

DIR30S2\1063

Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation for Niger Delta red colobus monkey

This project will deliver major advances towards ensuring the sustainable conservation of the critically endangered Niger Delta red colobus monkey in Nigeria's Niger River Delta by restoring habitat, developing legal frameworks, and providing livelihood benefits to communities vital to conservation efforts. The long-term integrated conservation approach proposed here would not only ensure the species' survival but will also contribute to building the state government and communities' capability in wildlife and forest management.

DIR30S2\1063

Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation for Niger Delta red colobus monkey

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Rachel
Surname	Ikemeh
Organisation	SW/Niger Delta Forest Project
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	SW/Niger Delta Forest Project
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]


Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary


Q3. Title:


Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation for Niger Delta red colobus monkey

Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [DarwinMain cover letter stage 2](#)

 25/11/2023

 09:26:43

 pdf 561.05 KB

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR29S1\1123

DIR30S1\1342

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

Palustrine wetlands

Biome 2

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 3

Freshwater Realm (Rivers and streams)

Conservation Action 1

Land / Water Management

Conservation Action 2

Legal & Policy Frameworks

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Threat 1

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

Threat 2

Energy production & mining (incl. renewables)

Threat 3

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

This project will deliver major advances towards ensuring the sustainable conservation of the critically endangered Niger Delta red colobus monkey in Nigeria's Niger River Delta by restoring habitat, developing legal frameworks, and providing livelihood benefits to communities vital to conservation efforts. The long-term integrated conservation approach proposed here would not only ensure the species' survival but will also contribute to building the state government and communities' capability in wildlife and forest management.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Nigeria	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 2024	29 March 2027	3 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Amount:	£211,409.00	£170,523.00	£117,867.00	£ 499,799.00

Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q10. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

Q11. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

Yes

Please give details.

We have applied for the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Round 10 Stage 1 for our work in Ise Forest Conservation Area in Ekiti State, SW Nigeria. The site is a co-management between our organization and the Ekiti State Government. The site was established to protect fragile chimpanzee population and habitat, an affirmation to the critical gap that our organization bridges in bringing much-needed interventions (from scratch) to threatened wildlife and habitats across southern Nigeria overlapping areas of high human population density. Despite the inherent challenges, we are making remarkable progress.

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. 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 multi-dimensional poverty.

The Niger Delta red colobus monkey (*Ptilocolobus epieni*) is known to occur within a limited area of about 1,500km² in Bayelsa State, Nigeria due to the clumped distribution of its favoured food tree species in the marsh forests of central Niger Delta (Werre 2000). Discovered in 1993, this species was classified as Critically Endangered in 2008 on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and five times (2008, 2010, 2016, 2018, 2022) listed as one of 25 most endangered primates in the world at biennial reviews by experts at the International Primatological Society. Known threats to the species are principally habitat loss from excessive logging, oil extraction and exploration activities and of commercial bushmeat hunting/consumption. Since the early 2000s violent conflicts and associated human rights violations resulting from revenue sharing, oil and land disputes in the Niger River Delta region made it unsafe for conservation work. In 2013 we carried out a survey which revealed that the species had gone extinct in most parts of the range (see Ikemeh 2015) where it was previously recorded as abundant in (Werre 2000), including in the locality where the species was first discovered (Akeem & Lewiska 2022). Current estimates are that there remain approximately 300 individuals of red colobus monkey. This forest-dependent primate has never been successfully bred in captivity. The conservation actions currently carried out by SW/Niger Delta Forest Project provides the only lifeline for this species' survival, yet these efforts remain fragile.

In 2020, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Apoi Community of Bayelsa State and in 2021 we established the Apoi Community Conservation Area (ACCA) which covers 1,013 hectares and where community rangers are on patrol to protect the last stronghold of the species. The ACCA is now a 'biodiversity island' in a sea of neighbouring community forests that have been largely decimated by unregulated logging. The Apoi community has put in place its own by-laws to formally protect the species and the site, but that's insufficient to deter or formally prosecute encroachers from neighbouring communities making the protected area difficult to manage and sustain.

The justifications for such heavy pressure to log in the conserved area are not far-fetched, Niger Delta communities have been embroiled in conflicts with the government and oil companies over entrenched poverty and under-development in the region despite bearing the burdens (mostly of environmental damage leading to loss of livelihoods) of the oil sector that makes Nigeria Africa's largest oil producer. In addition, on the 29th of May 2023, the newly sworn-in president announced the end to fuel subsidy - an economic policy that is about 50 years old - put in place to reduce the cost of goods and services in the country. This situation has exacerbated

poverty across the country amongst other negative effects such as fast-rising inflation, job losses, crippling SMEs etc. particularly in these remote communities who are increasingly turning to remnant forest for a means of income.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

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

Q13b. 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 project contributes to the objectives, strategies and implementation framework espoused in the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria 2022- 2026. Our work directly reflects 5 out of the 7 defined objectives for the strategic plan document which are: Strengthen the legal framework, increase collaboration, enhance institutional capabilities, raise awareness of wildlife crime and provide alternative livelihoods. Our efforts on this project will support Nigeria in fulfilling its Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreements and more recently targets 1 and 2 of the 23 targets in the final text of the 2022 Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which states, Target 1: Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities; and Target 2: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. These two targets are the (top) two main objectives of this project. The premise of the project also aligns with the framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) that provides for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Incidentally, the Apoi creek area where the project is being implemented is a recognized Ramsar site, one of 11 sites in Nigeria highlighted as Wetland of International Importance. Similarly, the project contributes to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs), specifically, no poverty; decent work and economic growth; climate action; life on land and partnerships for the goals - SDGs goals 1, 8, 13, 15 and 17 respectively. This project is addressing both entrenched and situational poverty, providing job opportunities with dignity for members of the indigenous communities, developing sustainable livelihood alternatives that will drive growth within the local economy. The project also aims to preserve the remaining population of a critically endangered species on land, mitigating climate change and building the right partnerships with government and indigenous to achieve these goals. The Apoi community conservation area harbours other threatened species including Grey Parrot; Home's Hinge-back Tortoise; West African Dwarf Crocodile; White-bellied Pangolin and Anambra Waxbill as well as other endangered primates such as the red capped mangabey and Nigerian putty nosed monkey. The Grey parrot, pangolin, home's hinge back tortoise are on CITES appendix II while the west African dwarf crocodile is on

Appendix I. Strengthening their protection through this project supports Nigeria in meeting its obligations to ensure these species are not further depleted in their natural habitat.

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

Q14. 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.).

Establish new community-based restoration areas leading to expansion of conservation areas for the Niger Delta red colobus monkey:

The SW/Niger Delta Forest Project will leverage on its experience and presence in Apoi Community, Southern-Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State to establish two new community-based restoration areas in Gbanraun and Kokologbene communities - adjacent communities (located north and east respectively) to Apoi. We aim to build on the conservation efforts for surviving population endemic red colobus monkey and also scale up our ongoing work. We will engage with the neighbouring communities to establish reforestation and forest recovery projects to a) create and/or expand the availability of suitable habitat for surviving population of the species b) re-channel the energies of restive youths in neighbouring communities who currently mostly seek a living through logging into productive employment in reforestation of their own severely degraded forests. Based on our experiences, we will engage meaningfully with communities to establish community conserved areas adjoining the ACCA. Starting from an iterative consultation process and the signing of community MoUs, we will then engage in participatory mapping and the creation of native species' tree nurseries in both communities, train community members in tree planting and care techniques and the gathering of habitat restoration/biodiversity monitoring data. What's positive about this proposed project plan is that the idea emerged from series of brainstorming meetings held with the leaderships of Gbanraun and Kokologbene in seeking solutions to the incessant incursions into the ACCA by members of their communities.

Improve knowledge of forest governance and facilitate the development of a legal framework:

There is also a fundamental need to establish legal framework (structures) to effectively prosecute poaching and encroachment offences. The State government must adopt conservation priorities that supports current efforts to save the species from extinction. To achieve this, we will coordinate with state government officials and other stakeholders in a series of workshops and strategic planning sessions to support the government to develop its own species action plan and implementation mechanisms. This will help ensure that destructive activities like hunting and habitat destruction can effectively be prosecuted by law. We will also firmly advocate that these workshops, meetings and consultations produce the desired results of enacting new relevant laws/policies and/or the revisions of obsolete ones. Through this process, we will coordinate a stakeholders' forum that brings together the leaderships of the 3 indigenous communities, relevant departments of the state government and business actors within the Apoi Creek landscape in ways as to promote both co-learning and discussions that will create the sort of socio-political environment for the conservation effort to thrive. We will bring our experience

from using this same approach at our southwestern Nigeria site where we work and has produced results such as increased stakeholders' interest(s) in the project, fostered cooperation and support for conservation management processes/interventions. It is also important that we increase public (also local) awareness of biodiversity through radio programs and other media in order to encourage public scrutiny on stakeholders' performance in forest management.

Address poverty issues by providing support for sustainable and diversified livelihood alternatives while also boosting existing local businesses:

There's also opportunity to provide non-monetary benefits that will improve socio-economic wellbeing, beyond addressing poverty issues and poor living conditions, it will also serve as an incentive to advance conservation programmes. Some of the lessons learned from implementing conservation in Apoi community is that addressing the under-development and lack of basic infrastructure in many remote areas of the Niger Delta is the most urgent need and most preferred in these communities. In Apoi, we improved the educational infrastructure, provided support for teachers' salaries and educational materials/scholarship to 24 school children. We helped built a telecommunications mast and provided some solar-powered electrification. In this project we will set up a support scheme for SMEs in collaborations with experts, business consultant from the Bank of Industry.

We will design and implement sustainable livelihood alternatives such as snail farming, beekeeping, fishery business etc, the specific initiatives will be determined through a participatory approach. The project will provide trainings and cover start-up costs for beneficiaries.

Q15. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

Our work will build local capacity at different stages and in different areas of development needs such as forest governance, regulatory frameworks, administration/management, tree planting techniques, biomonitoring etc. Our experience with the ACCA has resulted in lessons learned about how to equip the local communities to drive conservation actions and run a conservation area autonomously. We build on this antecedent by equipping two additional communities -Gbanraun and Kokologbene - to develop, plan and execute habitat restoration leading to the creation of two new specially designated sites. The project activities will involve significant training and capacity building. We will be organizing workshops for the development of legal structures for Bayelsa state government to enact new laws (and review existing ones where necessary) that will protect biodiversity. We will also be training local participants who will be involved in seed gathering, tree nursery, propagation techniques and site management.

This project has been designed to promote the importance of biodiversity conservation in a region that's only valued for its oil deposits. In the first instance, the post-project value of the project to the country is unquantifiable, for example, there will be decreased deforestation and habitat degradation replaced with a significant increase in the knowledge of forest management, regulations and sustainable use both at the local and state level. It will also catalyze national interest in community forestry and in ensuring habitat corridors/connectivity for effective species conservation. Our conservation success in Apoi community has led both national and international partners to ask us to document the process so as to replicate the conservation project in other parts of the region. We will gather and share all lessons learned about our experience to ensure it can be replicated elsewhere.

Q16. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

Gender equality has been a major consideration throughout the project from the planning stage to execution and is a major drive of the project's leadership having experienced first-hand the gaps that exist at every level in the society. The implementation team is led by a woman and is composed of 3 women. While we focus on local communities, the project will ensure that opportunities for participation/involvement in project management and benefits for employment, training and livelihood support will reach at least 521 women and girls representing 44% of the projected project beneficiaries. We plan to increase more female leadership within the project whenever and wherever possible. We will ensure attendance, representation and participation of women in local communities in all stakeholder meetings and events that will be held/organized. We acknowledge that most rural communities in the region live by a rigid patriarchal system, that's why during community engagements we use focus group discussion as one of the approaches to ensure inclusivity in consultations. Our organization operates a strict policy whereby all stakeholder groups irrespective of gender, age groups and religion are equitably represented and included in all our activities, for example, 35% of the management committee of the ACCA is made up of women in the community and 25% is made up of youths. We have established programmes targeted at benefitting children of all ages in the communities, youth, the elders and the women and men within the communities.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction, and links between them, that this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who exactly 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.

With the reforestation program in Gbanraun and Kokologbene communities, the main beneficiaries will be the people who were past forest users, those profiled as unemployed and/or who have direct or indirect link to forest resource. Some of the changes in the short-term will include i) reduction in harmful activities in the conservation area because youths in neighbouring communities are now engaged in reforestation or in other productive activities ii) Establishment of 10 – 15km² of suitable habitat connected to the conservation area. While this area will be allowed to naturally regenerate, assisted regeneration will also be implemented through tree-planting. Tree nurseries will be established to replenish and maintain at least 500ha of the forests with native trees every year from 2025 until 2027 iii) A conservation area (composed of the ACCA + two new community conserved areas) operating in coordination to improve threat management, mitigation and eradication of threats after project implementation. iv) At least, 30 - 50 people (targeting 30 men and 20 women) will be directly employed, trained and equipped in the conservation, management and monitoring efforts and broader income benefits for approximately 1000 households. In the short-term, socio-economic wellbeing of these communities will be enhanced by the support that will be provided for at 500 SMEs and alternative livelihood initiatives that will be implemented to provide a means of livelihood for 670 persons which will in turn boost the local economy, increase job opportunities for others not directly employed by the project and also other businesses will emerge or be boosted by these economic activities. The contract that will be developed for SMEs and livelihood beneficiaries will highlight certain terms and conditions such as goods and services MUST be acquired from within the community unless it is unavailable; activities must avoid any impact to the environment

particularly forest and wildlife and so on. In the long-term, these initiatives and support will bring about economic growth and community development as this growth will attract investments in new infrastructure through the project and also by other economic actors e.g. development stakeholders such as the UNDP.

We expect there will be increased political awareness, knowledge on forest governance and management (through media outreaches, consultations, practical implementations and stakeholder meetings) related to the species and habitat. State government authorities and other local stakeholders will benefit in capacity building from the organized workshops and strategic planning meetings that will culminate into the signing of commitment to protect species and a species action plan by the end of 2025. A law or policy should be enacted before the end of 2026 or progress on this should have advanced considerably indicated by the actual legal document or communique will be released by relevant authority on the progress of action. All these is expected to occur during the life of the project, whereas, after the project has ended, we expect that it would help to create a culture of effective forest management and conservation that will be passed down to the succeeding generations.

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, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

There are critical benefits this project will deliver on beyond the project lifespan.

1. In the first instance, a species that would otherwise have become extinct will have stable to increasing population as a result of the project. Its habitat (and range) which had previously shrunk owing to habitat degradation/loss, is regenerated, replenished and expanded due to the establishment of new community-based conservation areas during the course of the project. Whereas the implications of this project actions are far-reaching as it has proven (from the ACCA model) to have an inherent multiplier effect and could be seen replicated in other community areas in the biologically endowed region.
2. This project is developing diverse sustainable household income streams which will boost the local economy and build its resiliency to external (nation-wide and international) economic crisis which often affect individuals/households disproportionately.
3. We also expect that in the longer term, it will break the vicious cycle of entrenched poverty because the people are not being handed the proverbial 'fish for a day but are taught how to fish for a lifetime'. Valuable training/knowledge will be impacted on the connections between poverty and biodiversity loss; the effects of weak forest governance/management, etc.

Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q19a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?


At the onset, we encouraged the Apoi community to register a Community-Based Organization (CBO) which they named the Apoi Community Conservation Association. We provided pertinent training, knowledge and skillset to the management committee and project staff - who are all members of the community. This skillset includes fundraising, site management, administration (financial and human resource), conflict resolution, protection, education and communication skills and scientific data collection as well as computer literacy. We have also facilitated international learning and exchanges for some of them. We will implement and build on the Apoi


model in Gbanraun and Kokologbene. This sort of skill transfer is pivotal to ensuring project sustainability and sustained post-funding because some of these skills are reawakening traditional knowledge and practice of forest governance/management. We will share the progresses (and/or failures where necessary) of the project in film documentaries, news articles and scientific publications.


Q19b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?


As the largest River Delta in Africa, the Niger Delta region supports the second largest swamp forest on the continent covering about 15,000km² and the third largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world, yet, within this critical landscape there are no effective protected areas except for the relatively new and active Apoi Community Conservation Area. Already, our conservation success in Apoi community has led many to ask us to consider replication in other local communities to protect species such as the West African manatee, loggerhead sea turtle, chimpanzee amongst others. Specifically, the recent Federal Minister of Environment had asked us to publish a guide on the establishment of community-based conservation as the volatile nature of the region seem to have even hindered government-led interventions. This proposed project is already piloting the process of scaling our success in Apoi Community: we expect it to catalyze region-wide conservation actions by other groups.

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

 [REFERENCES Maps Illustrations](#)

 25/11/2023

 22:50:39

 pdf 658.05 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.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
------------------	--------	-------	------------	-------------------	---------------

Fiduciary

Programme manager or management favoring contractors, suppliers, or service providers in which they have a personal or financial interest, rather than making objective decisions on contracts for the benefit of the project. This might lead to sub-standard individuals being contracted and compromise the quality and value-for-money of outputs.

Minor

Possible

Minor

The project has put in place standard procedures for procurement and contract bidding/award. We will ensure to monitor compliance to this standards and put in place checks and balances within the local offices to ensure excesses of programme managers or team leaders are reduced.

Minor

Safeguarding

This project is undertaken in remote communities and in a region with socio-political challenges, with a history of security issues which poses risk to project personnel. This could physically and economically affect personnel and their families and/or compromise project delivery.

Major

Rare

Major

All field staff and newly recruited staff will be trained on safety. Emergency procedures will be put in place. We will cooperate with all security agencies as we have always done. These will advise on any deterioration of security, in which case field operations will be suspended temporarily.

Moderate

Delivery Chain

Intra-community politics might hamper the recruitment of truly competent persons for job roles and of project beneficiaries and this could sabotage the process or the work pace and/or delivery particularly of Output 2.

Minor

Possible

Minor

To reduce this risk, SW/Niger Delta Forest Project will oversee all aspects of project design and implementation. We will ensure adequate compliance with our ethics code of objectivity, inclusivity and equity throughout the recruitment or selection processes. We have also put in place, trial (experimental) phases, probationary clauses in contracts.

Minor

Risk 4	The Bayelsa State Government may be unwilling to sign new laws and/or revise relevant obsolete ones. This might deteriorate the wider governance framework in which our project is implementing, and hence compromise the delivery of Output 4, the outcome and impact.	Moderate	Rare	Moderate	There are some government officials such as the Commissioner for Culture and Tourism including the Secretary to the State Government who has shown great interest in the project and will serve in major roles as part of the steering committee who are in good position politically to ensure positive outcome.	Minor
Risk 5	Intra-community conflicts amongst stakeholder groups or elites may delay or hijack the progress of project to suit their own personal interest(s).	Minor	Rare	Moderate	The governance systems in these communities are already exceptionally democratic. The elites who are indigenes of these communities reside in Yenagoa, the state capital and do not have the level of influence to upturn decisions. Community Development Committees in these communities have indicated interest in this project.	Minor
Risk 6	Output 4 involves some level of capacity building support to representatives of government agencies and frequent engagement. The probability of achieving this output is at risk if key government officials reach service retirement before the completion of tasks associated with this output (note that, staff turnover is rare in government).	Major	Possible	Major	We will collate sufficient background information on each of our government point of contact and put in place a strategy to have the second-in-line at every meeting, engagement or workshop.	Moderate

Q21. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

Yes





Please provide brief details.

The region is quite volatile politically and security-wise, thus, security of staff can be jeopardized if personal information are published e.g. contact details. Also, there's been a history of distrust between the local communities, government and oil companies for decades over revenue sharing to the extent oil staff or outsiders are kidnapped. This makes publishing financial details also very sensitive and from experience even when context or explanations are provided to some community members, they will choose to perceive that funding for the project is meant to be shared around or there will be a sense of entitlement to it.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

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

-  [BCF Workplan Template 2023-24 FINAL\(1\) SW](#)
- [ND](#)
-  26/11/2023
-  23:54:20
-  pdf 237.25 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q23. 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.

Our overall Monitoring and Evaluation will be conducted internally and externally.

INTERNALLY:

Internal M&E will be the responsibility of the project leader (Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh); Programme Manager (Uwatt Aniekan-Abasi) and the Management Committees set up in each of the communities for all work undertaken in the field or in each community. Progress reports, workshop conclusions, communication feedback and training outcomes will be measured against milestones and indicators already provided in the project proposal. This will be facilitated by regular communication between project partners via phone or online chats, email and in-person meetings. Specific elements of the project will be monitored and evaluated as follows:

- 1) Habitat restoration experimental plots will be set up within the restoration/reforestation target areas. Detailed tree inventories and standardized monitoring conducted monthly, will allow us to monitor changes between the project baseline and target. Seed sources, inventories, germination and growth rates will be databased on a monthly basis and will be reviewed by the project's consultants/associates both for monitoring purposes and evaluating progress in habitat restoration.

- 2) We will conduct an annual questionnaire survey to assess local perceptions of the project and measure for impacts of every activity of the project.

3) Monthly data collated from biomonitoring teams and ranger squads will be used to assess operational performance. The programme manager employed for each of the community i.e. Apoi, Gbanraun and Kokologbene will be tasked to preparing a monthly report that provides a snapshot view of the project's performance that month (this is already being done for existing project activities).

4) We also assess project's progress against the workplan. SW/Niger Delta Forest Project also has its own internal financial monitoring system at its head office to ensure efficiency in financial management at field offices.

5) For every consultation/workshop/event, attendance will be collated including information such as names of attendees, contact, gender, affiliations etc. This will serve as a monitoring tool for the level of participation of stakeholders. Also, a communique and minutes of the meeting/workshop will be drafted. We also plan that each workshop will produce a real-life situation output which will be used to evaluate the outcome of the workshop. For example, agreements (MoU) signed, draft law or management plan produced etc. Progress with public awareness will be measured by coverage in local and national media.

EXTERNALLY:

1) We will commission an independent evaluation of socio-economic wellbeing against the baseline data after project implementation.

2) We will (as is customary) commission an independent auditor to audit the project's financial management.

Outputs of M&E include:


- Minutes of meeting
- Copies of contract, employment letters and agreements
- constructed buildings and procured equipment (procurement list)
- Monthly reports
- Training modules
- Training evaluation results, Questionnaire sheets
- Minutes of meeting
- Photographs and videos (media products)
- Communique from workshops
- Attendance list
- Beneficiary database
- Species database
- Tree inventory list/database
- Audit reports
- Consultant reports


Total project budget for M&E (£)	£ [REDACTED]
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Total project budget for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	100


Section 10 - Logical Framework


Q24. 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 will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

 [BCF St2 and Single Stage Logical Framework Template Apr23 SWND](#)

 27/11/2023

 00:14:16

 pdf 107.49 KB

Impact:

The Niger Delta red colobus monkey is effectively conserved, forest restoration areas are established providing critical habitat expansion and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Outcome:

Niger Delta red colobus monkey is protected, two community restoration areas of 15km² (1500ha) are established, 1170 households benefit from income generation, employment and training.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Law enforcement and biomonitoring in the ACCA is improved and two new forest restoration areas are established with special designations and land use agreements.

Output 2:

Local people are engaged in habitat restoration involving tree nursery, seed handling, propagation, transplanting, aftercare and monitoring processes.

Output 3:

Individual-level and community-level poverty issues are addressed through employment, supporting SMEs and initiating sustainable livelihood alternatives amongst other community development programmes.

Output 4:

Legal framework for species protection is adopted and laws enacted. There's also increased awareness of forest management and of biodiversity among local communities and government.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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. Stakeholder consultations on key components of the project i.e., location of designated site for reforestation, term agreements, clarifications on land use, ownerships, tenure, rights etc.
- 1.2. Facilitate participatory mapping of proposed reforestation areas' boundaries with special designations as community managed areas: Develop plan, logistics for community participation.
- 1.3. Prepare maps showing agreed locations of proposed community managed areas and other geo-features; develop implementation plans; draft agreements etc.
- 1.4. Community consultations on new land designations and signing of MoU. Facilitate community-to-community learning (Apoi sharing lessons learned with Gbanraun and Kokologbene).
- 1.5. Train community rangers in the use of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in the ACCA and deploy camera traps to enhance biomonitoring.
- 1.6. Carry out annual skill enhancement training for community rangers and biomonitoring teams.
- 1.7. Share results with project partners and stakeholders. Collate/incorporate feedback.
- 2.1. Conduct baseline research of plant diversity and vegetation mapping of forest relics in designated location for reforestation; survey on other biodiversity elements.
- 2.2. Consultancy contracts and collaboration is established with organization/tree experts to train and monitor the reforestation plan/processes.
- 2.3. Construction of tree nursery, local staff recruited and trained. Field office constructed for administration/management purposes of project activities in Gbanraun and Kokologbene communities.
- 2.4. A pocket guide/manual is produced (using scientific illustrations) in collaboration with local tree experts for use by staff and temporary workers of the project.
- 2.5. Seed gathering, storage (with source data recorded) and germination, mapped and entered a database, data lodged in the herbarium. Planting regime is set, and plots are monitored by a dedicated team.
- 2.6. Habitat regeneration progress is measured annually. Biodiversity is also monitored e.g., avian diversity, presence of seed dispersals etc.
- 3.1. Conduct baseline socio-economic survey; explore options and interest (through consultations) for alternative livelihood project design.
- 3.2. Create a beneficiaries database and set up a support scheme for SMEs in collaborations with experts, business consultant from the Bank of Industry.
- 3.3. Develop sustainable livelihood alternatives such as snail farming, beekeeping, fishery business. Provide support for trainings and start-up.
- 4.1. Meetings/consultations with government from the Bayelsa State ministry of Environment; ministry of Justice; ministry of culture and tourism including officials at the federal level.
- 4.2. Organize first stakeholder strategic planning session (event) to discuss relevant laws and policies and establish understanding on the importance of biodiversity to political economy.
- 4.3. Workshop 1: Review the draft species action plan and endorse (follow up with one-on-one consultations).
- 4.4. Workshop 2: Draft relevant laws and legal instrument to protect the species. (follow up with one-on-one consultations).
- 4.5. Workshop 3: consortium of all stakeholders - communities, government, CSOs and private sector to endorse the enactment of draft laws (follow up with one-on-one consultations).
- 4.6. 'Epieni' festival already being marked in Apoi community every 1st of November will be celebrated in Gbanraun and Kokologbene simultaneously.
- 4.7. Press releases after every workshop; awareness posters/leaflets and billboards produced and distributed/displayed.
- 4.8. Radio program (saving epieni is saving our heritage) will be broadcasted every week; film documentary of the project produced.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q25. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

 [BCF Budget over 100k MASTER Aug23 \(1\) SW](#)
[ND](#)
 27/11/2023
 19:43:32
 xlsx 101.03 KB

Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

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

Development of existing/past activities

Please provide details:

The scope of this project is the extension to new areas which are critical part of the Niger Delta red colobus range. In fact, where the species was first discovered i.e. in Gbanraun. We consider that our current work in the Apoi community has been successful to protect a species that was at the very edge of extinction. However, for the achievements in Apoi community conservation area to be sustained, we must replicate the same approach in neighbouring communities of Gbanraun and Kokologbene. What we have accomplished in this landscape/region was perceived by some to be impossible because of the socio-political tensions that has persisted for decades in the region. However, we are learning that a process of building trust, participatory planning and collaborative management with indigenous communities could create a multiplier effect for the conservation work in this landscape and beyond.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project that may duplicate or cut across this proposed project?

No

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). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

In the first instance, the project set out to drive sustainable conservation for one species - the Niger Delta red colobus monkey, meanwhile, there are other species of high conservation importance which also benefit from the conservation efforts, such as, Grey Parrot; Home's Hinge-back Tortoise; West African Dwarf Crocodile; White-bellied Pangolin and Anambra Waxbill as well as other endangered primates including the red capped mangabey and Nigerian putty nosed monkey. In addition, the conservation effort positioned to catalyze biodiversity conservation across the Niger River Delta landscape. It is certainly good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness. Similarly, vulnerable communities with poor living conditions are also benefiting from the

project for a improved way of life. The capacity building elements of the project also have the potential to effect lasting change in the way forest are used and managed whether by the communities or by the government.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Initiative 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 scope of project activities and of its potential impact requires substantial investment in capital items. The fact that we are working with local partners as integral part of the project promotes sustainability of the project's activities as a new way of life in these communities. These capital items will help to also give these communities a sense of ownership of the project and increase their capacity. It brings to mind lesson learned from Apoi community at the start of project implementation, we had wanted to construct a temporary structure for a field office where all administrative and management activities will take place, but the community objected and the reasons, they gave was that they get the impression our organization doesn't have the intention to follow through with the project plan. Now, we are proposing to expand to two communities, certainly it will require significant investment in capital items.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy**: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy**: which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct**: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

Our Safeguarding policy document is a constant attachment to the terms and conditions we provide for all project staff, partners, collaborators and contractors. It underscores the position of the organization in engaging with the the public.

a) We provide adequate training and briefing for all team members and associates on what constitutes 'abuse' of individuals we come in contact with during the course of executing the project's activities and what will constitute as an abuse to them in carrying out their duties. In fact, this aspect is a component of training schedule during our annual staff retreat.

b) It is important for us to also recruit the right people locally to work and volunteer with our project i.e., we check for histories, patterns in behaviour etc. however, when our safeguarding policy is breached by any staff or associate after thorough investigation has been conducted, we are very firm in meting out disciplinary actions against that staff ranging from suspensions to dismissal or termination of contract depending on the severity of the case in question.

c) We ensure they have a copy of our Safeguarding Policy document and put in place checks and balances within the project organizational structure.

Q30. Ethics

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

We apply very strict standards to ensuring good ethical practices across our project sites because we are a grassroots-based organization and partnerships with indigenous people is central to achieving our objectives whether for wildlife conservation or improving socio-economic wellbeing of these local communities. Our approach in this project (and generally as an organization) are:

a) We will ensure inclusivity in decision-making. We do not compromise on inclusivity and always serve as one of our terms and conditions for partnership agreements. As a result, we engage with a cross section of stakeholder groups equally, including women and youths. We acknowledge the place of traditional knowledge and cultural values from planning to execution of all project activities.

b) We are also transparent about our project's activities, our next steps and our motives. Transparency is an important component of staff training. Generally, project staff are well-trained and instructed on upholding our ethical values, principles and integrity.

c) Because we work in often politically sensitive environments, we have a culture of confidentiality as one of our principles of engagement with any individual, group or community.

Section 13 - British embassy or high commission engagement

Q31. British embassy or high commission engagement


It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies.


Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project.


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [SW Niger Delta - Letter of Support \(1\)](#)

 22/11/2023

 10:16:37

 pdf 311.84 KB

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.


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh	Project Leader	50	Checked
Uwatt Aniekan-Abasi	Programme Manager	100	Checked
Ebibaikebuna Erepawei	Programme Officer (Community Engagement)	100	Checked
Seun Adejuwon	Senior Programme Officer	50	Checked


Do you require more fields?


No

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

 [One_page_CV](#)

 27/11/2023

 01:30:05

 pdf 190.27 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 who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

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 order of the letters must be the same as the order they are presented in below.

Lead partner name: Foundation for Sustainability of Wildlife and Climate (also known as SW/Niger Delta Forest Project)

Website address: www.swnigerdeltaforestproject.org.ng

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

This organization is the lead partner having had the most significant (impactful) conservation presence in the Niger Delta region than any other organization at the local, state and/or international level. We bring to bear a vast experience working at the grassroots and lessons learned from similar efforts carried out in recent past both in the target project sites and elsewhere in the country, in fact, there is over 10 years of experience to glean from. There is also evidence of working to bring together the best combination of experiences, partnerships and collaborators to achieve the desired outcomes.

SW/Niger Delta Forest Project will oversee every aspect of the project from planning to execution and then monitoring and evaluation.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Re:wild

Website address: www.rewild.org

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Re:Wild formerly (Global Wildlife Conservation) are one of our technical partners – Our organization has been partners with Re:wild since 2018. GWC works around the world in several ways that includes on-the-ground partnerships. We are working closely with Dr. Barney Long, the Senior Director for Species Conservation and Dr. Mike Appleton, the Director for Protected Area Management. Dr. Long’s work in GWC focuses on the prevention of extinctions and range-wide recovery of species. With over a decade of field experience he has been involved in all aspects of on-the-ground species conservation from surveys to anti-poaching, to community-based approaches, to protected area management. Our partnership has been focused on supporting the SW/Niger Delta Forest Project as front-line conservationists to refine our strategies for greater impact and bringing new approaches to our projects to help address persistent challenges while also providing financial support where needed or fiscal sponsorship. In this project, Re:wild will help with the development of a community-driven management and protection plan for the area and capacity development including SMART. They will also provide overarching technical guidance on the conservation of the species and area.

International/In-country Partner:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> International
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

2. Partner Name:	Apoi Community Conservation Association
Website address:	Not available

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Apoi Community Conservation Association was founded in July 2021 to harmonize all actions associated with the establishment and running of the Apoi Community Conservation Area. Through the management committee that has been set up by the association, the conservation association also help drive the conservation management processes for the conserved area while also providing crucial conflict resolution and management when the need arises. In this project, the management committee will build on their previous efforts while also helping to facilitate community-to-community learning for the establishment of community-based conservation areas in Gbanraun and Kokologbene. They are essentially co-managers with the SW/Niger Delta Forest Project in Apoi Community Conservation Area.

International/In-country Partner:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	£ [REDACTED]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

3. Partner Name:	Apoi Community Development Committee
Website address:	Not Available

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Apoi Community Development Committee (CDC) is the official administrative and governing body of the community made up of elected members who serve a two-year term. The committee provide oversight for all community affairs and by extension will provide some regulatory supervision of all project activities undertaken in the community especially to ensure the work doesn't threaten the peace of the community and that the programmes are in alignment with the project's proposed objectives and workplan. We expect that this will be the same working relationship we will have with the CDCs of Gbanraun and Kokologbene once a partnership agreement i.e., official MoU has been signed with these communities.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget: £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? No

If no, please provide details

It is not very clear why the letters of support was delayed but there were promises that it will be provided. So it is still being awaited.

4. Partner Name: Partners for Red Colobus (P4RC)

Website address: Not Available

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Partners for Red Colobus (P4RC) is a program of the US-based non-profit The Forest Collective. The initiative was created at the launch of the red colobus action plan and the red colobus working group in 2021 to support the working group and Red Colobus Conservation Network (RCCN) with awareness-raising materials focusing on red colobus. P4RC is run by Dr. Joshua Linder the chair of the Red Colobus Working Group and Dr. Carolyn Robinson, a social ecologist at Chengeta Wildlife who both bring decades of experiences working on red colobus research and conservation. The organization provided view finders for school children to help them get excited about the wildlife in the forest, they also designed and printed story book to help children learn about the red colobus and efforts to save it. They will continue to support this project with education and outreach materials, ideas and tools in Gbanraun and Kokologbene.

International/In-country Partner: International

Allocated budget: £ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): No

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

5. Partner Name: Bayelsa State Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Website address: <https://investbayelsa.by.gov.ng/tourism/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Bayelsa State government has made bold statements to commit to sustainable tourism, referring to tourism that is carried out in relatively undisturbed natural areas (a concept that covers a wide spectrum, from pristine nature to more or less degraded habitat) and that serves as a tool for the conservation of and sustainable development of local communities. The development and proper marketing of the Eco-tourism potentials and rich cultural heritage in the state is the main strategic goals put forward by the current administration that has just been elected for a second-term in office. The current commissioner for the Ministry of culture and tourism has several times requested to know how the government can make be actively involved in the conservation efforts of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey. In this project, the state government will play active role in developing a legal framework to protect the species and biodiversity in the State.

International/In-country Partner: In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? No

If no, please provide details

We have requested a letter of support, but it has not been received at time of submission of the application letter. This delay may have been as a result of the recently concluded state elections. Most government offices were deeply immersed in the political activities for months.

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

International/In-country Partner: International
 In-country

Allocated budget: *No Response*









Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure): Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? 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 **combined PDF** of all letters of support.

 DarwinMain lead partner letter of support-merged	 SW Niger Delta Forest Project recommendation letter for Darwin
 28/11/2023	 27/11/2023
 10:13:56	 08:57:54
 pdf 910.07 KB	 pdf 146.38 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) 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 2013
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	Philanthropic foundations, international agencies, government funding (foreign governments) e.g. the French Embassy and individual donations

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

Aims

- 1) Reduce current rates of forest loss and threats to critical wildlife populations.
- 2) Restore forests and wildlife populations to viable levels.
- 3) Gather robust scientific/technical information to inform management decisions and approaches.
- 4) Engage stakeholders to support conservation actions and improve local livelihoods.

Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation research and biomonitoring 2. Designing strategies and conservation intervention plans 3. Protected Area Creation and Management 4. Conservation education and outreach 5. Sustainable livelihood alternative/Community Support 6. Training and Capacity building 7. Species-based conservation 8. Habitat conservation and restoration 9. Stakeholder engagement 10. Advocacy and Media
Achievements	<p>Ours is a grassroots-focused organization prioritizing practical conservation actions through strategic partnerships. We have saved a species from extinction, resolved evolutionary mysteries surrounding chimpanzee population in SW Nigeria, established two new protected areas (from scratch) in challenging socio-political environments and are the only local organization in Nigeria enforcing wildlife/habitat protection.</p>

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	Save the Niger Delta Red Colobus from Extinction
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	\$ [REDACTED] USD
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	4 years
Role of organisation in project	Rainforest Trust provided financial support for the project including technical advice on land designation, protected area establishment and management, site visits to review and assess Project activities, Project management and progress, and GIS support (e.g. forest cover monitoring and boundary).
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The aims of the project are to: Provide legal support for community- level organizational and management structure for the conservancy and demarcate the conservancy's boundaries both on map and on ground building the capacities of the implementation team; Establish community-based protection and species monitoring; Increase community participation through engagement, outreach and awareness; Promote and support community livelihood alternatives. The outcomes include 1) Population of Niger Delta Red Colobus monkey and of other wildlife is stable and recovering; 2) Habitat loss and degradation is halted, and forest is regenerating successively; 3) Conservation awareness, attitude and participation increases within local community amongst
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Lorraine Barrett [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 2 Title	N/A
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	N/A
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	N/A
Role of organisation in project	N/A
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	N/A
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	N/A
Contract/Project 3 Title	N/A
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	N/A
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	N/A
Role of organisation in project	N/A
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	N/A
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	N/A

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q.35 Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Foundation for Sustainability of Ecosystem, Wildlife and Climate (also SW/Niger Delta Forest Project)

I apply for a grant of





£478,144.00

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









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

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.





Checked

Name	Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh
Position in the organisation	CE/Project Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Signature  22/11/2023  20:26:31  pdf 28.65 KB
Date	27 November 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 Audited Financial Statement 2020  22/11/2023  20:48:34  pdf 2.03 MB	 SWNigerDeltaForestProject AuditReport2021 BalanceSheet IncomeExpenditureStatement  22/11/2023  20:28:59  pdf 1.8 MB
---	---

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF

 Safeguarding Policy SWND  22/11/2023  20:32:10  pdf 563.62 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked

I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance” and “Standard Indicator Guidance”. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of the Lead Partner’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29). 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, combined into a single PDF. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF. 	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
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	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: Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: The Niger Delta red colobus monkey is effectively conserved, forest restoration areas are established providing critical habitat expansion and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Niger Delta red colobus monkey is protected, two community restoration areas of 15km² (1500ha) are established, 1170 households benefit from income generation, employment and training.</p>	<p>0.1. By end of Yr3, there is zero poaching and logging incident within the ACCA (baseline figure is average of 26 recorded incident per year during 2021 - 2022) [ICF KPI 8 26] [DI-D09] [DI-D18]</p> <p>0.2. By end of Yr3, conserved area for <i>P.epieni</i> in the Apoi creek forests increases by at least 110% (baseline = 10km² of ACCA at the start of Yr1) and by end Yr3 area occupied generally by wildlife in regenerated forest increases by 50%. [DI-D01] [DI-D12].</p> <p>0.3. By end of Yr3, red colobus population has expanded with 4 known groups (baseline = 2 identified groups in ACCA) [DI-D04]</p> <p>0.4. By end of Yr3, indices of socio-economic wellbeing for 1170 households in 3 local communities increases by 5% compared to baseline indices established from survey in Yr1.</p>	<p>0.1 Survey/ biodiversity assessment reports; geo-visualizations; photographs; maps; specimens etc.; Rangers patrol data; Monthly Reports, collated data from ranger patrols and assessments</p> <p>0.2. land use and partnerships agreements with Gbanraun and Kokologbene</p> <p>0.3. Biomonitoring reports</p> <p>0.4. Baseline socio-economic survey report; Monitoring and Evaluation report etc.</p>	<p>Project attracts and retains support of government agencies and local communities beyond the lifespan of the project.</p> <p>Project partners remain committed to achieving the project's objectives.</p>

Project Title: Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey

<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Law enforcement and biomonitoring in the ACCA is improved and two new forest restoration areas are established with special designations and land use agreements.</p>	<p>1.1. Up to 1500ha have been established as habitat restoration areas and designated as community managed areas by communal decree (land use agreements and signed MoU) by the end of Yr1. [DI-D01] [DI-D12]</p> <p>1.2 Improved technologies and strategies for patrols and biomonitoring in ACCA reduces threats by 30% each year using Yr1 records as baseline [DI-D18]</p>	<p>1.1 Signed partnership agreement/MoU</p> <p>1.2.1 Monthly patrol reports, geo-visualization</p> <p>1.2.2 Camera trap photolog</p> <p>1.2.3 Field data/monitoring outputs</p>	<p>The improvements on law enforcement and monitoring are sustainable, the restoration areas are effectively enforced, and no new external threats arise to override the positive effects of conservation and forest restoration.</p>
<p>2. Local people are engaged in habitat restoration involving tree nursery, seed handling, propagation, transplanting, aftercare and monitoring processes.</p>	<p>2.1. 35 people from 2 local communities are engaged in habitat restoration activities by the end of Yr1. [DI-A01]</p> <p>2.2. Tree nursery (one in Gbanraun and another in Kokologbene) constructed and staff recruited by the end of Yr1. Minimum of 10,000 seedlings planted annually by Yr2</p>	<p>2.1. Training modules; participants' lists.</p> <p>2.1.1 scientifically illustrated manuals (pocket guides)</p> <p>2.1.2. Recruitment letters and contract documents</p> <p>2.2. Herbarium logbook; tree nursery inventory/records</p> <p>2.2.1. Vegetation mapping, site map</p> <p>2.2.2. monthly monitoring reports of seed germination and viability</p> <p>2.2.3 Planting records/database,</p>	<p>The knowledge gained from habitat restoration amongst the local people is empowering them to explore other income generating initiatives related to tree planting such as the economic importance of <i>Irvingia gabonensis</i></p> <p>Climate change does not make the weather unpredictable in ways that will hamper seedling performance after planting.</p>

Project Title: Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey

		2.2.4.10,000 seedlings planted annually.	
3. Individual-level and community-level poverty issues are addressed through employment, supporting SMEs and initiating sustainable livelihood alternatives amongst other community development programmes.	<p>3.1. There is provision of basic infrastructure for educational access; access to healthcare and portable water compared to the availability and access at the project start in Yr1. [DI-A06] [DI-D16]</p> <p>3.2. 500 people supported with start-up or scale-up equipment in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises that will support them with disposable income by Yr3. [DI-A10]</p> <p>3.3. 670 individuals (past forest users profiled) receive trainings to establish SME enterprises by Yr3. [DI-B10] [DI-A01].</p>	<p>3.1. Baseline socio-economic survey report</p> <p>3.1.1 Evidence of infrastructure provided such as physical structure(s); contract awarded; scholarship awarded etc.</p> <p>3.2. Beneficiaries database; documentary report; procurement evidence etc.,</p> <p>3.3. Training modules and materials; feedback surveys; follow-up surveys</p>	<p>Actual social and economic interventions are determined through a participatory approach and it is not imposed on them. These initiatives are embraced by local stakeholders.</p> <p>Improved socio-economic wellbeing provide sufficient incentive to protect biodiversity.</p>
4. Legal framework for species protection is adopted and laws enacted. There's also increased awareness of forest management and of biodiversity among local communities and government.	<p>4.1. New communal bylaws for improved forest governance by end of Yr2.[DI-B12]</p> <p>4.2. Niger Delta red colobus monkey conservation and management plan drafted, endorsed and adopted by end of Yr2. [DI-B02] [DI-A01]</p>	<p>4.1. Constitution/Customary Law document</p> <p>4.2. Species Conservation action and Management Plan Document; workshop output; press release</p> <p>4.3. Meeting minute; Proposal document, Gazette</p>	<p>There's sustained interest and participation in reviewing existing law and/or policy; there's consensus between interest groups on provisions of the new law(s).</p> <p>The capacity of State and community institutions to</p>

Project Title: Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey

	<p>4.3. By end of Yr3, new state laws for wildlife protection and effective law enforcement proceedings are enacted and ratified by the Bayelsa State house of assembly. [DI-B12]</p> <p>4.4. By Yr1, radio show launched and other communication tools targeting government and key local communities with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues [DI-A07].</p>	<p>4.4. Press releases; radio program episodes; Billboard; flyers</p>	<p>implement any new laws/bylaws/policies/plans is available and improved.</p> <p>New state laws act as deterrent and reduces threats to conserved areas.</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)</p> <p>1.1. Stakeholder consultations on key components of the project i.e., location of designated site for reforestation, term agreements, clarifications on land use, ownerships, tenure, rights etc.</p> <p>1.2. Facilitate participatory mapping of proposed reforestation areas' boundaries with special designations as community managed areas: Develop plan, logistics for community participation.</p> <p>1.3. Prepare maps showing agreed locations of proposed community managed areas and other geo-features; develop implementation plans; draft agreements etc.</p> <p>1.4. Community consultations on new land designations and signing of MoU. Facilitate community-to-community learning (Apoi sharing lessons learned with Gbanraun and Kokologbene).</p> <p>1.5. Train community rangers in the use of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in the ACCA and deploy camera traps to enhance biomonitoring.</p> <p>1.6. Carry out annual skill enhancement training for community rangers and biomonitoring teams.</p>			

Project Title: Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey

- 1.7. Share results with project partners and stakeholders. Collate/incorporate feedback.
- 2.1. Conduct baseline research of plant diversity and vegetation mapping of forest relics in designated location for reforestation; survey on other biodiversity elements.
- 2.2. Consultancy contracts and collaboration is established with organization/tree experts to train and monitor the reforestation plan/processes.
- 2.3. Construction of tree nursery, local staff recruited and trained. Field office constructed for administration/management purposes of project activities in Gbanraun and Kokologbene communities.
- 2.4. A pocket guide/manual is produced (using scientific illustrations) in collaboration with local tree experts for use by staff and temporary workers of the project.
- 2.5. Seed gathering, storage (with source data recorded) and germination, mapped and entered a database, data lodged in the herbarium. Planting regime is set, and plots are monitored by a dedicated team.
- 2.6. Habitat regeneration progress is measured annually. Biodiversity is also monitored e.g., avian diversity, presence of seed dispersals etc.
- 3.1. Conduct baseline socio-economic survey; explore options and interest (through consultations) for alternative livelihood project design.
- 3.2. Create a beneficiaries database and set up a support scheme for SMEs in collaborations with experts, business consultant from the Bank of Industry.
- 3.3. Develop sustainable livelihood alternatives such as snail farming, beekeeping, fishery business. Provide support for trainings and start-up.
- 4.1. Meetings/consultations with government from the Bayelsa State ministry of Environment; ministry of Justice; ministry of culture and tourism including officials at the federal level.
- 4.2. Organize first stakeholder strategic planning session (event) to discuss relevant laws and policies and establish understanding on the importance of biodiversity to political economy.

Project Title: Habitat restoration, sustainable conservation of the Niger Delta red colobus monkey

- 4.3. Workshop 1: Review the draft species action plan and endorse (follow up with one-on-one consultations).
- 4.4. Workshop 2: Draft relevant laws and legal instrument to protect the species. (follow up with one-on-one consultations).
- 4.5. Workshop 3: consortium of all stakeholders - communities, government, CSOs and private sector to endorse the enactment of draft laws (follow up with one-on-one consultations).
- 4.6. 'Epieni' festival already being marked in Apoi community every 1st of November will be celebrated in Gbanraun and Kokologbene simultaneously.
- 4.7. Press releases after every workshop; awareness posters/leaflets and billboards produced and distributed/displayed.
- 4.8. radio program (saving epieni is saving our heritage) will be broadcasted every week; film documentary of the project produced.