

Applicant: **Gratzfeld, Joachim**  
Organisation: **Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)**  
Funding Sought: **£499,039.00**

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# **DIR30S2\1005**

## **Biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods improvement in southern Tajikistan**

Southern Tajikistan's broadleaved forest biodiversity, comprising wild and rare species relatives of cultivated crops such as apples, pears, plums and cherries, remains under threat from overexploitation. During the lifetime of the project, the capacity of communities in Sari Khosor and N. Mahmudov to draw on alternative livelihood options through agroforestry and participation in forest restoration will be enhanced. In the long-term, diversifying home gardens and orchards, and restoring degraded woodland habitats, will realise benefits for all - people and biodiversity.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Name** Joachim  
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**Organisation** Botanic Gardens Conservation  
International  
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# DIR30S2\1005

Biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods improvement in southern Tajikistan

## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Name** Joachim  
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### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
<b>Name</b>	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
<b>Phone</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Website</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary


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### Q3. Title:


Biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods improvement in southern Tajikistan


Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

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 [BGCI cover letter for DIR 30 S2 1005 \(1\)](#)

 27/11/2023

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 pdf 437.16 KB

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

DIR30S1\1064

## 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

Temperate-boreal forests & woodlands

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### Biome 2

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

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### Biome 3

*No Response*

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### Conservation Action 1

Species Management

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### Conservation Action2

Education & Training

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### Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

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### Threat 1

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

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### Threat 2

Pollution (domestic, commercial, agricultural)

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### Threat 3

Climate change & severe weather

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## 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.

Southern Tajikistan's broadleaved forest biodiversity, comprising wild and rare species relatives of cultivated crops such as apples, pears, plums and cherries, remains under threat from overexploitation. During the lifetime of the project, the capacity of communities in Sari Khosor and N. Mahmudov to draw on alternative livelihood options through agroforestry and participation in forest restoration will be enhanced. In the long-term, diversifying home gardens and orchards, and restoring degraded woodland habitats, will realise benefits for all - people and biodiversity.

## Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Tajikistan	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

### Q7. Project dates

<b>Start date:</b>	<b>End date:</b>	<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):</b>
01 May 2024	31 March 2027	2 years, 11 months

### Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	£
Amount:	£169,144.00	£179,532.00	£150,363.00	499,039.00

### 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?

No

## Section 4 - Problem statement

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### 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.**

Tajikistan is the poorest country in Central Asia, with 40% of its people living below the poverty line and in food insecurity (Oxfam, 2022). Half of the population is located in rural areas creating intense pressure on natural resources.

Because of its floristic wealth, Tajikistan is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot (Conservation International, 2005). It harbours almost 4,300 native plant species, including 1,400 national endemics. Nearly 40% of the flora is threatened (Nowak et al., 2020). Tajikistan's ancient walnut and maple forests present a particular feature of this floristic diversity (species examples in Q.17). They are of major socio-economic importance for the livelihoods of local communities as well as being repositories of genetic diversity for crops of global importance. Amongst others, these include walnut (*Juglans regia*), apple (e.g. *Malus sieversii*), pear (e.g. *Pyrus tadshikistanica*), plum (e.g. *Prunus cerasifera*) and almond (e.g. *Amygdalus bucharica*).

Mid-mountain mesophyllic forest ecosystems are represented by maple-walnut and willow-poplar-birch forests and contain a considerable number of rare endemic species of animals and plants. The most valuable walnut-maple forests are located in the Sari Khosor, Childukhtaron, and Dashtijum reserves. These habitats are also home to mammals such as the Turkestan lynx (*Lynx lynx isabellina*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), urial (*Ovis vignei*), Tien Shan brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), and yellow porcupine (*Hystrix leucura*). Threatened bird species include the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos daphanea*), and Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*). See <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/tj/tj-nr-01-p02-en.pdf>

However, despite having been at the heart of various conservation efforts, the future of these ecosystems remains uncertain as overharvesting and overgrazing continue to cause biodiversity loss (World Bank, 2022). Piecemeal approaches aimed, for example, at forest protection, have failed because local needs outweigh the penalties associated with illegal extraction. This project will implement a holistic methodology encompassing sustainable harvesting, management, cultivation and replenishment of natural products in the most lucrative value chains. Building on past and ongoing initiatives (Q.14), this project will boost biodiversity and livelihoods improvement in Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov (Nuriddin Mahmudov) sub-districts, through:

- Recovery of native forests through integrated ex and in situ conservation, working with communities and forest departments in at least 6 villages (Q.14);
- New livelihoods and food security opportunities for 200 households, through income generating activities from the production and marketing of forest commodities (Q.14);
- Major inclusion of women as quintessential stakeholders and beneficiaries of this project, targeting 65% participation (Q.16);

- Enhanced capacity of communities achieved through a series of training (Q.14) throughout the project, targeting over 500 community members.

Moreover, the project will provide a platform to bring together major agencies and programmes for technical exchange, as a means for improved coordination and planning of future conservation interventions. The outcomes from these gatherings will be disseminated at the national level for incorporation into the government's efforts to develop future forest management policy.

## Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

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### 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)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- 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.**

Tajikistan's NBSAP (2003) has identified the walnut-maple forests, to which this project contributes, as unique ecosystems in need of conservation. The Red List of vascular plants of Tajikistan (2020) provides a technical foundation to inform national policy concerning the conservation urgency and priorities of the country's flora; the project builds on this knowledge by targeting threatened taxa (Q.17), including ITPGRFA-listed *Malus* spp. (apple).

The 2030 National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan comprises a series of environmental protection targets, including the restoration and enhancement of the country's forests and further development of orchards and home gardens to which this project contributes. Forest conservation and restoration principles are also covered in the Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan (2010).

Tajikistan has also made ambitious commitments in 2018 under the Bonn Challenge to restore 66,000 ha of degraded forests by 2030 to strengthen cooperation in landscape restoration across the entire region.

These commitments require continued supply of saplings of native trees and ecological restoration expertise, all key components of this project.

The Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD and SDGs: Target 1 of the GBF calls for participatory effective management of biodiversity, and Targets 2 and 11 call for restoration to repair damage already caused. Target 4 calls for urgent management action to halt human-induced extinction and Targets 5 and 9 seek to ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable. This project will address all of these targets. In addition, the project will ensure that capacity building of local community and forest department members contributes to knowledge sharing and cooperation (Targets 17, 20 and 21; SDG 17.6). Promoting gender equality

(Target 22; SDG 5) is an integral part of the project (Q.16). Through an increase in diversified agroforestry practices, the project enhances resilient farming and harvesting systems for local community members (SDGs 1.5; 5) and sustainable food production (SDG 2.4). The project will also contribute to improved connectivity, restoration and conservation of walnut-maple forests and address issues of degradation (SDGs 15.1; 15.2; 15.5).

In the long-run, forest restoration work supports Tajikistan's commitment to the Paris Agreement, as regards enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and vulnerability to climate change (UNFCCC Art. 7).

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

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### 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.).

The partners draw on a wide range of experiences in managing community- and agroforestry-based projects that link conservation and livelihoods enhancement. These include the BGCI-led Darwin Initiative projects in Cambodia (27-015) and Vietnam (29-006), whilst Kulob Botanic Garden (KBG) (BGCI member) has been a partner in the projects led by Fauna & Flora and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (BGCI patron member) in Tajikistan (24-006 and 26-010).

Surveys, training and practical conservation under the proposed project will extend to ≥6 villages in Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov of Baljuvon and Shamsiddin Shohin districts, building on the work undertaken by the above organisations in other parts of Tajikistan. This will strengthen collaboration and capacity of the local forest service and communities to manage and restore forest resources cooperatively.

Awareness raising and capacity building activities will deliver community-led outreach using the principles of 'co-creation'. This approach has been successfully implemented in the BGCI-led project BigPicnic (EU Horizon2020) and is currently being used in the DARNV005 project in Uganda.

- Forest restoration and agroforestry (Outputs 1 and 2):

In Y1, user-disaggregated, socio-economic surveys (Ganji Tabiat, Zam Zam and KBG), will assess pre-project forest use and products harvesting in ≥6 villages. Seeds and seedlings of at least 4 threatened and 4 socio-economically important species (Q.17) will be collected for propagation, to establish conservation collections and sapling stocks for supply to communities engaged in agroforestry trials. 3 new nurseries will be established (KBG, Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov) (Ys 1-2), which will source tree saplings from existing nurseries for community use. Saplings will be used in population reinforcement planting in degraded areas of the walnut-maple forests (Y2). End-of-project surveys will monitor results regarding forest resources dependence, and sapling survival rates in situ.

At least 200 households identified in Y1 surveys, will be provided with target species saplings (Q.17) purchased



from existing nurseries for home garden and orchard planting, organised in at least 10 producer groups. Each will have 20 members to jointly manage value chain development and ensure product availability in sufficient quantities for wholesale buyers (Ys 2-3). The producer groups will be given farming tools, processing and storage equipment including solar dryers and apiculture equipment. Saplings growth, processing and storage status, quality of generated products, and revenue obtained from sales, will be monitored (Ys 2-3).

- Capacity building (Output 3):

The partnership will deliver at least 1-2 training courses to local communities and forest authorities per year based on identified training needs. We will use a participatory approach, engaging local communities in the design, and using a train-the-trainers (ToT) delivery. Topics will include sustainable wild-harvesting techniques, horticultural methods, fruit and nut processing and commodities development. Some 500 people will benefit during the project, including at least 65% women and vulnerable groups.

- Public and policy outreach (Output 4):

KBG will host week-long Open-days (Ys 1-3), promoting the project. These will focus on conservation policy with key representatives from current environmental initiatives and forest departments invited to boost technical exchange, and networking, and plan future forest conservation interventions.

We will develop a public engagement plan in Y1 to engage  $\geq 1000$  individuals by the end of Y3. This will be the result of a series of workshops with local communities to gather data on key audiences, types of engagement and messages for the project. From these community workshops, we will identify individuals to take part in co-creation workshops in Y2. These workshops will aim to develop bespoke outreach events and activities to delivery in Ys 2 and 3. The co-creators will design the activities using the engagement plan as the foundational framework. These activities will be created by local people for local people, ensuring they are fit for purpose, create ownership and boost local support. The campaign's impact will be assessed through baseline and end-of-campaign surveys, providing benchmarks for changes in awareness, knowledge, and community attitudes.

We will also run  $\geq 4$  focus groups to gather data on the demand and market needs of products developed. At least 2 focus groups, with representatives of the project communities will be delivered in Y1. These sessions will discuss product development of target species including existing use, challenges and future potential. A further 2 focus groups organised in Y3 will gather further feedback on marketing, branding and use of products developed.

A final festival event will bring all of our key audiences together to showcase the results and activities of the project.

Activities will be monitored through a Project Steering Committee managed by BGCI, comprising all project partners (Q.23).

## 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.**

Technical capacity of KBG, GT, Zam Zam and the forest departments will be strengthened in areas such as biodiversity conservation and monitoring, community engagement, sustainable development, nursery and seed management, particularly through their direct project involvement and participation in the training series. Moreover, through a study visit to selected institutions in the UK, KBG and GT will benefit from further training to

boost their technical and organisational management competencies in strategic and business planning. This will assist KBG to further develop its institutional capacity to grow and become a prominent botanic garden in Central Asia as well as internationally, and also support KBG's aspiration to lead the national botanic garden network.

Training on forest co-management models, sustainable wild-harvesting, sustainable agroforestry, nursery management, generation and marketing of food products, and small-scale business development, will strengthen the capacities of local community members to enhance their livelihoods through diversified and improved income opportunities. To sustain learning and application of skills after the project ends, and to reach people at scale, the project will first employ the train-the-trainers (ToT) approach to 10 selected community members including from the producer groups (Q.14), as well as GT, Zam Zam and forest department staff. ToT members will provide training to at least 200 community representatives (65% women; see Q.16) by project end, with co-created outreach activities used to engage a wider 1,000 people. The project will build on training resources and tools provided by BGCI, GT and Zam Zam, and develop new ones based on the technical disciplines above; these will be made available in Tajik.

Post-project, organisational and individual capacities developed through the project will become important assets for the project districts and beyond, enabling KBG, GT, Zam Zam and the forest departments to contribute to other regions with similar capacity development needs.

## 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 is an integral part of the project at every stage of implementation. Gender, and poor and disabled people disaggregated data collection methods will be used for the survey work as women, men and other groups have different perceptions, roles and responsibilities related to natural resources use and management in the two project locations.

Collection and processing of forest resources are mostly undertaken by women. Capacity building will therefore target at least 65% involvement of women. Women will also have a major role in decision-making regarding selection of species and enrichment planting in home gardens, orchards and woodlands.

As a highly recognised women's non-governmental organisation, Zam Zam will provide technical support to establishing 10 producer groups in Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov, each composed of 20 members, with representation of at least 15 women in each (see Logframe Activity 2.3). Being a part of the producer groups will provide an important opportunity in particular to women, poor and disabled people to receive continued support and guidance on home garden and orchard management, including collection of fruits and nuts, drying, storage and marketing.

At least 50% of women participation will be sought in the 'co-creation' workshops. Representative of their local communities, the project will work through these to ensure that activities and outreach are suitable, enabling more women to be reached.

## 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.**

In the short-term, the project will provide at least 100,000 saplings of threatened and socio-economically important species from existing nurseries (Kulob, Shamsiddin Shohin and neighbouring districts) as well as start generating seedlings in 3 new nurseries with a holding capacity of at least 100,000 plants by the end of the project. Species include *Pyrus tadshikistanica* (CR), *Malus sieversii* (VU), *Amygdalus bucharica* (VU), *Crataegus darvasica* (endemic, CR) and *Amygdalus vavilovii* (NT) as well as other important native and fast-growing woody species including *Juglans regia*, *Punica granatum*, *Morus alba*, *Cerasus avium*, *Salix excelsa*, *Acer turkestanica*, *Populus alba* and *P. tadshikistanica*. Through integrated ex and in situ conservation, populations of these species will be reinforced in woodlands, agroforestry orchards and home gardens, whilst conservation collections at KBG will offer an additional insurance policy and seed source for the future. The project will also promote the cultivation of wild edible and herbal species in home gardens and orchards, including *Galagania fragrantissima*, *Paulita ovczinnikovii*, *Allium* spp., *Bunium persicum* and *Medicago sativa* (alfalfa). These species will also boost availability of pollen needed for the promotion of apiculture. Moreover, the planting of fast-growing alfalfa in orchards and home gardens will offer an alternative source of livestock fodder, thereby reducing grazing pressure in the woodlands.

During the lifetime of the project, at least 200 households will directly benefit from enhanced technical knowledge and practical knowhow on sustainable agroforestry development, restoration of orchards and woodlands, high-quality, hygienic fruit and nut processing and storage techniques, and value chain development for new revenue generation. Promoting fast-growing yet non-invasive woody species as mentioned above, will provide alternatives to over-extraction of forest resources (Q.12). These activities will create a link between income opportunities and sustainable forest management, in turn reducing pressure on the forests.

Co-created outreach activities will highlight the value and achievements of the project to a wider audience and will also demonstrate the value of co-creation in building trust and creating ownership within local communities. These activities will then serve as examples for replication by other rural communities in Tajikistan.

In the long-term, enhanced capacity ensures sustained supply of high-quality saplings, providing a source for revenue enhancement and biodiversity enrichment planting in wild areas. Strengthened collaboration between the forest service and local communities will serve as a model of coordinated co-management of forests, providing practical experiences for the development of Tajikistan's future forest management policies.

## **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.**

To reduce pressure on forest biodiversity in Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov (Outcome), collaborative management efforts by local communities and forest authorities are required. IF the project provides incentives to forest stakeholders to carry out large-scale propagation and planting of over-exploited, threatened and socio-economically important species (including fast-growing trees for fuelwood) for woodlands restoration and for orchards/home gardens, THEN both biodiversity and people will benefit.

IF socio-economic surveys, revenue source assessments and market analyses show household dependence on forest resources (Output 1), and IF market opportunities arising from participation in agroforestry are created (Output 2), and IF these activities are undertaken in collaboration with the forest service and communities, THEN a local government-community co-developed forest restoration management plan can be developed (Output 1).

IF knowledge gaps identified in Outputs 1 and 2 are addressed through targeted training (Output 3), and IF co-created outreach events can generate local buy-in, and IF experiences of joint forest management planning and agroforestry are shared through policy focused events, THEN forest management and agroforestry best-practice can be scaled up nationally and incorporated in the government's forestry policy (Output 4), towards long-term community-managed protection and sustainable utilisation of Tajikistan's native forest biodiversity (Impact).

## **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?**

This project will change awareness, understanding and practices of local communities and government officials related to agriculture, forest restoration and management of biodiversity with lasting impact beyond the life of the project. As highlighted in Q.14, training in sustainable agriculture and orchard development, woodland restoration, and small-scale enterprise development, will strengthen skills of the communities at multiple levels to ensure continued learning, implementation, and returns through diversified and increased food and income sources from the sale of products generated through improved orchard and resources management.

Tajikistan has pledged some 66,000 ha (0.48% of its territory) for planting trees under the Bonn Challenge by 2030. Besides significant stocks of trees, this will require technical expertise in areas such as agroforestry and ecological forest restoration, and this demand will offer opportunities for the members of the project, to pass on their knowledge, incentivised by new employment opportunities.

**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?**

A direct opportunity for up-scaling after the project ends is created by generating stocks of native tree species typical of Tajikistan's ancient walnut and maple forests, for which there will be a growing need to address the country's commitments to restoration and biodiversity conservation. The nurseries established under the project (Q.14) will continue to operate after the project has ended, as a source of revenue and to serve as training hubs for continued capacity building in conservation horticulture and agroforestry practices.

The development of market-oriented, sustainable agroforestry orchards with a wide variety of species with potential for diversifying income, will provide benefits for boosting resilience such as through ecological restoration, as well as securing food, health, and economic benefits in the long-term.

At the policy level, project best-practice recommendations shared with policy-makers, will be available for incorporation of lessons learnt in future policy on community co-management of forest resources.

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

*No Response*

## **Section 7 - Risk Management**

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## 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
<p><b>Fiduciary</b></p> <p>Partners receiving sub-grants do not use the funds for the intended purpose.</p>	Severe	Rare	Major	Mitigated by working with known partners including KBG (BGCI member) with track record, also known to other partners of BGCI (e.g. RBGE and FFI). The project will carry out audits to assess the financial risks and will provide its report to the Tax Department and Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan.	Minor
<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <p>Project partners breaking the code of conduct and ignoring principles of safeguarding during training courses, practical field work and when collaborating with local communities.</p>	Moderate	Rare	Minor	Mitigated by ensuring all partners agree and adhere to BGCI's Code of Conduct including Safeguarding Policy. Mitigated by working with reputable organisations.	Minor
<p><b>Delivery Chain</b></p> <p>Extreme weather events like drought, heavy rains and flooding affecting project progress.</p>	Major	Possible	Major	Activities are planned carefully based on meteorological forecasts to avoid unfavourable and extreme weather events.	Major
<p><b>Risk 4</b></p> <p>Delivery Chain: New pandemics or other national/global disruption preventing the deployment of local expertise for project implementation or the deployment of international expertise to lead training and development.</p>	Severe	Possible	Severe	Deployment of expertise risk is mitigated by e-training than face-to-face capacity building.	Moderate

<b>Risk 5</b>	Delivery Chain: Representatives of one or more local authorities change, disrupting project progress.	Major	Possible	Major	Yearly grant agreements for project funds will require at least three months' notice for any partner leaving the project, providing time to address issues and identify new partners, if needed. BGCI will ensure meetings and updates will help to address issues as they arise, reducing the possibility of partners leaving.	Moderate
<b>Risk 6</b>	Delivery Chain: Target species propagules not available or only in limited quantities; native mother project target trees and other species not providing propagules for the production of seedlings.	Major	Possible	Major	The project will focus on a diversity of species and populations so that the risk of not obtaining seeds and bulbs in one year is low. In addition, project staff will be given ecological information on the target species, including phenology calendars for targeted collection.	Minor

## 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.).

No

## Section 8 - Workplan

### Q22. Workplan

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

-  [BCF Workplan Template 2023-24 FINAL\(2\).\(1\)](#)
-  27/11/2023
-  19:17:29
-  docx 33.99 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.**

M&E will be a core part of BGCI staff time on the project. The BGCI Project Leader will spend 15% of time funded by the project on M&E each year. £ per year will be spent on travel M&E.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established, which will be primarily responsible for M&E throughout the project. The Committee will be convened by BGCI at regular intervals at least every six months to review progress, address issues, and adapt activities if required and as appropriate. In addition to periodical e-meetings, ideally one PSC meeting per financial year will be convened face-to-face in the location of the project, but coinciding with other activities bringing all project partners together, including training courses and public outreach events, in order to avoid unnecessary expenditure and CO2 emissions on travel.

During meetings the following will be reviewed:

- i) Progress against the project implementation timetable and delivery standards. If delays have occurred or activities are not meeting the standards, steps will be identified to ensure that delays do not occur again and activities are re-scheduled accordingly within the overall project framework, and/or remedial action is taken to improve delivery if needed.
- ii) Expenditure against project budget. If there is an under- or over-spent against the project budget, the reasons for this will be assessed and necessary steps taken to address the issues.
- iii) Review of the risk register as established by the project at the inception, including identification of new potential risks and mitigating measures.

A report will be prepared after each meeting to provide documentary evidence of project progress and to record any steps taken (adaptive management), or changes made to the implementation timetable. Meetings of the PSC will be synchronized with Darwin Initiative reporting deadlines.

**Total project budget for M&E (£)**

██████████

**(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**

**Total project budget for M&E (%)**

**(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**

**Number of days planned for M&E**





81

## **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.**

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 [BCF St2 and Single Stage Logical Framework Template Apr23\(1\).\(2\).\(1\).\(1\)](#)  
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### Impact:

Tajikistan's broadleaved forest biodiversity benefits from community-managed protection and reduced overexploitation, based on enhanced capacity to cultivate, process and generate returns from forest resources through locally-adapted, sustainable agroforestry.

### Outcome:

Pressure on forests in Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov is decreased, through collaborative community participation in improving and developing novel agroforestry techniques, applied to home gardens, orchards, and woodlands restoration.

---

### Project Outputs

#### Output 1:

Forest restoration management planning is jointly developed and implemented by members of the community and forest departments, and results in enhanced populations of at least 8 threatened and socio-economically important species in situ and ex situ.

#### Output 2:

New agroforestry practices are established that enhance household livelihoods and food security in Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov based on an analysis of socio-economic status, income sources and market situation.

#### Output 3:

Knowledge of and capacities and capabilities of local communities in Sari Khosor and N.Mahmudov in forest restoration, sustainable wild-harvesting techniques, sustainable and revenue generating agroforestry, are increased, benefiting in particular women and people belonging to vulnerable groups.

#### Output 4:

Project best-practice in joint forest restoration management planning and agroforestry (Outputs 1 and 2, supported by Output 3) is shared at national level through a series of public outreach events for community buy-in and incorporation into the government's efforts to develop future forest management policy.

#### 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.**



Project management level:

Establish and convene a Project Steering Committee (PSC) to oversee project implementation, monitor progress and enable adaptive management.

Output 1. Forest restoration management planning is jointly developed and implemented by members of the community and forest departments, and results in enhanced populations of at least 8 threatened and socio-economically important species in situ and ex situ.

1.1 Conduct distribution surveys of project target species and carry out collection of propagules (Years 1 and 2).

1.2 Trial propagation methods at KBG and develop ex situ conservation collections/seed orchards at KBG and forest department nurseries in Shamsiddin Shohin and Baljuvon (Years 1 and 2).

1.3 Provide tree saplings purchased from nurseries in Kulob and Shamsiddin Shohin districts to project communities for planting in home gardens and orchards, and monitor survival and growth rates (Years 1–3).

1.4 Establish 3 new nurseries at KBG, Shamsiddin Shohin and Baljuvon (Years 1 and 2) ready for sourcing viable seedlings from propagules collected (see Activity 1.1) for outplanting by the end of the project.

1.5 Convene joint meetings of members of the community and forest departments to devise the forest restoration management plan and identify locations for population reinforcement planting (Years 1 and 2).

1.6 Initiate population reinforcement planting in degraded areas of native walnut-maple forest using locally purchased saplings (see Activity 1.3) and seedlings generated by KBG and Shamsiddin Shohin and Baljuvon forest departments (see Activity 1.4), and monitor survival and growth rates including of naturally establishing seedlings (Years 1 and 3).

1.7 Conduct assessment of forest resources use as part of socio-economic surveys (Activity 2.1) in the project area (Year 1) as a basis for the development of the integrated forest restoration management plan (Year 3).

1.8 Establish the forest restoration management plan with members of the community and forest departments, and launch at project closing event as part of Output 4 (Year 3).

Output 2. New agroforestry practices are established that enhance household livelihoods and food security in Sari Khosor and Yol based on an analysis of socio-economic status, income sources and market situation.

2.1 Design and conduct socio-economic surveys with the target households (Years 1 and 3) to characterise and assess the project's impacts on livelihoods, farming systems and forest uses.

2.2 Design and prepare a market opportunities and value chain analysis report with a special focus on gender roles and equality in the 6 project villages (Years 1 and 2).

2.3 Establish 10 producer groups in Yol and Sari Khosor, each composed of 20 members, each of which include  $\geq 15$  women (Years 1–3).

2.4 Implement participatory market-led pilots for alternative revenue generation, such as promotion of wild, edible plant species, apiculture, hygienically dried fruit/vegetable products from home gardens and orchards generated through solar drying boxes, planting of native, but fast-growing tree species for alternative timber supply (for species see Q.17 of proposal) etc. (Years 2 and 3).

2.5 Maintain soil fertility and provide livestock fodder in home gardens and orchards through sowing of Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) (Years 1–3).

2.6 Provide ongoing support to local communities for monitoring and evaluation of initiated value chains (Years 2 and 3).

Output 3. Knowledge of and capacities and capabilities of local communities in Sari Khosor and Yol in forest restoration, sustainable and revenue generating agroforestry, are increased, benefiting in particular women and people belonging to vulnerable groups.

3.1 Conduct a gender disaggregated needs-assessment, and develop training materials and programmes for training-of-trainers (ToT) and members of the communities engaged in alternative agro-business models development (Years 1 and 2).

3.2 Carry out pre- and post training assessments to evaluate increased skills and application of practical

knowhow (Years 1 and 3).

3.3 Provide ToT training for community representatives and local officials on market, small-scale farm businesses, forest restoration and sustainable agroforestry (Years 2 and 3).

3.4 Support technically and logistically ToT participants to provide on-site trainings for community members on forest restoration and sustainable agroforestry (Years 2 and 3).

3.5 Undertake a study visit (by KBG/GT) to institutions in the UK including BGCI, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew as well as Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and satellite gardens, to further enhance their technical and institutional management competencies and boost their operations and diversify their funding base (Year 2).

3.6 Convene representatives from other botanic gardens in Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries at KBG, to share knowledge gained and develop stronger botanic garden links at national and regional levels (Years 2 and 3).

Output 4. Project best-practice in joint forest restoration management planning and agroforestry (Outputs 1 and 2, supported by Output 3) is shared at the national level through a series of public outreach events for community buy-in and incorporation into the government's efforts to develop future forest management policy.

4.1 Run 3 major stakeholder events (Open-Days at KBG, March/April) (Years 1–3).

4.2 Train KBG, GT and Zam Zam in the co-creation approach (Years 1 and 2).

4.3 Hold at least 4 community workshops with local communities resulting in the creation of a public engagement plan (Year 1).

4.4 Identify 10 co-creation workshop participants from Sari Khosor and Yol to design public outreach activities and messaging on the links of forest restoration, sustainable management and locally-adapted agroforestry practices (Year 1).

4.5 Deliver at least 4 co-creation workshops with co-creation participants, and deliver co-created outreach activities to local communities and prepare an evaluation (Years 2 and 3).

4.6 Deliver at least 4 focus groups for market research (with target communities) of new products developed (Years 1–3).

4.7 Run baseline and end-of-campaign surveys to assess the public engagement campaign's impact (Years 1 and 3).

4.8 Prepare policy recommendations based on project experiences and best-practice in joint forest restoration management planning and agroforestry (Year 3).

4.9 Launch the policy recommendations at a final festival with representatives from forest authorities and local communities to celebrate and promote the achievements of the project (Year 3).

## Section 11 - Budget and Funding


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### 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.**

 [Stage 2 November final BCF-Budget Tajikistan](#)

(1)

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### 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)?**

New Initiative

**Please provide details:**

The partners build on a wide range of experiences in managing community-based and agroforestry- focused projects that link biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, and livelihoods enhancement, such as the BGCI-led Darwin Initiative projects in Brazil (DAREX001), Cambodia (27-015), India (DAREX001), Kenya (29-004 / DAREX001), Madagascar (DAREX001), Malawi (29-014), Peru (DAREX001), Uganda (DARNV005 / DAREX001) and Vietnam (29-006). Kulob Botanic Garden (BGCI member) has been a partner in the Darwin Initiative projects led by Fauna & Flora Enhancing forest biodiversity and community resilience to Tajikistan's changing climate (24-006) and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) (BGCI patron member) Know your onions: sustainable plant use in Tajikistan (26-010).

Surveys, training and practical conservation under the proposed project and extended to at least ≥6 villages in Sari Khosor and Yol (Nuriddin Mahmudov) of Baljuvon and Shamsiddin Shohin districts, will build on the work undertaken by the above organisations in other parts of Tajikistan. This will strengthen collaboration and capacity of the local forest service and communities to manage and restore forest resources cooperatively.

**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?**

The project has been designed with strong Value for Money in mind. It will engage local partners to co-implement and co-monitor the project as much as possible ensuring efficient integration of activities into partners' work programmes and plans. The project will draw on existing technical resources and experiences of project staff, contributing to the development of training materials, testing tools and intervention models. Interventions will be co-designed with local communities to integrate local and research-based knowledge. Work also builds on existing best-practice and addresses the needs of local farmers so that they feel incentivised to co-invest in the agroforestry and restoration activities. The project also applies an ecosystem-based approach (cf. CBD) where the impact of interventions are not only considered at the plot level but also at the landscape level to achieve benefits at a wider scale.

The project also contributes 13% of matched funding of the total budget requested.

In line with BGCI practice, the Project Leader will hold quarterly meetings with BGCI's Head of Finance where management accounts for the quarter are reviewed, variations against budget investigated and remedial steps agreed. 'Costs to complete' are considered to identify any project variations or potential overspends so that appropriate action can be taken. Despite serving a global community, BGCI has a modestly staffed secretariat, yet a reputation as an efficient organisation, achieving high impact for its size.

## 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.**

Capital items purchased during the project period include metallic net and garden tools, saplings of socio-economically important tree species, alfalfa seeds for soil improvement, solar machines for fruit, vegetable and herb drying, and apiculture equipment. These amount to 7% of the total project and are essential to initiate the small-scale business development component of the project. All items are provided to the project beneficiaries who will bear responsibility for continued use and maintenance of the received items, committed to through joint agreements.

## Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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### 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.**

BGCI has a dedicated safeguarding policy that all staff and project partners must adhere to. BGCI will provide training to the project partners to observe this policy, including an overview of key definitions, procedures to follow and scenarios relevant to the project circumstances. The on-the-ground partners will then be responsible for ensuring that safeguarding is considered during all project activities. Each partner will nominate their own safeguarding officer, who will liaise with BGCI's safeguarding officer should any safeguarding issues be identified, to ensure that the correct process is followed and any potential issues are investigated. This collaborative approach ensures that safeguarding issues are addressed promptly and in compliance with our policy.

Non-compliance with the safeguarding policy may lead to appropriate actions being taken to maintain the

highest standards of safety and protection, and disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the BGCI employee handbook.

To uphold the highest standards of safeguarding throughout the duration of the project, BGCI will provide annual refresher training to all project stakeholders, along with periodic checks to ensure key safeguarding contacts are in place for each partner.

## Q30. Ethics

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

This project is designed to meet all legal and ethical obligations of both the United Kingdom and Tajikistan.

It will ensure that access and benefit-sharing best practice is followed through a strong emphasis on leadership and participation from the partners in Tajikistan as listed in Q.32. This will enhance the perspectives, interests and well-being of the local communities engaged in this project. Capacity building and awareness raising employ a highly participative and inclusive process to jointly design and generate community-led activities (Q.15).

It will respect the rights, privacy, and safety of people who are impacted by project activities, using Prior Informed Consent principles as articulated in the Outcome statement of the project through active community participation.

It will protect the health and safety of project staff by regularly reviewing the project's risk register as part of the work of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC will regularly monitor that key principles of good ethical practice are being adhered to.

Ensuring the project upholds the credibility of evidence, research and other findings is of vital importance to the project to validate positive impacts so that others can build on the lessons learnt as intended by Output 4 of the project.

## Section 13 - British embassy or high commission engagement

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### 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.**

 [British Embassy Dushanbe](#)

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## Section 14 - Project Staff

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## 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?
Joachim Gratzfeld (BGCI)	<b>Project Leader</b>	18	Checked
Helen Miller (BGCI)	Education Manager	10	Checked
Ane Zabaleta (BGCI)	Education Assistant	12	Checked
Annelies Andringa-Davis (BGCI)	Education Officer	12	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Alex Hudson (BGCI)	Project Manager	15	Checked
TBD (BGCI)	Finance Officer	5	Checked
Jovidon Boboev (GT)	Project Manager	30	Checked
Manizha Boboeva (GT)	Project Officer	40	Checked
Shabnam Qayumova (GT)	Project Liaison	90	Checked
Rajabali Rahmonov (GT)	Accountant	30	Checked
Saimuhammad Yoqubov (KBG)	Horticulture Expert	50	Checked
Faiziniso Nurmatova (KBG)	Senior Lab Assistant	50	Checked

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

 [All CVs Combined](#)

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Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes


## Section 15 - Project Partners

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### 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.

<b>Lead partner name:</b>	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.bgci.org/">https://www.bgci.org/</a>
<b>Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b>	<p>BGCI is the world's largest plant conservation network with over 850 member organisations in &gt;120 countries, and &gt;3,000 botanical and forestry organisations on our digital register. There are an estimated 60,000 scientists, horticulturists and educators in BGCI's network, and we co-ordinate global consortia engaged in tree conservation (<a href="https://globaltrees.org/">https://globaltrees.org/</a>), and ecological restoration (<a href="https://www.erabg.org/">https://www.erabg.org/</a>). BGCI led the recent State of the World's Trees report, which involved &gt;500 contributors, highlights that at least 30% of the world's tree species are threatened with extinction and has generated threat and spatial data for c.48,000 tree species. BGCI's main strength is its partner institutions, which have unparalleled technical knowledge relating to botanical diversity. BGCI will play the lead co-ordinating role on this project, including sub-contracting funds, overall technical oversight and specific technical input (e.g. ecological restoration, management plan development), monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Moreover, international support will be provided by members of networks facilitated by BGCI including the Tree Conservation Alliance (TCA), Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens (<a href="http://www.erabg.org">www.erabg.org</a>), the IUCN/SSC Plant Conservation Committee and Global Tree Specialist Group; these draw on a wide range of expertise areas including species identification, forest restoration, conservation horticulture, and integrated ex and in situ conservation.</p>
<b>International/In-country Partner:</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> International
<b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>	
<b>Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

## Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Kulob Botanic Garden (KBG) - Tajikistan

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**Website address:** N/A

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KBG was established in 1985 as a joint initiative of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and Local Government of Kulob town. The Garden is situated north-east part of Kulob town, 630-647 m above sea level. KBG's collections include more than 2,620 species relating to 140 genera and 55 families. 60 species in the collections are recorded in the "Red Book of Tajikistan" (2015) and "Red Book of Central Asia" (2009).

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

KBG, a member of BGCI, will coordinate the project locally in close collaboration with Ganji Tabiat. KBG will manage and monitor ex situ conservation activities. It will also devise and deliver training related to collection, propagation, horticulture and planting in situ. KBG will also assist the target local communities in the establishment of orchards and development of restoration activities in woodlands. Moreover, KBG will provide recommendations to review the conservation status of the project target species for inclusion and/or updating on the IUCN Red List. KBG will also closely work with the Department of Forests to develop recommendations for updates and amendments of forest policies in Tajikistan.

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**International/In-country Partner:**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** ██████████

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

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

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**2. Partner Name:** Ganji Tabiat (GT) - Tajikistan

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**Website address:** <https://ganjitabiat.tj/>

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The Public Organization "Ganji Tabiat" is a non-governmental local organisation, dedicated to the protection of biodiversity, vital for maintaining ecosystem functions. It was established in 2008 with the mission to assist in the protection and conservation of the wild and threatened flora of Tajikistan.

GT has successfully managed and implemented both small-scale and large projects with the financial support of donors such as the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, The Christensen Fund, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), as well as the Darwin Initiative "Know your onions – sustainable plant use in Tajikistan".

GT will be working closely with the local communities, carrying out the socio-economic survey work and providing assistance to develop and apply agroforestry techniques in the project area. In addition, GT will support the training activities especially in food security and storage management. GT will also provide technical and logistical support for project M&E and reporting.

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

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

<b>3. Partner Name:</b>	Zam Zam - Tajikistan
<b>Website address:</b>	N/A

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Zam Zam was founded in 2007, and re-established as a Public Women's Organisation in Khatlon Region in 2013. Its remit and main activities include improving livelihoods in communities in Khatlon Region, including social, economic and education development with a focus on food security, women's health and agriculture.

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

Zam Zam has engaged in several projects in Khatlon District, including the promotion of food security, biodiversity conservation, the establishment of seed collections, and the preservation of traditional and cultural practices. Zam Zam is also involved in establishing small commercial enterprises, including a small dairy production and wool production company, respectively.

Zam Zam also was a project partner on Darwin Initiative project coordinated by Fauna & Flora and project coordinated by RBGE "Know your onions: sustainable plant use in Tajikistan" coordinating the community work alongside project partner Ganji Tabiat.

Zam Zam will be responsible for coordination with project partners, establish new producer groups in target areas, ensure effective participation of women in training on food security and product processing techniques, and will participate in co-creation events. Zam Zam will also provide technical support at all stages of value chain development.

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**International/In-country Partner:**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** ██████████

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

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

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**4. Partner Name:** Department of Forests (DF) of Dashtijum (including Yol) and Sari Khosor, Shamsiddin Shohin and Baljuvon districts - Tajikistan

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**Website address:** <https://www.forest.tj/en/>

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The DF of Dashtijum including Yol is mainly responsible for protection and control of the State natural reserve "Dashti Jum" established by Decree of the Government of the Tajik SSR in 1983 on an area of 19,700 ha. It is located on the southern slope of the Darvaz ridge, in Shamsiddin Shohin district of the Khatlon region. The most prominent feature of the area is the presence of diverse flora and fauna, as well as unique landscapes.

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

DF of Sari Khosor is responsible for protection and control of Sari Khosor Natural Park that was established by government Decree in 2003 on the territory of Baljuvon district. The Park, 3,805 ha, is located in the south of Tajikistan and harbours a unique, relict mesophilic, deciduous forest vegetation, including species of the walnut-maple forest (for species examples see Q.17).

DFs in Yol and Sari Khosor will establish the new nurseries near the target forests, provide technical advice and collaborate in the reforestation work.

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**International/In-country Partner:**  In-country

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**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

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

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

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**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

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**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

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

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

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**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


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**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.**

 [All support letters combined](#)

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## Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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### 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)?**

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DAREX001	Paul Smith	Developing a Global Biodiversity Standard certification for tree-planting and restoration
DARNV005	Alex Hudson	Understanding Ugandan native plant species' role in innovative sustainable landscapes
29-004	Kirsty Shaw	Kaya Connect: Restoring the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest biodiversity hotspot

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29-014	Alex Hudson	Improving community sustainable natural resource management of Mount Mulanje
29-006	Joachim Gratzfeld	People, Primates, Plants: Co-managing Biodiversity and Improving Livelihoods in Vietnam
27-015	Joachim Gratzfeld	Farms and Forests: Boosting biodiversity and livelihoods in Northern Cambodia

**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**

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)

**I apply for a grant of**

£499,039.00

**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** Joachim Gratzfeld

**Position in the organisation** Regional Programmes Director

**Signature (please upload e-signature)**

 JG  
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Date


27 November 2023


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Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

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 [BGCI Accounts 2022 revised signed](#)


 27/11/2023


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 [2021 annual report and accounts signed](#)


 27/11/2023


 20:17:28


 pdf 1.3 MB

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 [BGCI signed accounts 2020](#)


 27/11/2023


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

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 [Safeguarding Policies Safeguarding-CodeOfCon  
duct-Whistleblowing](#)

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## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

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### 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: • 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
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	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).