
DIR30CC\1181

Building legal capacity to improve forest management in Liberia

The project addresses the unregulated and rapidly growing voluntary carbon market which could threaten the rights and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities in Liberia, whilst also utilising opportunities provided by the newly adopted Global Biodiversity Framework. Through training via Legal Working Groups and organisational capacity building, this project will build community legal capacity and understanding of IPLC rights in these areas, ultimately enabling them to contribute to improved legal frameworks, improved forest governance, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation and climate protection.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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Section 2 - Title & Summary


Q3. Title:


Building legal capacity to improve forest management in Liberia

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [ClientEarth - Cover Letter - 23.10.2023](#)

 23/10/2023

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 pdf 175.46 KB

Q4a. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

No

Q5. Summary of project

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

The project addresses the unregulated and rapidly growing voluntary carbon market which could threaten the rights and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities in Liberia, whilst also utilising opportunities provided by the newly adopted Global Biodiversity Framework. Through training via Legal Working Groups and organisational capacity building, this project will build community legal capacity and understanding of IPLC rights in these areas, ultimately enabling them to contribute to improved legal frameworks, improved forest governance, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation and climate protection.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Liberia	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2024

End date:

31 March 2025

Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 months):

1 year

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£196,937.00	£0.00	£196,937.00

Q9. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

No

Please explain why.

The total budget for this project is £[REDACTED] which we are requesting in full from the Darwin Initiative.

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

N/A

Section 4 - Project need

Q12. The need that the project is trying to address

Please describe evidence of the capability and capacity need your project is trying to address with reference to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction challenges and opportunities.

For example, how have you identified the need? Why should the need be addressed or what will be the value to the country? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the need.

Liberia is the most forested country in West Africa: holding the largest tract of the Upper Guinea Forest, it is a biodiversity hotspot and 'one of the highest global conservation priorities'(1). Forests are crucial for development and economic growth in Liberia. With over a third of Liberia's population living in forested areas, they provide a significant source of livelihood for Liberians who are predominantly indigenous peoples. However, the deforestation rate has accelerated over the last decade. From 2001-2022, Liberia lost 2.20Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 23% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 1.25Gt of CO2(2).

Liberia's forestry laws and policies are ambitious - they recognise the rights of communities to manage their

forests and include specific gender provisions(3). In 2013 Liberia committed to ensure all timber trade is legal and eliminate deforestation and degradation. Liberia's policy vision and forestry legal framework are anchored in the "4Cs": community, commercial, conservation, and carbon. The final C of 'carbon' reflects Liberia's commitment to REDD+.

Liberia is entering uncharted waters with the emergence of the unregulated voluntary carbon market, an area that is primarily private sector driven. It is a key threat to the important progress gained to improve community forest governance, strengthen indigenous peoples and local communities' (IPLC) rights and support biodiversity conservation.

Several carbon contracts have been proposed in 2023. Given the potential widespread impact on Liberia's land tenure of forest communities, the management of protected areas and use of forest resources, there is an urgent need to equip IPLCs with an understanding of their rights regarding land tenure, governance of their community forests and use of forest products so that they can navigate this new area. Following reports of communities being directly approached by carbon companies to sign agreements, it is essential that this legal awareness is cultivated at the community level to ensure that exploitative agreements are avoided.

The National Union of Community Forestry Management Bodies (NUCFMB), a national representative body of community forests in Liberia was established in 2015 and plays a key role in efforts to place forest ownership and management into community hands. They have a large, growing membership of Community Forestry Management Bodies (CFMB) and is working to strengthen operating systems and procedures to enable them to work efficiently and effectively for their membership. A needs analysis conducted in January 2023 identified the need to improve communications between members and the National Union, legal support to the NUCFMB and its members, and organisational development priorities on financial management.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted in December 2022. Effective implementation may provide a way by which carbon markets can contribute to conservation and livelihood goals. Target 19 relates to the progressive increase of financial resources from all sources. Raising IPLC and NUCFMB awareness of both carbon markets and the GBF is critical for communities to enable them to engage with these new mechanisms and effectively govern their forests and support long-term biodiversity conservation outcomes.

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)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your capability and capacity project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

Liberia ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2000 and produced a revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2017. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted in December 2022 during the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans.

The way in which governments interpret international conservation instruments such as the GBF has a significant impact on IPLC rights and development opportunities². This project will support IPLCs to actively feed into GBF implementation in Liberia – including in relation to carbon markets under Target 19 of the GBF.

In supporting the integration of IPLC perspectives into the implementation of the GBF and the design of carbon market law and policy, international biodiversity and development conventions can have more effective impact through the design of tailored objectives to address national- and local-level priorities, which navigate contextual challenges that may have impeded achievement of these goals in the past. Indeed, ensuring that IPLC perspectives and knowledge is integrated into the design phase of law and policy development, rather than reactively adjusted mid-way through the government's rollout, can ensure better outcomes for both IPLCs, their environmental and human rights, opportunities for development and biodiversity conservation.

Community-managed forestry contributes to reduced deforestation and forest degradation (SDG13), and greater protection of biodiversity (SDG15). This Project raises the understanding of local communities on their rights in relation to forest resources which indirectly contributes to sustained livelihoods and reduced poverty (SDG1). By working to ensure the equitable representation of women in community forestry, the Project increases their participation in decision-making (SDG5).

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

Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended capability and capacity 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 the main activities will be and where these will take place.
- how you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).
- what practical elements will be included to embed new capabilities.

The project will achieve its goals to build legal capacity regarding the voluntary carbon market and the GBF among CFMBs to improve forest governance and biodiversity conservation through a two-pronged approach. Firstly, working in partnership with Heritage Partners & Associates (HPA), a Liberian law firm with recognised expertise on forest, commercial, administrative and constitutional law and working with civil society, we will deliver training via Legal Working Groups (LWGs) to build the capacity and knowledge of forest community representatives and NUCFMB staff (Output 1). Secondly, to ensure sustainable impact, the project will build the organisational capacity of NUCFMB to ensure they have the capacity to support CFMBs (Output 2).

Goal 1: Forest communities have the knowledge to manage their community forests in a way that promotes best practice on biodiversity conservation

There is a clear capacity gap in IPLC understanding of how both carbon markets and the GBF can operate at the national and local levels, and the implications of these two areas regarding community forests. To address this, and thereby enable IPLCs to actively contribute to the law and policy design process of these two areas, ClientEarth and HPA, will prepare materials for the LWGs following a detailed analysis of the GBF and carbon markets (Activity 1.1), and conduct three LWGs covering these two emerging areas (Activity 1.2,1.3).

In applying the participatory LWG model to address carbon markets and the GBF, we will be building on our successful methodological approach to address emerging challenges. ClientEarth and HPA have used the LWG model for several years. Notable examples of communities successfully applying their legal training materialise include the use of legal provisions to negotiate fairer contracts with timber companies and employing dispute resolution strategies to combat illegal logging activities and prevent unlicensed mining exploration.

The first two LWGs will be focused on building community members' understanding of carbon markets and the GBF, delivered via a mix of presentations outlining key legal considerations surrounding these issues, group discussions to facilitate information- and experience-sharing between different communities, and mock scenarios where participants can apply their knowledge (Activity 1.1).

To maximise reach, a different set of individuals from a range of communities will be invited to each of the first two LWGs. To maximise impact, all participants who attended the first two LWGs will be invited to the third LWG as a follow-up training, to consolidate participants' understanding of these issues (Activity 1.3). Representatives from the relevant government bodies will be invited to the third LWG, creating a direct line of communication regarding law and policy design surrounding carbon markets and GBF implementation. To facilitate better attendance by government, the third LWG will be held in Monrovia. A travel stipend is paid to all participants who are not based in Monrovia to facilitate their participation.

NUCFMB will also continue to be available to respond to community queries after the LWGs, with ClientEarth and HPA support, ensuring that communities can continue to address specific challenges they are facing in their community.

Goal 2: NUCFMB's capacity and capability to deliver national-level advocacy on biodiversity, carbon markets, conservation and forest governance issues as identified by forest communities is improved

The capacity/capability element for NUCFMB is twofold: first, to increase understanding of carbon markets and the GBF by NUCFMB staff attending the LWGs (Activity 1.2,1.3), and second, to strengthen the organisation to fulfil its purpose as a representative body of CFMBs (Activity 2.2.1-2.2.7).

Advocacy training will enable NUCFMB to advocate for CFMBs at a national level, and raise awareness at the local level, providing a critical channel for information sharing (Activity 2.2.1). Finance training will ensure NUCFMB's financial processes are equipped to support a growing membership (Activity 2.2.6).

To provide greater transparency and access to information, NUCFMB will ensure their publicly accessible database for community forestry is continually updated and shared to ensure key stakeholders know where to find it, and advocacy on key issues raised (Activity 2.2.4). Central to this will be to improve communications and information-sharing between the National Union and its members (Activity 2.2.2). With guidance from ClientEarth, the NUCFMB will conduct visits to forest communities to better understand key issues and share resources on biodiversity and conservation, build insight on how to improve communication and information sharing channels and gather information for the database to ensure it is up to date (Activity 2.2.3-2.2.5). This will result in the dual development of a NUCFMB membership engagement plan and advocacy plan, to serve as the framework for NUCFMB operating model (Activity 2.2,2.2.7,2.4).

Q15. How will you identify participants?

How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and/or organisations) to directly benefit from the capability and capacity building activities? What makes these the most suitable participants? How will you ensure that the selection process is unbiased, fair and transparent? How have you incorporated GESI considerations in identifying participants?

The NUCFMB is the national representative body of community forests in Liberia and provides a unique platform to support communities nationally. As the central contact point for community forest management bodies, the NUCFMB is ideally placed to identify communities that are likely to be most impacted by either carbon contracts or GBF implementation. Accordingly, it will select participants from a range of communities distributed across Liberia to maximise reach of the LWG trainings. Communities could be more affected by the development of the carbon market for a range of reasons: they may have larger tracts of contiguous primary forest, the community forest may (particularly if remotely located) have lower levels of understanding of legal issues and therefore be more vulnerable to accepting exploitative carbon contracts without question, they may be abutting Protected Areas; they may have ambiguous land tenure arrangements undermined by border disputes.

As with all LWGs in the past, Gender, Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations are a key element in activity design. Accordingly, we expect that at least one woman and one man from each community attends to ensure both equal representation at the LWG, and to improve the probability of the information being shared more broadly when the attendees return to their communities. Where required, we will provide childcare support on request to ensure that women with children are not excluded from participating due to traditional gender roles.

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.

Women in Liberia are major users of forests and play a significant role in managing forest resources. Liberia's progressive forestry laws and policies include specific gender provisions such as guaranteed representation of women in community forest governance bodies. However, much remains to be done to promote gender equality in practice. It is essential that strategies to structure voluntary carbon markets and implement the GBF accommodate their use of forest resources.

Experience has demonstrated that when women understand the law and their rights, they have the capacity to participate in discussions and engage in decision-making in a way that ensures women's perspectives reflected in forest governance.

The project aims to increase female participation in decision-making and will advocate for gender to be included in the design of new legal frameworks surrounding carbon markets and GBF. Ensuring that the perspectives of all forest users are factored into the decision-making process at both the local and national levels is essential to the realisation of biodiversity conservation, as it ensures that laws and policies are tailored to contextual needs, challenges and opportunities. For women to do this in the context of carbon markets and the GBF, the LWGs are tailored to deliver the necessary information so that women can consider how they may be impacted.

We will remove barriers to attendance through provisions such as childcare stipends. All activities will be tailored to account for different gender perceptions, using gender-separated groups where necessary. Training activities will be accessible equally to men and women to further gender integration and equity. Ensuring men are aware of the benefits of engaging women in management and decision-making, and their role in supporting gender

mainstreaming is key to prevent backlash and maximise impact. Monitoring data will be disaggregated by gender to assess the extent of gender equity in participation.

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 – including capability and capacity building benefits) and b) the potential changes 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.

(Max 500 words)

The ultimate aim of this project is to address deforestation and the illegal use of forest resources and significantly contribute to the improved management of forests, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, and climate protection. To achieve this, the project will ensure IPLCs are equipped with knowledge and awareness around the GBF and the carbon market, so that IPLCs can work with government officials to identify shared priorities and integrate IPLC perspectives into implementation policies and legislation. Effective incorporation of the GBF and carbon market regulation into Liberia's community forest laws and practices has the potential to build on Liberia's status within West Africa as a strong example of what robust legislative drafting regarding community forest governance looks like.

Short term:

- Increased community awareness of the way in which the voluntary carbon market and the GBF's implementation will impact IPLC rights (regarding land tenure, forest management, use of timber and non-timber forest resources, opportunities for development), their community forests, opportunities for community development, and biodiversity conservation;
- Improved communication established between communities and law and policy makers to facilitate input of IPLC perspectives and knowledge into law and policy design regarding GBF implementation and carbon market regulation; and,
- Improved capacity and capability of the NUCFMB enables it to improve its engagement and information-sharing with and between CFMBs.

Long term:

- Equipped with the requisite legal knowledge, communities navigate the complexities of potential carbon contracts, including when directly approached by companies to sign agreements. In understanding their rights and the laws which enshrine them, and procedural requirements such as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), communities can avoid exploitative contracts, contact relevant stakeholders for support (such as HPA or the NUCFMB) and negotiate equitable carbon capture contracts which balance community needs for forest resource use and development with regulatory requirements of carbon credits, supporting the improvement of biodiversity conservation in Liberia;
- With clear understanding of the GBF, communities successfully advocate for their interests regarding legal rights, development objectives and conservation priorities in the implementation of the GBF in Liberia, enabling the protection of critical forest ecosystems across Liberia without compromising the needs and objectives of communities;
- The NUCFMB is a central point of contact for CFMBs and can therefore better represent and advocate for

community interests at the local and national level, ensuring a united approach to forest conservation;

- Effectively managed community forest resources ensure that the livelihoods of those reliant on forests are sustainably managed and protected for today's and future generations; and,
- Effective implementation and understanding of the GBF and carbon markets across all sectors in Liberia can have a ripple effect across West Africa – serving as a template for legislative drafting, engagement and source of transferable knowledge among partners across borders, leading to improved biodiversity conservation in the region.

Q18. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

How will the project reach a point where the benefits of strengthened capability and capacity can be sustained post-funding?

How will the capability and capacity be retained and remain available to deliver benefits in-country after the project? Is there potential for the new capability and capacity to renew itself or deliver additional capability and capacity, for example by building future environmental leaders beyond the project?


Sustainable forest governance requires robust legal frameworks developed in an inclusive way with participation of all stakeholders, including civil society and IPLCs, and prioritising community needs. This bottom-up approach ensures longevity and local ownership of laws, most notably through more effective implementation and enforcement. Recognising this, our project aims to increase IPLC knowledge of their rights and engages in all stages of the legal process, ensuring the creation of sustainable systems that reflect IPLCs' needs and realities to the greatest extent possible.


In Liberia, the experience that forest communities will develop in relation to the GBF and carbon markets will become a long-term basis for information exchange and learning across communities that transforms isolated community efforts into a wide-ranging approach. This development of a broadly understood best practice methodology is the key to long-term replicability and sustainability.


Specifically, by developing precise written resources for the LWGs, the knowledge that is conferred on community members is accessible after the LWGs and by other communities if required. The NUCFMB will play a pivotal role in this, as its role in strengthening networks amongst communities and with the NUCFMB itself to facilitate sharing of information, knowledge and experiences will be a key way in which the learnings of the LWG will be both shared and applied. Strengthening the capability and capacity of the NUCFMB will then in turn amplify the capability and capacity of communities.

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

 [ClientEarth - Annexes - 23.10.2023](#)

 23/10/2023

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q19. 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	Residual Risk
<p>Fiduciary (financial)</p> <p>Fraud, bribery and misuse of funds – risk will be minimal given the significant experience of ClientEarth, HPA and NUCFMB.</p>	Major	Unlikely	Major	<p>Fiduciary risk minimal as funds retained by organisations with demonstrated records of fiduciary responsibility and clear financial processes. Transparent financial processes and systems will be applied in financial management, monitoring and reporting. ClientEarth has a Due Diligence process to ensure partners have a necessary level of competence to avoid risks.</p>	Rare
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Community members could be at risk of abuse or harassment during their engagement with project activities, causing harm to the individuals. Women are put at increased risk of assault or intimidation during travel to training sessions or legal working groups.</p>	Major	Unlikely	Major	<p>ClientEarth has a Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct that all individuals working on the project will be expected to adhere to. We will arrange sessions at times which allow women to travel during daylight hours and facilitate attendees to travel in groups.</p>	Rare
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Community engagement in the project is limited and participants do not implement their learnings beyond the lifecycle of the project.</p>	Major	Possible	Major	<p>NUCFMB will ensure selected community members are engaged in the project. Efforts will be made throughout the project to demonstrate the benefits of the learnings and ensure wider sharing. A follow up LWG will for all project participants will reinforce learnings. Women will be supported to engage through additional support.</p>	Unlikely
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>Elections & Government - Upcoming elections in Liberia could result in politicians disengaged with the environmental movement and unsupportive of the implementation of the GBF. Government resistance to Community Forestry Management Bodies leading engagement of communities in forest governance.</p>	Medium	Possible	Medium	<p>Ensure follow-up on political situations and that planning is conducted carefully. Actively inform government officials of the project, involve local government entities in activities and build on previously established relationships with government. Discuss political developments during regular catch-ups with HPA, who are well-positioned to follow these changes.</p>	Unlikely

Risk 5	Framework fatigue - ClientEarth has identified the potential risk of framework fatigue, where, in addition to numerous other climate action frameworks, the Global Biodiversity Framework could overwhelm countries with already stretched resources.	Low	Unlikely	Low	ClientEarth will address this by foregrounding Indigenous Peoples and local community perspectives to ensure framework implementation is tailored to meet the needs and operate within the practical realities of Liberia. This is crucial to addressing framework fatigue, and also to the framework's long-term success at the national and local levels.	Unlikely
Risk 6	Forest communities see opportunities for double counting of carbon market.	Major	Possible	High	Raise communities' awareness of community on harmful impacts on a local, national and international level.	Unlikely

Q20. 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


Q21. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

 [ClientEarth - Workplan - 23.10.2023](#)

 23/10/2023

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive, and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the improved delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is

for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see Finance Guidance).

(Max 250 words)

The project has a dedicated monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework, which sits in the context of ClientEarth's wider commitment to consistently improving our work. This MEL activity is led by the Programme Manager in collaboration with partners and with support from an in-house Impact and Learning Team. It is intended that project MEL should complement MEL activities already planned by partners and support their own internal MEL processes.

Due to the legal nature of our work, we place a strong emphasis on qualitative results. Primarily, this entails gathering information and feedback from partners and communities to better understand if our work is leading to better practices within communities and the stakeholders with whom they interact (e.g. governmental decisionmakers) and what we could improve. We also conduct feedback questionnaires with LWG participants to gauge LWG design and delivery, whether the content is responsive to key challenges communities are currently facing and to scope other areas where communities would like to develop their legal understanding.

Quantitative data is gathered from LWGs regarding gender (to assess the level of women's attendance), age (to assess youth representation) and whether the participant is a member of a community governance body to determine likelihood of information-sharing.

Due to low literacy levels, particularly among women, focus group discussions will be used to gather participant feedback at LWGs. Our endline evaluation will be undertaken by independent analysts, who will also ask our partners and communities about the successes and limitations of our project.

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

60

Section 10 - Indicators of Success

Q23. Indicators of success

Please outline the Outcome and Outputs of the project and how you will show that they have been achieved by using SMART indicators and milestones.

SMART Indicator

Means of Verification

Outcome	Community Forestry Management Bodies are strengthened and contribute more effectively to reducing deforestation, conserving biodiversity and generating sustainable economic development in Liberia.	Number of forest community members trained reporting that they are applying new legal knowledge on biodiversity conservation and carbon markets by the end of the project.	Feedback (e.g. focus groups) and participant lists (disaggregated by gender) from Legal Working Groups. Activity reports from NUCFMB and HPA. Endline evaluation report.
Output 1	Forest communities have the knowledge to manage their community forests in a way that promotes best practice on biodiversity conservation.	<p>Number of decision-makers attending the plenary LWG in the last quarter of the project.</p> <p>Number of knowledge products on biodiversity conservation and voluntary carbon markets created by the end of the project.</p> <p>Number of forest communities with increased knowledge of legal framework and their rights in relation to biodiversity issues and carbon markets by the end of the project.</p>	<p>Activity reports from LWGs.</p> <p>Agenda and participant lists (disaggregated by gender) from LWG sessions.</p> <p>Pre- and post-LGWs focus groups (with a specific focus group for women).</p> <p>Knowledge products produced by ClientEarth, HPA and NUCFMB.</p> <p>Endline evaluation report.</p>
Output 2	NUCFMB's capacity and capability to deliver national level advocacy on biodiversity, carbon markets, conservation and forest governance issues as identified by forest communities is improved.	<p>Number of NUCFMB staff that are applying new legal knowledge on biodiversity, conservation and carbon markets by the end of the project.</p> <p>Number of NUCFMB staff reporting that they are applying new financial procedures at the end of the project.</p> <p>Number of NUCFMB staff reporting that they are applying new advocacy skills at the end of the project.</p> <p>Number of forest communities' profiles updated in the Community Forestry database by the end of the project.</p>	<p>Terms of Reference for training consultancy, training reports and participant lists (disaggregated by gender).</p> <p>Updated needs analysis and organisational development plan from January 2023.</p> <p>NUCFMB membership engagement and national advocacy plan.</p> <p>Updated manual of financial procedures.</p> <p>Endline evaluation report.</p>
Output 3	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
Output 4	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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.

Output 1: Forest communities have the knowledge to manage their community forests in a way that promotes best practice on biodiversity conservation.

1.1 Research and preparation of training material and content on voluntary carbon market and the Global Biodiversity Framework (co-produced by ClientEarth and HPA).

1.2 Two LWGs in biodiversity hotspots on the legal and policy implications of the voluntary carbon market and the GBF for forest communities and NUCFMB staff, including a focus on women's leadership in biodiversity conservation.

1.3 Plenary LWG bringing together community members, the NUCFMB and members from government to facilitate discussing on community priorities, concerns and focus points regarding law and policy design for carbon markets and the implementation of the GBF.

1.4 Focus groups at LWGs for monitoring, evaluation and learning.

1.5 Endline evaluation activities conducted by external consultant.

Output 2: NUCFMB's capacity and capability to deliver national level advocacy on biodiversity, carbon markets, conservation and forest governance issues as identified by forest communities is improved.

2.1 Inception period and purchase of laptops.

2.2 Creation of membership engagement and national advocacy plan based on previous needs analysis.

2.2.1 Advocacy training attended by the key staff of the NUCFMB (executives, facilitators and nine coordinators) by Liberian expert, including coaching, public speaking, member engagement, building consensus, gender transformative advocacy etc.

2.2.2 Community-level visits for membership engagement in biodiversity hotspots by the NUCFMB.

2.2.3 Information gathering on biodiversity conservation and carbon market issues affecting their members (included in 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2.2)

2.2.4 Updating the community forests database with up-to-date information by NUCFMB.

2.2.5 Analysing data and membership feedback on issues and requested support by NUCFMB with support from ClientEarth.

2.2.6 - HPA and ClientEarth to support and advise NUCFMB on identifying advocacy priorities for stronger legal framework on voluntary carbon markets and biodiversity conservation, as well as discuss future collaboration.

2.2.7 Agreeing key advocacy priorities grounded in the legal framework during the NUCFMB governance meeting and validation of the membership engagement and national advocacy plan.

2.3 Finance training attended by the key staff of the NUCFMB (executives and facilitators) and update of the manual of procedures and policies for a growing organisation.

2.4 NUCFMB to review and update their organisational development plan.

2.5 Endline evaluation activities conducted by external consultant.

Important Assumptions:

Please describe up to 6 key assumptions that, if held true, will enable you to deliver your Outputs and Outcome.

1. Political and security remains stable allowing activities to be implemented.
2. The Liberian Government (continuing or newly elected) continues to be committed to GBF implementation.
3. Forest communities are willing to engage and able to participate in forest governance structures.
4. Improved forest governance contributes to reduced illegal practices for timber & forest risk commodities.
5. Governance systems and dynamics (multi-lateral, national and local) support efforts to improve forest

governance (e.g community forestry).


6. Improved forest governance contributes to anti-corruption efforts and sustainable local livelihoods.


7. ClientEarth's work continues to be complemented by the actions of other NGOs.


Section 11 - Budget and Funding


Q24. Budget

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

 [ClientEarth - Budget - 23.10.2023](#)

 23/10/2023

 16:07:50

 xlsx 95.31 KB

Q25. 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.

Q25a. 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:

This work leverages our proven track record of over a decade of experience in West and Central Africa influencing the operation and reform of forest governance systems, particularly around community forestry.

This Project will build particularly on a recently finalised Forests, Governance, Markets, and Climate (FGMC) programme spanning a decade from the UK Foreign Office. Through this initiative in Liberia since 2016, we focused on building community capacity to support the practical implementation of these laws. We learnt through the programme that the LWG model has proven to be a productive and sustainable format for convening and empowering civil society and community representatives.

Our ongoing grant from Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) via Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) provides a strong complement to this project. In Liberia, the NICFI grant focuses on improving the capacity of forest communities to integrate best practices, overcome hurdles to manage their community forests and increases IPLCs capacity to access forest resources and land rights. The specific focus of the Project on the GBF and carbon markets will further expand this work and allow the achievement of mutually beneficial outcomes under both grants.

Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

No

Q26. 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 relies on partnership capacity sharing and collaboration to ensure cost efficiency and the impact of our Project. ClientEarth legal staff providing expertise and technical support to Liberian partners ensures sustainable transfer of knowledge to focus countries while reducing travel needs (and costs).

Economy: Financial procedures are designed to ensure that financial decisions are informed by objective economic criteria. Travel bookings are made through an agency with preferential rates for NGOs. Internal and external video-conferencing and telephone calls are considered where possible for the efficient delivery of planned activities.

Efficiency: We ensure efficiency by following standard organisational procedures that create a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and grant management system, clear due diligence process for our partners, prevention of corruption in the delivery chain, and effective risk management. We have involved partners, collaborators and beneficiaries in project design to identify which activities and outcomes have greatest value. An organisational budget holder procedure is in place and monthly check-ins are held to inform iterative project planning and budget forecasting that is responsive to opportunities where we can have the greatest impact.

Effectiveness: The project strategy and results chain fits within our theory of change and is based on learning and experience from existing and previous grants on where we can achieve the most impact. Established and appropriate expertise are in place for the project which contributes to the effectiveness and quality of effort. The MEL strategy ensures monitoring and tracking of activities against our indicators and milestones.

Q27. Capital items

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

Capital items include two laptops for project staff to use throughout the grant. Following the end of this project, these items will be transferred to the partner NUCFMB ensuring they have the capacity to continue supporting communities beyond the lifetime of the project.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q28. 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.

ClientEarth has a Safeguarding Policy and Staff Code of Conduct which all staff are expected to adhere to. The Policy documents have been attached to this application and outline ClientEarth’s processes on addressing safeguarding issues. Our safeguarding policy documents will be shared with both project partners at the start of the project. Partners will be expected to uphold the policies throughout the delivery of the project.

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q29. 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 and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

If no, why not?

We did not contact the High Commission in Liberia for this project due to a lack of time ahead of submitting the proposal. Should our application be successful we will communicate with the High Commission to discuss the project.

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q30. 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?
Babette Tachibana-Brophy	Project Leader	10	Checked

Caroline Crawford	Programme Manager, ClientEarth - Caroline will be managing the project administration and providing project management support to partners, as well as leading on M&E.	40	Checked
Bonathan Gabriel Walaka	National Facilitator & Head of Secretariat, NUCFMB - Bonathan will be a central figure in the engagement of communities and development of NUCFMB strategy.	50	Checked
Saye Thompson	President, NUCFMB - As President of the NUCFMB, Saye will be key in collating community perspectives to propel the NUCFMB's national-level advocacy efforts.	30	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Isaac Saylay	Facilitator, NUCFMB - Isaac will be a central figure in the engagement of communities and facilitation of information-sharing among communities.	50	Checked
J. Awai Vankan	Partner, HPA - Cllr Vankan has extensive experience developing community legal capacity and is an expert on forest laws in Liberia, who will prepare materials for and present at the LWGs.	40	Checked
T. Negbalee Warner	Senior Partner, HPA - Cllr Warner brings significant legal and legislative drafting and policy advocacy experience to the team, which will be instrumental in structuring legal training regarding carbon markets and the GBF.	20	Checked
Lucia Diana Sonii-Gbala	Lawyer & Director, HPA - Cllr Gbala has extensive experience developing community legal capacity and is an expert on forest laws in Liberia, who will prepare materials for and present at the LWGs.	40	Checked


No Response	No Response	0	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

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

 [ClientEarth - project team CVs - 23.10.23](#)

 23/10/2023

 13:31:41

 pdf 197.3 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q31. 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.

Lead Partner name: ClientEarth

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

ClientEarth is a global environmental NGO which uses the power of the law to bring about systemic change that protects all life on our planet. ClientEarth has a strong practical background, having worked in Liberia since 2015 building the national framework of forest law in close collaboration with national civil society organisations.

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

The legal scrutiny and technical expertise of ClientEarth is critical for meaningful civil society and community engagement in the robust drafting and implementation of laws. Our legal approach effectively complements the work and skills of other organisations within Liberia, with whom our collaboration is already solid and mutually beneficial. The combined strengths of ClientEarth with our partners' expertise offers a unique dynamic to ensure that international environmental frameworks can operate at the national and local levels in an effective manner. This is critical in maximising collective impact and supporting the advance of IPLC rights and tailored biodiversity conservation efforts.

ClientEarth is the implementing project manager given its capacity to manage the logistics of the grant, as well its technical legal expertise. However, this project has been developed and will be delivered in close collaboration with national civil society organisations in Liberia.

International/In-country Partner International

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

Represented 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 Providing a cover letter which demonstrates ClientEarth's support for, and belief in the project partners and impact.

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Heritage Partners & Associates, LLC (HPA)

Website address: <https://www.hpaliberia.com/home>

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

HPA is a Liberian law firm whose are recognised experts on forest, commercial, administrative and constitutional law have partnered with ClientEarth over the past eight years on matters ranging from forest law reform, community forestry, land rights reform, conversion and climate-related legal issues. In this project HPA will provide legal expertise on carbon markets, forest laws, international legal frameworks and their implementation at the community level. HPA has longstanding experience and relationships working with a wide range of governmental, civil society and private sector stakeholders, and will be instrumental in facilitating community and private sector collaboration.

They are uniquely placed to be able to both develop communities' understanding of the legal complexities surrounding carbon markets and the implementation of the GBF, as well as directly input into the drafting phases of these emerging areas of law.

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

2. Partner Name: National Union of Community Forest Management Bodies (NUCFMB)

Website address: N/A

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

The National Union of Community Forestry Management Body (NUCFMB) is the national representative body of community forests in Liberia and provides a unique platform to support communities nationally and as such provide a critical partner to facilitate the legal working groups. NUCFMB and ClientEarth have collaborated to develop a template contract for community forests and third-party timber companies - now validated by all stakeholders - that significantly improves the way communities engage with private companies harvesting timber from their community lands. Over the course of the project, we will work closely with NUCFMB to support its capacity to represent forest communities to address emerging challenges which directly impact community forests, and to support learning and best practice sharing.

International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	£ [REDACTED]

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

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

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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

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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00


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.

 [ClientEarth - Partners Letters of Support - 23.10.](#)

[2023](#)

 23/10/2023

 10:57:40

 pdf 747.89 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q32. 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 2007

What is the legal status of your organisation? NGO

How is your organisation currently funded?

The majority of our income is in the form of restricted grants funding our charitable activities. These grants come from private foundations and governmental agencies, predominantly based in the UK, Europe and the USA, and are restricted to specific projects. A few longstanding funders provide critical core funding underpinning our programmatic work. We are also increasingly looking to diversify our income streams, to do so we are growing our digital fundraising.

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

Aims A future in which people and planet thrive together isn't just possible: it's essential. ClientEarth is working to protect forests, defend wildlife and habitats, tackle climate change and end pollution. Together, we can fundamentally change the way we live in the world and protect life on Earth.

Activities We use legal advocacy and influencing to secure strong legislation and policies; we focus on building the field of environmental law by training lawyers and prosecutors and working with community groups to empower others; and we use strategic litigation to go to court and hold governments and companies to account.

Achievements In the last two years alone, we have successfully challenged an oil major's greenwash advertising, forced improvements to a G7 country's net zero strategy, supported climate-affected Indigenous People to gain compensation from their government and secured the closure of Europe's largest emitter of carbon.

Provide detail 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 application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative –Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	██████████
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	4 years and 8 months
Role of organisation in project	ClientEarth's led to project to reform both on supply-side forest governance and demand-side forest commodity supply chain. It also worked to advance environmental governance globally by highlighting the integral importance of community forestry.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>The goal of the Project is to reduce deforestation by supporting the adoption of better practices and legal frameworks surrounding sustainable, community-led land use in our focus countries (Liberia, Republic of Congo and Gabon) and the improved regulation of targeted commodity markets (EU and China).</p> <p>It contributes to outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Approved and implemented policies for sustainable forest and land use in tropical forest countries and jurisdictions; -Improved rights and livelihoods for indigenous peoples and local communities in tropical forest countries; -Effective international incentive structures for reduced deforestation in tropical forest countries; and -Commodity markets stimulate deforestation-free production in tropical forest countries.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Christoffer Grønstad, ██████████
Contract/Project 2 Title	UK Government's Department for International Development (DfID) Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Change (FGMC) programme
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	£ ██████████
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	2012-2022 (Phases 1, 2 & 3 and extension)
Role of organisation in project	ClientEarth led a large programme of work, providing technical support on forest governance in West and Central Africa (Ghana, Liberia, RoC, Gabon and Ivory Coast) and market regulations in Europe and internationally.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project

ClientEarth used the law to address illegal use of forest resources and promote better forest and land governance. This included Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) processes, laws regulating illegal timber trade, business commitments and climate initiatives (e.g. REDD+, National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and reforestation) to deliver transformational change. Key impacts included:

- More effective and deliberative legislation, built on key inputs from national civil society
- Sustainable legal support via community legal tools
- Coherent implementation of the EU Timber Regulation
- Integration of gender into forest governance discussions
- Strong legislation to reduce the UK and EU's deforestation footprint

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)

Marieke Wit, [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 3 Title

Liberia Multi-stakeholder Forest Governance and Accountability Project (MFGAP)

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)

£ [REDACTED]

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

2 years and 3 months

Role of organisation in project

ClientEarth:

- Supported legal drafting, documenting, reporting and publishing
- Delivered legal training workshops to civil society organisations, community forest management bodies, community forest development committees, forest enterprises and other stakeholders
- Supported the legislature and government agencies to understand their legal obligations under the VPA

MFGAP worked with national stakeholders in Liberia to ensure accountability and oversight of Liberia's EU VPA process.

The Project built new levels of accountability into the Liberian VPA process:

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project

1. Ensuring government agencies hold the Forest Development Authority to account on the regulation of forest production
2. Increasing capacity and engagement of civil society and communities to monitor the forest sector and hold the government accountable
3. Supporting media to hold government, civil society, communities and the private sector to account on the implementation of reforms
4. Engaging private sector in policy development processes

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)

Ikem Eronini, [REDACTED]

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts (or other financial evidence as indicated in the Finance Guidance)?

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q30. 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

ClientEarth

I apply for a grant of


£196,937.00

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, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance) are also enclosed.





Checked

Name	Stefanie Pfeil
Position in the organisation	Chief External Affairs Officer
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Stefanie Pfeil - e-signature  23/10/2023  16:19:59  pdf 11.66 KB
Date	23 October 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts or other financial evidence (see Finance Guidance)

 [ClientEarth - Annual Report and Accounts 2020 & 2021 - 23.10.2023](#)
 23/10/2023
 15:52:33
 pdf 1.83 MB

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

 [ClientEarth - Policies - 23.10.2023](#)
 23/10/2023
 15:47:17
 pdf 851.97 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:	
• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Finance Guidance, or provided an explanation if not	Checked
• My completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Partner’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 27).	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 29, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• A letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 30, 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).

ClientEarth - Building legal capacity to improve forest management in Liberia

DIR30CC\1181

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (April 24/ March 25)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Forest communities have the knowledge to manage their community forests in a way that promotes best practice on biodiversity conservation					
1.1	Research and preparation of training material on voluntary carbon markets and the Global Biodiversity Framework (co-produced by ClientEarth and HPA)	3				
1.2	Two Legal Working Groups (LWGs) in biodiversity hotspots on the legal and policy implications of the voluntary carbon market and the Global Biodiversity Framework for forest communities and NUCFMB staff, including a focus on women’s leadership in biodiversity conservation	2				
1.3	Plenary LWG bringing together community members, the NUCFMB and members from government to facilitate discussing on community priorities, concerns and focus points regarding law and policy design for carbon markets and the implementation of the GBF	1				
1.4	Focus groups at LWGs for monitoring, evaluation and learning	3				
1.5	Endline evaluation activities conducted by an external consultant	2				
Output 2	NUCFMB’s capacity and capability to deliver national level advocacy on biodiversity, carbon markets, conservation and forest governance issues as identified by forest communities is improved.					

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (April 24/ March 25)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.1	Inception period, supported by ClientEarth, and purchase of laptops	3				
2.2	Creation of Membership Engagement and National Advocacy Plan based on previous needs analysis	9				
2.2.1	Advocacy training attended by the key staff of the NUCFMB (executives, facilitators and 9 coordinators) by Liberian expert, including coaching, public speaking, member engagement, building consensus, etc.	4				
2.2.2	Community-level visits for membership engagement in biodiversity hotspots by the NUCFMB	4				
2.2.3	Information gathering on biodiversity conservation and carbon market issues affecting their members (included in 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2.2)	9				
2.2.4	Updating the community forests database with up-to-date information by NUCFMB	1				
2.2.5	Analysing data and membership feedback on issues and requested support by NUCFMB with support from ClientEarth	1				
2.2.6	HPA and ClientEarth to support and advise NUCFMB on identifying advocacy priorities for stronger legal framework on voluntary carbon markets and biodiversity conservation, as well as discuss future collaboration	1				

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (April 24/ March 25)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.2.7	Agreeing key advocacy priorities grounded in the legal framework during the NUCFMB governance meeting and validation of the Membership Engagement and National Advocacy Plan	1				
2.3	Finance training attended by the key staff of the NUCFMB (executives and facilitators) and update of the manual of procedures and policies for a growing organisation	2				
2.4	NUCFMB to review and update their organisational development plan	1				
2.5	Endline evaluation activities conducted by external consultant	2				