how Malagasy ecosystems can be successfully conserved and restored by the large-scale mobilisation of local people through creation of new “green” employment opportunities.			
<p>Outcome: Local farming families at Bongolava mobilised to effectively conserve and restore their forest and thereby access improved livelihoods</p>	<p>0.1 In YR1, YR2 and YR3 of the project the annual number of infractions within the 500 hectare target zone falls respectively by 50%, 75% and 90% from baseline.</p> <p>0.2 In YR2 and YR3 <u>no</u> forest is lost to agriculture within the 500 hectare target zone.</p> <p>0.3 By YR3 all old fields in the 500 ha target zone are regenerating forest</p> <p>0.4 In YR1, YR2 and YR3 the average annual income received by the farming families participating in this project increased by at least 25% over pre-project baseline</p> <p>0.5. By YR3 the project participants value their forest more than at baseline</p>	<p>0.1 Analysis of log books of forest rangers</p> <p>0.2 Analysis of “forest watch” images</p> <p>0.3 Audit of young trees that are produced and out- planted, and monitoring of samples of young trees of each species, under each condition, to estimate survival and growth rates.</p> <p>0.4 Household surveys among project’ participants at baseline and then annually</p> <p>0.5 Analysis of open interviews with a sample of participants at baseline and again at end YR3.</p>	<p>- Local farming families trust FBM sufficiently to engage in this process</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Infractions in target forest rapidly detected and</p>	<p>1.1. Annually all 0.1 km² cells within target zone visited by local rangers bimonthly and infractions</p>	<p>1.1 Analysis of observations and GPS readings recorded in log books of rangers</p>	<p>- Local office of Forest Service have sufficient resources and motivation</p>

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<p>controlled by local farmers with help of forest service</p>	<p>noted and reported</p> <p>1.2. All infractions treated either by local management committee or, for more serious offenses, by Forest Service</p>	<p>1.2 Reports from Management Committee and Forest Service concerning treatment of infractions</p>	<p>to fulfil their responsibilities concerning the treatment of infractions</p>
<p>2. Farmers launch reconstructive restoration on old fields within protected area</p>	<p>2.1 At end of 6 months 5 village nurseries have been installed, equipped and are functional</p> <p>2.2 At the end of 6 months 60 local people have the knowledge, skills and motivation to work as effective nursery staff</p> <p>2.3 During YR2 200,000 plants of native species are available in 5 village nurseries for out-planting</p> <p>2.4 By YR2, 75 hectares of land that was formerly forest but recently cut and burnt for maize/bean cultivation have been planted with a total of ca. 200,000 young plants of (i.e. a mean of 2800 plants per hectare).</p> <p>2.5 In YR3 out-planted plants have a mean 12-month survival rate of 80% and a mean annual growth rate of 25 cm</p>	<p>2.1 Photos of nurseries</p> <p>2.2 Evaluation of competence of nursery staff</p> <p>2.3 Analysis of nursery log books with photographic proof of condition of nurseries</p> <p>2.4 Use of GPS units to map areas of deforested land where natural regeneration is adequate to ensure restoration and areas where reconstructive restoration (i.e. tree planting) has been launched.</p> <p>2.5 Monitoring of survival and growth of samples of out-planted plants representing different species planted under different conditions following protocol described here: https://mobot.mg/conservation/ecological_restoration/</p>	<p>- native tree species can be identified that can be propagated easily and that survive and grow well in the challenging conditions (poor soils, high exposure to wind and sun) of former fields</p> <p>- wild fires can be controlled with firebreaks so they do not burn restoration plots nor regenerating forest</p> <p>- free ranging cattle can be controlled by project participants by soliciting collaboration of the neighbours, so that they do not trample or browse the newly out-planted young plants</p>
<p>3. Best practices for the restoration of degraded dry deciduous forest defined and shared</p>	<p>3.1 By YR3, the knowledge of the project participants combined with the results of trials exploring best practice for reconstructive restoration of dry deciduous forest is</p>	<p>3.1 Number of booklets distributed to named recipients</p> <p>3.2 Feed back from recipients concerning the value of booklet</p>	<p>- at least some of the principles of best practice identified at Bongolava will be applicable to the restoration of dry</p>

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	summarised into a well- illustrated booklet that is shared with others endeavouring to restore this vegetation type		deciduous forests elsewhere.
4. Local farming families gain improved livelihoods through engagement with the project.	<p>4.1. In YR1, YR2 and YR3 60 farming families (60 men and 60 women) gain average compensation of £80 per month for their participation in the project including work as rangers, and for the propagation, out-planting and nurturing of young trees, and monitoring</p> <p>4.2. In YR3 farmers are able to generate an extra mean income of at least £25 per month through the sales of native tree seedlings for other restoration projects</p>	<p>4.1 Accounts of payments made to participating faming families</p> <p>4.2 Accounts of sales of young trees</p>	- by YR2 of the project robust markets exist in the region to young plants of native trees can be sold for landscape restoration
<p>Activities</p> <p>1.1. Research by Project Manager to identify the project zone where local farming families are concerned about the loss of the forest and are willing to engage with an alternative greener vision of their landscape</p> <p>1.2. 60 farmers in the host landscape identified and recruited as community rangers by local radio broadcasts and individual interviews</p> <p>1.3. 60 local farmers trained by Assistant Project Manager- Patrols in community patrolling and the recording and reporting of infractions</p> <p>1.4. Local rangers systematically patrol ca. 500 ha target zone to detect and report infractions under the direction of the Assistant Project Manager (patrols)</p> <p>1.5. Infractions treated by the local management committee or the Forest Service (depending on severity)</p> <p>2.1. 60 farmers (mostly women) identified and recruited as nurserywomen by local radio broadcasts and individual interviews</p> <p>2.2. 60 women trained by the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries in best practice for the collection of seeds and the propagation and nurturing of seedlings of native woody plant species</p>			

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- 2.3. 5 village nurseries installed in the target landscape by nursery women assisted by rangers, under the guidance of a consultant
- 2.4. Under the guidance of the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries, each nursery propagates 40,000 seedlings of native woody plants
- 2.5. Under the guidance of the Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries and direction of the Project Manager, the nurserywomen out-plant 200,000 seedlings of native woody plants (some being planted within the framework of experiments to identify best practice)
- 2.6. Out-planted seedlings provided with post plantation care by nursery women
- 2.7. Samples of the out-planted seedlings monitored to determine survival and growth.
- 3.1. The Project Manager analyses results of monitoring to inform best practice for the reconstructive restoration of degraded dry deciduous forest
- 3.2. The Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries organises a workshop with project participants (and representatives from other organisations working to restore this habitat elsewhere) to present the results of monitoring of the survival and growth of out-planted seedlings and, partly informed by this information, to debate their perceptions on best practice for reconstructive restoration in the vegetation type
- 3.3. The Project Manager conceives and drafts a publication (could be booklet or perhaps poster) describing the principles for best practice for the restoration of dry deciduous forest, then shares this publication with others engaged in this activity
- 4.1. Project staff and business consultant develop business plan for a native tree value chain
- 4.2. Business plan implemented including development of webpage to attract potential buyers of young plants of native trees and to enable express interest in placing an order
- 4.3. Nursery women organised and legalised as an association and helped to develop a manual of procedures
- 4.4. Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries coaches the association of nurserywomen in the application of their manual of procedures
- 4.5. Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries places potential buyers in contact with one or more groups of nurserywomen where the buyer can seek their advice about which species may best satisfy their needs and then directly negotiate the purchase of these plants
- 4.6. Assistant Project Manager-Nurseries facilitates communication between buyers and the association of nurserywomen.