

Applicant: **Wheeler, Charles**
Organisation: **North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo)**
Funding Sought: **£98,340.00**

DIR30CC\1089

Strengthening conservation organisations' capacity to drive Eastern Malagasy forest restoration

This highly collaborative project will deliver capability and capacity to nursery workers and community members of leading Malagasy conservation organisations through effective, inclusive, and accessible workshops and training resources. We will create a network of skilled ecological restoration workers across Eastern Madagascar, accelerating restoration of threatened forests, creating best practice guidelines, and building regional training hubs, providing a model for other regions to follow in the future.

DIR30CC\1089

Strengthening conservation organisations' capacity to drive Eastern Malagasy forest restoration

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Title | Mr |
| Name | Charles |
| Surname | Wheeler |
| Organisation | North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo) |
| Tel (Mobile) | [REDACTED] |
| Email (Work) | [REDACTED] |
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CONTACT DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Title | Dr |
| Name | Claire |
| Surname | Raisin |
| Organisation | North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo) |
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GMS ORGANISATION


| Type | Organisation |
|--------------|--|
| Name | North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo) |
| Phone (Work) | [REDACTED] |
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| Website | [REDACTED] |
| Address | [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] |


Section 2 - Title & Summary


Q3. Title:


Strengthening conservation organisations' capacity to drive Eastern Malagasy forest restoration

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [Cover Letter DIR30CC 1089 Strengthening conservation organisation capacity to drive Eastern Malagasy forest restoration](#)

 19/10/2023

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 pdf 148.85 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.

This highly collaborative project will deliver capability and capacity to nursery workers and community members of leading Malagasy conservation organisations through effective, inclusive, and accessible workshops and training resources. We will create a network of skilled ecological restoration workers across Eastern Madagascar, accelerating restoration of threatened forests, creating best practice guidelines, and building regional training hubs, providing a model for other regions to follow in the future.

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 | Madagascar | Country 2 | No Response |
| Country 3 | No Response | Country 4 | No Response |

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Start date: | End date: | Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 months): |
| 01 April 2024 | 31 March 2026 | 2 years |

Q8. Budget summary

| Year: | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | Total request |
|---------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Amount: | £50,601.00 | £47,739.00 | £98,340.00 |

Q9. Do you have proposed 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 fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

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.

Malagasy forests are globally recognised biodiversity hotspots and areas of high endemism. They provide fundamental ecosystem services such as biomass production, climate regulation, water supply and purification,

pollination, and the provision of habitats for other forest species (Brockerhoff et al., 2017). They also directly support the livelihoods of many rural communities (Joppa et al., 2013).

Despite these critical functions, Malagasy forests are highly threatened due to shifting cultivation, exploitation of timber, and wildfires, and as a result are being lost at an exceptional rate. At current rates it is predicted that only 3% of Madagascar's original forest will remain by 2025 (Harper et al., 2007). The extraordinary level of endemism and diversity (Schübler et al. 2020), as well as the reliance on the forests by some of the world's poorest communities, demonstrate the need for, and importance of, restoring Madagascar's forest cover. Chester Zoo (CZ) has developed strong, long-term partnerships with three well-established conservation organisations within Madagascar: Madagasikara Voakajy (MV), Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group (MFG) and Missouri Botanical Gardens (MBG). Given the country's commitment to restoring more than 4 million ha of forest and degraded lands under the Bonn Challenge pledge (Reed, 2020), they all maintain a focus on ecological restoration projects through a combination of out-planting nursery grown seedlings (active restoration) and promoting natural regeneration (passive restoration).

However, forest restoration in Madagascar is challenged by a lack of standardised guidelines, restoration initiatives often being conducted at small scale, and nursery staff working in isolation with limited opportunities to engage with and learn from other practitioners working in a similar context. This is exacerbated as Madagascar currently has no Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners (CERPs) from the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) as many nursery workers are not yet able to meet the knowledge base and professional level of requirements for their courses. Additionally, nursery workers typically come from communities with limited access to education and poor financial security. This project will foster sustainable inter-organisational skills exchange, upskill existing and new nursery workers, and support local livelihoods.

Earlier this year, CZ organised a nursery exchange project pilot workshop, convening nursery staff from all three organisations over ten days at two different locations – Mangabe-Ranomena-Sahasarotra (managed by MV) and Parc Ivoloina (managed by MFG with nursery management from MBG). The exchange was led by experienced senior members from each Malagasy organisation and supported by CZ horticulturalists who provided insights and advice and facilitated knowledge sharing between nursery teams. The event was highly successful with participants thriving in the peer-to-peer learning environment. The attendees have remained in touch and continue to learn from each other months later, sharing challenges and solutions.

The exchange demonstrated a clear need, opportunity and appetite to improve capacity and capability amongst nursery workers, whilst promoting regional collaboration that can contribute to landscape-scale restoration initiatives. By establishing standardised best practice guidelines, offering collaborative, structured training opportunities, and creating a peer network between workers there is a compelling opportunity to benefit the collective conservation effort of forest restoration.

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)
- 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 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.

This project will contribute to the strategic goals and objectives of Madagascar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in the following ways:

Goal B: "Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use of natural resources" - Providing training in relevant restoration techniques will result in reduced pressure on and better management of forest ecosystems (Objectives 5 and 7).

Goal C: "Improve the biodiversity status by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity" - Developing the capacity of nursery staff in protected areas in Eastern Madagascar will contribute to the safeguarding of forest ecosystems through habitat restoration (Objective 11).

Goal D: "Enhance the benefits withdraw[n] to all from biodiversity and the services provided by ecosystems" - Equipping community members with the skills and training required to effectively contribute to, and receive compensation for, restoring forest habitats in Eastern Madagascar (Objectives 14 and 15).

Contributions to international conventions:

This work responds to one of the Convention of Biological Diversity's main goals by directly building capacity of Malagasy nursery staff to produce plants and conduct restoration activities for the effective conservation of threatened forests. This project will also contribute to Madagascar's own commitment to restore 4 million hectares of deforested land by 2030 under its Bonn Challenge pledge, in turn contributing to the country's target to increase its carbon sink capacity by 32% under the Paris Agreement.

The project supports several Sustainable Development Goal targets by providing skills that will benefit biodiversity (15) and mitigate climate change (13) while also improving people's employability and access to work (8), therefore providing a route out of poverty (1) and food insecurity (2).

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.

Our vision is to strengthen nursery worker capacity for effective restoration across Eastern Madagascar by developing regional training hubs and centres of excellence, underpinned by standardised practices, strong networks and knowledge resources. Working together with three leading Malagasy organisations, CZ will build on established relationships and utilise our strong track record of conservation training to develop critical

capacity and up-skill nursery teams.

This project will:

- Provide practical and theoretical restoration training through facilitated peer-to-peer knowledge exchange
- Develop standard practice guidelines and accessible learning resources leading to more efficient reforestation
- Create a network of skilled nursery workers across Eastern Madagascar, and training hubs for continued capacity growth
- Improve sustainable livelihoods in local communities

This project builds upon a pilot workshop that brought together nursery teams from MV, MFG and MBG to exchange knowledge and experience. This project will expand training to provide comprehensive skills in all relevant areas of nursery work and restoration skills to a wider audience. As a result of high regional endemism, an Eastern Madagascar focus ensures connections and alignment between nursery teams working with similar tree species and environments. The training will take place in two nurseries located in Mangabe PA (managed by MV) and Parc Ivoloïna (managed by MFG and MBG). MV will be the lead in-country partner for delivery of this project.

Workshops will be structured around a key learning from the pilot - the value of Malagasy-to-Malagasy training. This proved highly successful in groups with shared dialects and cultural backgrounds and removed language or comprehension barriers, fostering a greater sense of ownership. Two annual residential workshops delivered across the two sites will therefore be led by experts from MV, MFG and MBG, with specialist support and resource production from CZ.

The two workshops in Year-1 will focus on nursery management, out-planting, restoration, monitoring and record-keeping. Year-1 will target current nursery workers involved in each organisation's forest restoration projects, with a focus on collaborative learning and participant engagement. Workshop outputs will contribute to the development of standard practice guidelines.

During Year-1, selected nursery workers will also receive Train-the-Trainer training, building their capability to pass on skills to future workshop participants. This training will follow Train-the-Trainer workshop formats previously delivered globally by CZ for a range of audiences and will be delivered in person by the CZ project team.

Ensuring accessibility is a key component, particularly to build capacity in audiences with varied education and literacy levels. Following the Year-1 workshops, best practice guidelines (accompanied by diagrams) will be collaboratively produced and published in Malagasy, French, and English, and distributed to all participants. Video footage will be supplemented with recordings from nursery experts at CZ and narrated and subtitled in Malagasy. Produced by professional videographers, the training videos will provide close-up footage of intricate techniques to supplement the best practice guidelines.

The guidelines and videos will be used as a tool for training workshops in Year-2, which will be a repeat of the two workshops in Year-1 for new audiences (targeting women, youth, and unskilled community members). The newly trained Malagasy trainers will then deliver the Year-2 workshops supported by the project team.

Following participation, nursery workers will be connected through a Nursery Restoration Exchange Network to encourage Malagasy leadership within the restoration movement. The pilot workshop established a Facebook community and WhatsApp group (the most used and accessible platforms). These will be used as the network expands to store training videos online, share newsletters, and encourage knowledge sharing.

Existing community-based women's groups will produce and supply sustainable consumable equipment for use in restoration activities. The project will support the development of a production plan for the women's groups and will aim to increase demand for bio-pots and seed bags, subsequently increasing local household income.

The direct upskilling of nursery workers will also raise local employment and income potential, providing for a growing sector as forest restoration activities proliferate to meet national and international goals.

Project management & responsibilities:

The project lead, who successfully delivered the pilot workshop with project partners, will have overall responsibility for project oversight and will track progress with the project board. The Project Board (consisting of representatives from each partner) will meet at least quarterly to review progress against all activity indicators, with M&E oversight led by the Project Lead. Board meetings will include scope for discussion, learning, and applying adaptive management as required. CZ project management processes ensure rigorous M&E and follow the Conservation Measures Partnership's Conservation Standards.

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?

CZ has rigorous due diligence processes to formally assess project partners. Beyond this, and more importantly, partners for major projects such as this are chosen based on shared values, joint goals, mutual trust and collaborative relations built over several years.

All partner organisations have experience and credentials that endorse their ability to lead forest restoration on a large scale, with rich understanding of the local and regional contexts. All are established leaders in research, restoration, and community-based conservation across Madagascar and have restoration goals that will directly benefit from this capacity-building project. This project was developed collaboratively by all partners.

26 members of staff from Mangabe and Parc Ivoloïna completed the NEP pilot. In this project 100% of restoration staff from these sites plus additional staff from Betampona (MFG), Ambatondrazaka (MV), and Anosibe An'Ala(MV) will attend, further developing the skills of the pilot attendees and levelling up the remaining staff members (see Appendix, Table 1). A minimum of 10% of year-1 participants will undergo Train-the-Trainer training and will be selected based on the score of their skills demonstration assessment (>90%), willingness and aptitude.

Year-2 workshop prospective participants will be invited to register their interest and selection will be strongly influenced by our project partner's knowledge and understanding of community dynamics and expectations. There will be a target to ensure a minimum of 50% female participation as well as ensuring that the opportunity is inclusive regardless of wealth, education, marital status, or sexuality. Awareness of the workshop opportunity will be raised through community information & education centres, local women's groups, and similar community information hubs.

Mangabe's already established local community women's groups will provide nursery products and receive support through the project to develop these enterprises further, supporting growing restoration activity

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.

CZ recognises that people from different backgrounds and experiences bring valuable insight to projects, particularly those in a local context. A focus of this project targets some of the poorest rural communities in Madagascar who are often deprived and socially excluded.

A key feature of this project to widen participation is the use of videos for training, alongside highly visual resources and Malagasy voice-overs. This will ensure all participants with varying levels of literacy can access and understand the content. We will ensure all resources represent a balance of genders and social characteristics to demonstrate that aspects of nursery work are accessible to a wide proportion of the community. Additionally, all residential workshops including travel is fully accounted for in the project budget to mitigate any socio-economic barriers to participation.

Year-2 workshops will target community members looking to begin a career in habitat restoration who traditionally would not receive such training (women, youth, illiterate individuals). Therefore, this project will contribute to job creation in the region and development of a skilled workforce to achieve national restoration commitments, tackling future climate emergencies, and securing community-managed PAs for the long-term future.

Whilst we strive for gender equality across our project portfolio, nursery work in Madagascar is traditionally carried out by men. To address this gender disparity, women will be encouraged and supported to attend workshops (particularly in Year-2 when participation is widened), but we are aware there may be cultural and social barriers to doing so.

Wherever possible, nursery consumables will be procured from local sources. MV will work with established women's cooperatives and youth groups to encourage the production of biopots and seedbags which will be purchased through the project to ensure project funds stay within the local communities as much as possible.

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.

In the short term:

100% of nursery workers across 2 partner-managed sites will gain increased skills and knowledge through attending two best practice workshops covering nursery management, out-planting, restoration techniques, monitoring methods and record keeping.

Together with workshop participants, all four partner organisations will produce standard best practice guidelines for forest restoration in Eastern Madagascar, create supporting training resources, and establish a Nursery Restoration Exchange Network, resulting in nursery workers equipped and able to deliver high quality and effective forest restoration for 5000ha of forest at Mangabe PA and 282 ha at Parc Ivoloina with native tree species.

At least ten nursery workers will receive Train-the-Trainer training and deliver workshops in Year-2 based on the standard practice guidelines to 30 new unskilled trainees - many of them youth and at least 50% female - introducing training opportunities that are otherwise unlikely to be offered to these audiences.

Income benefits will be generated for 90 households within Mangabe PA through the sale of natural nursery consumable equipment (biopots and seedbags) to the project from community-based women's cooperatives.

These cooperatives will generate a portion of their income from the new demand for these nursery products at both sites .

In the longer term:

At Mangabe, native tree seedlings will be planted across 5000ha by 2025 and 16,000ha by 2030 using standardised and more effective techniques, resulting in higher growth and survival rates than the current baseline <70% at restoration plots in high priority areas, contributing to the conservation of endemic species, climate resilient habitats, and providing ecosystem services to people and wildlife. Forest cover restoration at this site will benefit the main target species found in Mangabe PA; the golden mantella frog (*Mantella aurantiaca*) and the lemurs including indri (*Indri indri*), diademmed sifaka (*Propithecus diadema*), Aye aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*), and Black and white ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*). Additionally, Parc Ivoloina aim to restore 100 ha of forest cover with native species by 2025.

Mangabe and Parc Ivoloina will become forest restoration training hubs, resulting in an increased number of skilled people to deliver these important services, and facilitate an increased profile, succession and continued recruitment within nursery conservation. Nursery activities will contribute to future forest restoration in Eastern Madagascar contributing to job creation and the empowerment of women within the nursery workforce, supporting enterprises, and local economies.

By 2026, at least 10 young Malagasy who received Train-The-Trainer training will be encouraged and supported to apply to become CERPs through existing training schemes offered by SER and aim to become Madagascar's first certified as restoration practitioners.

The nursery exchange restoration network will be developed and managed by the project lead and key Malagasy staff. All participants will have access and be able to share communications on the network platforms. Quarterly newsletters and organised community events will be created and shared by key Malagasy staff and trainers on the network. The final restoration guidelines and training videos for best practice can be made into a one video format to be broadcast locally and nationally.

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?

All partners have a long-term commitment to supporting conservation in Madagascar, underpinned by an ethos of working towards sustainable community-based solutions. CZ's aim is to build the capacity, capability and self-sufficiency of local conservation organisations and communities to sustainably manage the landscape.

This initiative will connect over 60 workshop participants to establish a legacy network that will remain and continue after this project. The network will have access to the training videos, other resources, standard practice guidelines and continued peer support; and will facilitate continued shared learning and adoption of best practice.


Train-The-Trainer training will enable at least ten nursery workers to build their capacity and confidence to teach restoration techniques, as well as present opportunities to be promoted to nursery managers and move along a conservation career pathway. Additionally, these individuals will have the enhanced professional experience required for the SER training to be recognised as Madagascar's first certified restoration practitioners.


This will ensure that the maintenance of standard practice guidelines created as part of this project is led by the three partners across Eastern Madagascar. This method also ensures key staff within Madagascar are trained to deliver both the restoration workshops and Train-the-Trainer training, so the cycle can continue indefinitely.


As a result of this project, the two existing sites will become recognised training hubs for the region and intend to seek further funding to establish a network of partnerships with additional Malagasy and international NGOs to build in-country capacity for delivering restoration goals at the Global Biodiversity Standard.

Whilst this project has a defined end point, and aims for sustainable skills growth, CZ and the partner organisations remain committed to conservation within this landscape in the longer term and will continue to provide support as required to achieve the sustainable legacy and scaling potential of this project.

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

 [DIR30CC1089 Appendix](#)

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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>Project budget is not used for intended purposes and project activities are not delivered on time</p> | Major | Possible | Major | <p>All partners have a successful track-record of project delivery and robust due-diligence processes for partner selection, project management, accountable budgeting, and accounting processes. Finances will be tracked/monitored regularly. Each partner has internal financial controls. Remittance of funds will occur in tranches following evidenced delivery of previous phases and accounts.</p> | Minor |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------|----------|-------|--|-------|
| Safeguarding | Harassment, abuse or sexual exploitation of or by workshop participants, project team and partner staff during their interaction with workshop staff or participants resulting in harm to individuals | Major | Unlikely | Major | CZ has rigorous training for all staff and protocols/ policies to ensure safeguarding. CZ due diligence process with partners ensures that all partners have similar safeguarding practices in place. All participants will be made aware of safeguarding policies/ procedures and will be sign-posted to these as part of their induction. | Minor |
| Delivery Chain | Risk that the delivery methods do not achieve the desired results – target audiences do not engage with activities | Moderate | Possible | Major | Pilot workshop provides some certainty that the methods will work. Engagement has been high, with active use of Facebook/WhatsApp platforms and requests for continued training. Project resources will be guided by discussions and requests from the pilot. A participatory approach, promoting ownership of the initiative, will foster continued strong engagement | Minor |
| Risk 4 | Project delivery impacted by key staff leaving partner organisations | Moderate | Possible | Major | All partners have relatively large teams, and we will involve <1 representative from each organisation on the Project Board and in project M&E. Regular meetings will ensure knowledge transfer, managing any succession risk. All project documentation will also be centrally collated to ensure clarity and continuity to all staff involved. | Minor |
| Risk 5 | Training empowers individuals to pursue other activities/jobs impacting the long-term capacity objectives of the project | Major | Possible | Major | Diluted by 1) Training all nursery staff across all partners; 2) Fostering a sense of community, pride and recognition for the jobs within forest restoration; 3) Continued engagement through networks; 4) Training trainers to proliferate consistent restoration skills growth (with training resources); 5) Upskilling individuals to for career progression | Minor |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|-------|----------|-------|--|-------|
| Risk 6 | Risk of extreme weather impacting the ability to attend or travel to workshop events | Major | Possible | Major | Planning will avoid the seasons of extreme weather. Travel to training events for nursery staff will be coordinated by partners (ie. will not be reliant on individuals to organise themselves) and include additional contingency within travel times. Parc Ivoloïna has a new road that will further mitigate this risk. | Minor |
|---------------|--|-------|----------|-------|--|-------|

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.

 [DIR30CC 1089 BCF-Workplan](#)

 19/10/2023

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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).

Results from evaluation and feedback of the pilot project have led to modifications to delivery, such as using training videos, the need for Malagasy peer-to-peer training and therefore Train the Trainer. CZ has a proven record of undertaking high-quality evaluations and adaptive management of all our projects.

We will use qualitative and quantitative measures to evaluate outcomes. The major quantitative components will be pre and post skills assessments and participation assessments (surveys and practical assessments).

Quality of training delivery will be monitored throughout, as is established in our wide variety of courses for diverse audiences at CZ, with skill improvement monitoring, participant post-course reviews and peer observations.

M&E will be embedded in the workshops themselves and an adaptive management approach will be taken in response to feedback and engagement throughout the delivery. Trainers will use both formative and summative assessment to ensure that progress and achievement of participants remains significant throughout. Informal feedback sessions will be held during the workshops with destination tracking/skills development monitoring of previous participants.

An in-country consultant (ideally a local university student) will be employed to conduct household surveys to assess the livelihood impacts of this project. The student will be supported by the social science team at Chester Zoo and it is hoped that the evaluation will result in a thesis dissertation and potentially peer-reviewed publication.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 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 | 57 |

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 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
|-----------------|-----------------------|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Outcome</p> <p>Strengthening collaborative training for nursery workers across three Malagasy NGOs to implement standardised best practice, drive effective forest restoration actions, and promote sustainable economic alternatives in local communities</p> | <p>[DI-A01 core]</p> <p>By end of Y2, 60 people (34 current nursery workers, plus 26 additional nursery workers/community members) can demonstrate increased knowledge and skills in restoration techniques and have access to standard best practice guidelines and learning resources, leading to increased yields at all nursery sites by 2026. (Baseline = 26 nursery workers)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Restoration yield assessment report -Final project report -Financial statements from local communities of product sales. -Workshop participation records -Social survey report |
| | <p>[DI-A03 core]</p> <p>By end of Y2, three Malagasy NGOs have 34 staff that have been empowered to lead restoration activities in Eastern Madagascar</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training assessment report including evaluation surveys |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Output 1 | <p>[DI-A01 core] Four workshops successfully delivered (two per year).</p> | |
| <p>(Capacity) Improved access to standardised vocational resources for nursery management and restoration training throughout three Malagasy NGOs to increase capability and capacity development within the forest restoration workforce.</p> | <p>By end of Y1 80% of MV, MFG and MBG's nursery staff at Mangabe and Parc Ivoloïna have completed workshops 1 and 2 (increasing to 100% by end of Y2).</p> | |
| | <p>By end of Y2 additional trainees (n>22) will have been recruited from local communities and have completed WS1 and WS2.</p> | |
| | <p>All attendees are evaluated and at least 75% are demonstrating/reporting an improved level of knowledge and restoration skills</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Workshop plan and end reports -Workshop participation records -Training assessment report including evaluation surveys |
| | <p>[DI-C12] WhatsApp and Facebook community platforms are maintained throughout the project period and experience a 50% increase in members by Dec 2025 compared to 2023 baselines. Posts and activity on the sites increase by 50% over the same period demonstrating increased engagement and participation levels.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training video dissemination -WhatsApp/Facebook analytics -Published quarterly newsletters |
| | <p>[DI-C10] 4 quarterly newsletters communicating community nursery case studies will be published on the Nursery network Facebook community platform annually.</p> | |

Output 2

(Restoration)

All three organisations have adopted improved standardised nursery techniques at their priority restoration sites leading to more efficient and resilient restoration.

[DI-C01 core]

By end of Y1, standard best practice guidelines for forest restoration in Madagascar have been produced and endorsed by MV, MFG and MBG. Guidelines and training videos have been produced and disseminated to all nursery staff and participants.

-Standard best practice guidelines production and distribution.

-Published training videos and engagement analytics

[DI-B05 core]

By end Y2 training a minimum of 12 people have increased participation in community restoration nurseries.

-Restoration yield report

-Forest cover analysis

(Baseline 0)

-Post workshop surveys and practical assessment reports

[DI-D12]

5100 hectares across 2 sites are being actively restored by participants of the training workshops by end of 2025.

Output 3

(Legacy)

Nursery Restoration Exchange Network established and coordinated by trained individuals to increase regional Malagasy capacity in the long-term and provide community support for future restoration projects

[DI-A05 core]

10 Individuals trained as trainers and have successfully delivered training in Y2. All trainers will support the coordination of the Network into the future ensuring alignment across Eastern Madagascar restoration activities.

-Quarterly newsletter engagement and distribution

[DI-A04 core]

By end of Y1, 28 nursery staff have completed training. By end of Y2, 6 additional nursery staff and a further 22+ community recruits have completed the training.

-Social survey and community participation survey reports.

-Workshop participation records

All attendees are evaluated and at least 75% are demonstrating/reporting an improved level of knowledge and restoration skills

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Output 4 (Poverty reduction) Increased restoration activity promotes development of the production and supply of natural nursery consumables, resulting in increased sustainable livelihoods in local communities</p> | <p>[DI-D16] 90 households in Mangabe community have reported an increase in household income from nursery product sales (baseline = 0 households). Upskilling of nursery workers results in an average increase of net household income (between 2024 baselines and 2025 surveys) either through direct salary increases or alternative livelihood options facilitated through the training. 10 local enterprises established and contributing to average increases in household income (with at least 80% sustained throughout the project duration) to support nursery activities</p> | <p>-Financial statements from local communities -Project start interviews to baseline economic activity in the region combined with post-project surveys</p> |
| | <p>[DI-B10] 90 households in Mangabe PA reporting a permanent adoption of natural nursery consumables production by end of Y2.</p> | |
| | <p>[DI-D02 core] 1500 households in Mangabe PA have improved disaster/climate resilience from improved habitat restoration and 90 households have improved disaster/climate resilience via increased household income because of this project</p> | |

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Design and develop two core workshops (WS1 – nursery management, WS2 – out-planting and restoration)
 - 1.1.1 Design and deliver pre-workshop surveys.
- 1.2 Deliver workshops
 - 1.2.1 Year-1, WS-1, Delivered to 30 participants, including nursery staff from Mangabe (MV x10) and Parc Ivoloïna (MFG x14, MBG x 4) at Mangabe
 - 1.2.2 Year-1, WS-2, Delivered to 30 participants, nursery staff from Mangabe (MV x10) and Parc Ivoloïna (MFG x14, MBG x 4) at Parc Ivoloïna
 - 1.2.3 Year-2, WS-1, Delivered to 30 participants, nursery staff from Anosibe an'ala (MV x2), Ambatondrazaka (MV x4), new community workers (MFG x12, MV x10) at Mangabe
 - 1.2.4 Year-2, WS-2, Delivered to 30 participants, nursery staff from Anosibe an'ala (MV x2), Ambatondrazaka (MV

x4), new community workers (MFG x12, MV x10) at Parc-Ivoloina
1.3 Evaluate pre and post training skills for all recipients of training.

2
2.1 Design and produce training materials
2.1.1 Video content collected in Madagascar
2.1.2 Supplemental video content generated at CZ
2.1.3 Training video series created
2.1.4 Additional training support material produced
2.2 Create standard best practice guidelines for forest restoration in Malagasy and English with visual aids.
2.3 Complete post workshop surveys - restoration survival and growth survey in Y2

3
3.1 Establish an online network for skilled nursery workers to maintain professional support and share best practices
3.2 Develop and share quarterly newsletters between stakeholders and nursery network
3.3 Deliver Train-the-Trainer courses for key team members to support future participants
3.4 Complete post-workshop social and engagement surveys

4
4.1 Procure sustainable nursery consumables from local community groups, prioritising those led by women
4.2 Establish product demand and production plan in local regions

Important Assumptions:

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


1. Continued forest restoration activities provide ongoing demand for nursery products
2. A suitable proportion of nursery workers will be willing and able undertake the train-the-trainer training
3. Unpredicted major severe weather events do not impact nursery yields
4. Nursery workers and workshop participants will continue to engage via the WhatsApp and Facebook platforms sufficiently to establish a sustainable platform for ongoing skills exchange and access to best practise resources.
5. Best practice guidelines and supporting videos will be valued by nursery workers and be utilised to result in changes that reflect best practice.


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.

 [DIR30CC 1089 BCF-Budget-under-£100K](#)

 23/10/2023

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 xlsx 36.65 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 project builds on a one-off skills exchange pilot project coordinated, delivered, and funded by CZ in May 2023 with the same in-country partners. This workshop enabled us to identify a real need for this proposed work and trial a methodology that proved very successful. The exchange was well received by participants and highlighted a clear opportunity to develop further information and skills exchange opportunities for nursery practitioners – particularly for those who would not normally be the recipients of such training due to their educational level, gender, and rural location.

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

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

The Mangabe-Ranomena-Sahasarotra protected area is a priority site for MV and CZ, with agreements in place currently up to 2030 with wider goals working towards 16 000 hectares of restoration and sustainable community-led management. Mangabe is CZ's flagship landscape project and is embedded within the wider CZ 10-year Conservation Masterplan plan (2021-2030). We work very closely with MV to deliver a range of conservation interventions in the area, including biodiversity surveys and community engagement. This project does not duplicate current activities but would contribute towards activities within the long-term landscape plan that are currently not resourced.

CZ have been working in Parc Ivoloïna with MFG and MBG since 2019, focused on habitat restoration in the form of native plant cultivation and invasive species management. This project will provide support ongoing restoration plans for Ivoloïna, and bolster current habitat restoration activity

This proposed project will complement and build on the work currently being undertaken at each site and, due to its specific beneficiaries, it will not duplicate any current or planned work.

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?

CZ has a robust understanding of costs associated with implementing conservation effective training activities in Madagascar. Project team consists of experts in horticulture, restoration, community conservation, and technical

training implementation. [REDACTED] of the project budget will be spent in-country by the partner organisations, directly benefiting Malagasy staff.

This project is a needs-based opportunity for Malagasy organisations to create standard practice and alignment across an entire region. It will mobilise empowered Malagasy skilled workers to drive collaborative forest restoration, contributing towards Madagascar's biodiversity goals, and promoting Malagasy leadership to exchange knowledge and skills. The Train-the-Trainer approach adds a multiplier effect to the value of this project whereby those trained to deliver workshops are given the agency to train more trainers.

This approach will build long-term capacity and capability within all partners and will support local, sustainable livelihoods through procurement, reducing the reliance on imported products. Year-2 focuses on engaging youth and female nursery workers to address existing imbalances, ensuring a higher-qualified future workforce producing better yields in restoration projects.

This budget (< [REDACTED] will deliver direct training to 60 individuals that will have immediate impact in forest restoration on the ground in Eastern Madagascar, but through our approach with Train-The-Trainer, networks, and resources it is likely to provide ongoing legacy of training for many times this number across other regions in Madagascar. Training is delivered in-house from all partner staff meaning funds can be used more effectively to aid inclusivity (e.g., travel/accommodations) or will go directly to local communities through product purchases.

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.

The laptop (£ [REDACTED] will remain with MV (in-country lead partner) after the project finishes, supporting the ongoing conservation activities of their team and the network.

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.

A) Chester Zoo has a robust safeguarding policy and zero tolerance for bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. Safeguarding training is provided for all staff, with additional training and checks for staff working directly with children or vulnerable adults. Our safeguarding statement is publicly accessible online.

B) A Designated Safeguarding Officer is always onsite, supported by a Designated Safeguarding Lead within the Senior Management. CZ uses the Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS) to manage any investigations, and referrals made to the local authority if needed. Complaints against staff are part of our Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

C) It is an important priority for CZ to provide support to all partners to apply the same safeguarding standards. MV, MFG and MBG are associated field partners with CZ and have fulfilled due diligence processes, which include safeguarding policies and procedures checks. CZ specialists have supported our partners to develop and improve their own policies in line with our standards. Core to all policies is the inclusion of robust procedures to ensure staff awareness and training, a clear and accessible reporting system, and processes for investigation. Safeguarding is explicitly covered within formal partnership agreements.


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.


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [DIR30CC1089 UK Ambassador email of support](#)

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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? |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Charles Wheeler | Project Leader | 20 | Checked |
| Claire Raisin | Regional Manager support - CZ Board member | 5 | Checked |
| Phil Esseen | Horticultural curator & Technical support | 3 | Checked |
| Mei Chan | Horticultural curator & Technical support | 10 | Checked |


Do you require more fields?


Yes


| Name (First name, Surname) | Role | % time on project | 1 page CV or job description attached? |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Laura Deigan | Horticultural curator & Technical support | 10 | Checked |
| Elizabeth Webb | Training support & Evaluation | 5 | Checked |
| Sydonie Harivony Rabarison | In-country Project Lead, MV | 40 | Checked |
| Christopher Birkinshaw | MBG Technical Advisor – Board member | 3 | Checked |
| Jean Jacques Jaozandry | MFG Programme Manager – Board member | 3 | Checked |
| CZ Social Scientist (To be recruited) | CZ Social Scientist (To be recruited)- Technical support | 5 | Checked |
| <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | 0 | Unchecked |
| <i>No Response</i> | <i>No Response</i> | 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.

 [DIR30CC 1089 Staff CVs](#)

 23/10/2023

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 pdf 1.96 MB

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: North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo)

Website address: www.chesterzoo.org

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

CZ has vast experience in developing and executing a diverse array of multi-stakeholder conservation projects in the field across nearly every continent, including seven previous Darwin Initiative projects. It thus has a vast knowledge base as well as time-tested partnerships across the globe. CZ has extensive in-house expertise in different fields, ranging across biological and social sciences that cater to skill building of in-country partners, as well as in development and implementation of rigorous conservation projects on the ground. CZ has strong experience in structured monitoring and evaluation of projects as well as in measuring impacts meaningfully. CZ will be intricately involved in planning the implementation and monitoring of all the activities of the project as well as in managing the finances to ensure transparent accountability. It is also able to provide added support if and as required through various operational departments such as marketing, IT and other administrative support. Lastly, CZ will also develop in-country partners' capacity to address and tackle safeguarding issues, helping them develop and institute policy frameworks for this. CZ has 92 year's of expertise in horticulture and nursery techniques and a horticulture team who previously supported the pilot nursery exchange workshop in May 2023.

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? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Madagasikara Voakajy (MV)

Website address: www.madagasikara-voakajy.org

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

MV is the lead in-country delivery partner on this project. MV is a Malagasy NGO based in Antananarivo with a number of regional offices, including one in Moramanga, from where it manages the Mangabe protected area. MV is highly respected in Madagascar and has a long track record of successful community conservation, working tirelessly to engage local communities and staff in their conservation programmes.

Julie Hanta Razafimanahaka (Director), Harivony Sydonie Rabarison (Partnership Coordinator) and Tonisoa Ivoandry Ranaivoandriamanantena (Project Officer) were all involved in the conception, development and delivery of the pilot Nursery Exchange Project (NEP). Sydonie coordinated the in-country logistics including travel, translation and budgeting of the NEP. Sydonie will once again lead on the coordination of the project. Tonisoa is a botanist and will provide relevant botany expertise during the delivery of this project. MV have a proven history of successful conservation initiatives including successful with previous Darwin grants (DI25-026 & DI28-009), and their director Julie is an internationally recognised conservation leader, recently winning TUSK Award for Conservation in Africa.

| | |
|--|---|
| 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"/> Yes |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |

2. Partner Name: Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group (MFG)

Website address: www.madagascarfaunaflora.org

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

MFG manage Parc Ivoloïna which will be the second site for workshop delivery, and MFG nursery staff will attend the training. MFG are well known and respected in the region and employs ~90 Malagasy staff. Parc Ivoloïna has a number of experienced horticulturalists who have successfully collaborated with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to cultivate a range of endangered palms within the park. MFG staff manage the 282-hectare forestry station at Parc Ivoloïna, including an extensive restoration programme.

Jean-Jaques Jaozandry (Director) and Karen Freeman (Executive Director) have both contributed to the development of this application. Jean-Jaques will lead the coordination of the workshop delivery when at Parc Ivoloïna.

Alex Mamisoa, Chief Consultant for Living Earth Collaborative Project, MFG and former Project Darwin Lead and Technical Coach on Darwin Project Extension, (MFG & MBG) was integral to the delivery of the pilot NEP and will again deliver training in this project

| | |
|--|---|
| 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"/> Yes |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |

| | |
|---|--|
| 3. Partner Name: | Missouri Botanical Garden – Madagascar (MBG) |
| Website address: | www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plant-science/plant-science/africa/madagascar |
| What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): | <p>MBG work in partnership with MFG to run the ex-situ plant conservation unit at Parc Ivoloïna. MBG and MFG received a grant from the National Geographic Society in 2006 to begin the ex-situ work by focusing on threatened species from Madagascar's east coast humid bioclimate zone. 37 target species were identified, of which 20 species were successfully planted out in Parc Ivoloïna.</p> <p>Chris Birkinshaw (Technical Advisor) assisted in the development and delivery of the pilot Nursery Exchange Project and has supported the development of this application.</p> <p>Platini Joelimanana, Head nurseryman at MBG was integral to the delivery of the pilot NEP and will again deliver training in this project</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| 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"/> Yes |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |

| | |
|---|---|
| 4. Partner Name: | <i>No Response</i> |
| Website address: | <i>No Response</i> |
| What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): | <i>No Response</i> |
| International/In-country Partner | <input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> 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.

 [Letters of support DIR30CC1089](#)

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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)?

Yes

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

| Reference No | Project Leader | Title |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| 28-025 | Claire Raisin | Stock-proof hedges to improve farming livelihoods and conserve Malagasy forests |
| 30-011 | Mayukh Chatterjee | Living with large carnivores – Integrative coexistence through communityempowerment |
| 16-077 | Alexandra Zimmermann | Building capacities for mitigating human-elephant conflict in Assam |
| 17-024 | Alexandra Zimmermann | Securing human-elephant coexistence in Sumatra |
| 23-013 | Alexandra Zimmermann | Living with Tigers in Nepal: poverty reduction for HWC |
| 25-011 | Alexandra Zimmerman | Andean bears and people: coexistence through poverty reduction |

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

North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo)

I apply for a grant of

£98,340.00

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 Charles Wheeler





Position in the organisation Project Officer, Madagascar & The Mascarenes Programme

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [signature_charlesw_2023-10-23-11-56-31](#)
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Date 23 October 2023


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


 [Chester Zoo Accounts 2022](#)
 23/10/2023
 11:16:33
 pdf 354.71 KB


 [Chester Zoo Accounts 2021](#)
 23/10/2023
 11:13:02
 pdf 1.01 MB

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

 [CZ Policies combined](#)

 17/10/2023

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 pdf 1.54 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|--|---------|
| I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance Guidance”. | Checked |
| I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund. | Checked |
| I have provided actual start and end dates for the project. | Checked |
| I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP. | Checked |
| I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application. | Checked |
| The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable). | Checked |
| I have attached the below documents to my application: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at 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).

Project Title: **Strengthening conservation organisation capacity to drive Eastern Malagasy forest restoration**

Guidance – please delete before submitting

Provide a **Workplan** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Quarters are based on UK FYs (**1 April – 31 March** - Q1 therefore starts April 2024).

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The activity numbers should correspond to the activities in your logical framework (logframe). The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

This template covers multiple Biodiversity Challenge Funds schemes, so ensure you check the eligible dates/project length for the scheme you are applying to and feel free to delete later years if not applicable for your project.

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (24/25) | | | | Year 2 (25/26) | | | |
|----------|--|---------------|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Output 1 | (Capacity) Improved access to standardised vocational resources for nursery management and restoration training throughout three Malagasy NGOs to increase capability and capacity development within the forest restoration workforce. | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Design and develop two core workshops (WS1 – nursery management, WS2 – out-planting and reforestation) | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.1 | Design and deliver pre-workshop surveys. | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2 | Deliver workshops | 2 | | | | | | | | |

Project Title: **Strengthening conservation organisation capacity to drive Eastern Malagasy forest restoration**

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (24/25) | | | | Year 2 (25/26) | | | |
|----------|---|---------------|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1.2.1 | Year-1, WS-1, Delivered to 30 participants, including nursery staff from Mangabe (MV x10) and Parc Ivoloina (MFG x14, MBG x 4) at Mangabe | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.2 | Year-1, WS-2, Delivered to 30 participants, nursery staff from Mangabe (MV x10) and Parc Ivoloina (MFG x14, MBG x 4) at Parc Ivoloina | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.3 | Year-2, WS-1, Delivered to 30 participants, nursery staff from Anosibe an'ala (MV x2), Ambatondrazaka (MV x4), new community workers (MFG x12, MV x10) at Mangabe | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2.4 | Year-2, WS-2, Delivered to 30 participants, nursery staff from Anosibe an'ala (MV x2), Ambatondrazaka (MV x4), new community workers (MFG x12, MV x10) at Parc-Ivoloina | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3 | Evaluate pre and post training skills for all recipients of training | 2.5 | | | | | | | | |
| Output 2 | (Reforestation) All three organisations have adopted improved standardised nursery techniques at their | 15 | | | | | | | | |

Project Title: **Strengthening conservation organisation capacity to drive Eastern Malagasy forest restoration**

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (24/25) | | | | Year 2 (25/26) | | | |
|-------|---|---------------|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| | priority restoration sites leading to more efficient and resilient reforestation. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Design and produce training materials | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.1 | Video content collected in Madagascar | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.2 | Supplemental video content generated at CZ | 0.25 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.3 | Training video series created | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1.4 | Additional training support material produced | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2 | Create standard best practice guidelines for forest restoration in Malagasy and English with visual aids. | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.3 | Complete post workshop surveys - restoration survival and growth survey in Y2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |

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| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (24/25) | | | | Year 2 (25/26) | | | |
|----------|---|---------------|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Output 3 | (Legacy) Nursery Restoration Exchange Network established and coordinated by trained individuals to increase regional Malagasy capacity in the long-term and provide community support for future restoration projects | 24 | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | Establish an online network for skilled nursery workers to maintain professional support and share best practices | 0.25 | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | Develop and share quarterly newsletters between stakeholders and nursery network | 24 | | | | | | | | |
| 3.3 | Deliver Train-the-Trainer courses for key team members to support future participants | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4 | Complete post-workshop social and engagement surveys | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Output 4 | (Poverty reduction) Increased restoration activity | 20 | | | | | | | | |

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| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (24/25) | | | | Year 2 (25/26) | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| | promotes development of the production and supply of natural nursery consumables, resulting in increased sustainable livelihoods in local communities | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | Procure sustainable nursery consumables from local community groups, prioritising those led by women | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| 4.2 | Establish product demand and production plan in local regions | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |