Applicant: Couch, Charlotte Organisation: Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Funding Sought: £197,151.00

## **DIR30CC\1122**

### Improving capacity for plant biodiversity planning in Guinea

Guinea has 275 globally red-listed threatened plant species, including 80 unique to Guinea. A lack of knowledge of these species at national level restricts effective conservation. National capability to collect field data, identify and analyse plant species data is minimal. Seed collection of threatened and socioeconomic species for propagation in village nurseries has started, but scaling up is limited by seed availability. Reinforcement of capacity and capability is needed to enable wider access to data, seed and plants for reforestation.

## DIR30CC\1122

Improving capacity for plant biodiversity planning in Guinea

### **Section 1 - Contact Details**

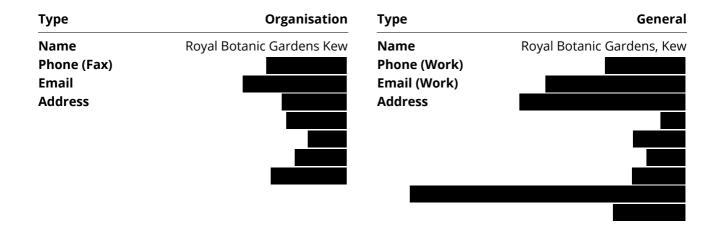
### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Name Charlotte
Surname Couch
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Tel (Work)
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Address

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Title Dr
Name Maria
Surname Fitzpatrick
Organisation Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Website (Work)
Tel (Work)
Email (Work)
Address

### **GMS ORGANISATION**



## **Section 2 - Title & Summary**

### Q3. Title:

Improving capacity for plant biodiversity planning in Guinea

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

- & Kew Cover letter Darwin C&C Guinea
- O 17:57:27
- pdf 138.62 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.

Guinea has 275 globally red-listed threatened plant species, including 80 unique to Guinea. A lack of knowledge of these species at national level restricts effective conservation. National capability to collect field data, identify and analyse plant species data is minimal. Seed collection of threatened and socioeconomic species for propagation in village nurseries has started, but scaling up is limited by seed availability. Reinforcement of capacity and capability is needed to enable wider access to data, seed and plants for reforestation.

## 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	Guinea	Country 2	No Response

**Country 3** No Response **Country 4** No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

### Q7. Project dates

Duration (e.g. 1 years, 8 **Start date: End date:** months):

01 April 2024 31 March 2026

2 years

### Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£94,326.00	£102,825.00	£
Amount.	L34,320.00	L102,023.00	197,151.00

## 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?

Remaining funds required for the IUCN Red List assessment trainer will be applied for through West African Plants Red List Authority to the IUCN SSC small grants.

## Section 4 - Project need

### Q12. The need that the project is trying to address

Please describe evidence of the <u>capability and capacity</u> 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.

Guinea has the highest levels of plant species diversity in West Africa. In 2019, 22 Important Plant Areas (IPAs) were identified in Guinea through a Darwin funded partnership between RBG Kew, National Herbarium of Guinea, NGOs and government. Guinea has suffered massive losses of natural habitat, 96% of its original intact forest was lost by 1992 (Sayer et al.) and further losses of 25 % of the main surviving forest area between 2003-2018 (Fitzgerald et al, 2021). 273 plant species have been assessed as globally threatened (Couch et al, 2019), many are nationally endemic. All are threatened by habitat clearance for agriculture, logging, urban expansion, and mining (Couch et al, 2022).

Approximately 63% of Guinea's population is rural, increasing by 2.1% annually (World Bank, 2021) and people depend on the forest and its products for medicine, food, construction materials etc. 66.2% of the population is multidimensionally poor while an additional 16.4 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2023). An increasing population, puts pressure on natural resources. Many Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) also support local urban markets and the demand is ever growing (Haba et al, 2021). The 6th National Report for the CBD (2018) highlights, among other factors, a low involvement of the local communities in their protection and insufficient knowledge of the biodiversity due to inadequate scientific research programmes as obstacles and requirements to delivering the Aichi targets.

The government of Guinea is committed through their National Plan for Economic and Social Development to the sustainable management of ecosystems. Reforestation is a key activity of the government every year, historically only a selected group of species was used, mostly invasive exotics like Gmelina arborea. This is a major issue for reforestation in protected areas. Recent collaborative projects creating village nurseries to raise tree seedlings of threatened and useful species have been moderately successful in their debut. Ten community nurseries in buffer zones of IPAs are reforesting and creating community forests for long-term community benefits. Scaling up is needed. One of the limiting factors to scaling up activities is a lack of knowledge about where populations of threatened and useful plants are located. The national action plan for threatened trees (unpublished, 2023) uses global level assessments as there is not enough data to assess at country level. It identifies the lack of ability of local researchers, forestry agents, conservation practitioners to identify these species as often they are rare and little documented; also raised by participants during courses run in previous projects. Botany is no longer taught in universities. Access to seed for propagation and replanting programmes is a limiting factor partly due to the small team of botanists who are monitoring and collecting propagation material. Overcollection of both seed and wildlings from small subpopulations could lead to restricted genetic diversity and reduced natural regeneration. Training local researchers, foresters and communities to recognise, record data and collect seed sustainably will improve access and bolster populations of threatened and useful trees, providing income for future generations.

## **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)
- ☑ Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- ☑ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

### Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

Nagoya ABS: Kew will abide by the Nagoya protocol. There is a memorandum of understanding between our partners at the National Herbarium which covers ABS. Guinea is party to the Nagoya protocol which came into force in 2015. It is monitored by CNSOE (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) who are a partner in the project. Guinea has expressed in their interim report that there is a lack of legislation and expertise to implement the protocol (https://absch.cbd.int/countries/GN). Despite this we will put agreements in place with communities to cover this.

The project supports the 2016-2020 National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) Pillar 4: 6.1: Sustainable management of ecosystems which aligns to the UN Sustainable Development Goals demonstrating that the Guinean government is committed to conserving terrestrial ecosystems. MEDD are responsible for ensuring that the government meet their international commitments with the CBD. The new PNDES has not yet been published, but we understand that biodiversity and sustainable use of natural capital will remain a pillar. The project with contribute to SDG 1: Ensuring access to useful plant species is expected provide extra income to reduce poverty in communities in or near TIPAs, SDG 5: Gender equality by promoting women and equality within the project structure and access to natural resources, SDG 15: by protecting and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, contribute to sustainable management of forests, and reduce biodiversity loss in or near IPAs. The project will also contribute to SDG13 Cultivation of native species, is expected to increase resilience of communities to climate change.

It will also contribute to CBD post 2020 framework and 30 by 30 goals Target 3, 9, 20 & 21. through net gain in the size of IPAs through reforestation, effective conservation, sustainable management of wild terrestrial species and training staff.

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

### Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended <u>capability and capacity</u> Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- how you have reflected on and incorporated <u>evidence and lessons learnt</u> from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by <u>evidence</u> that it will be effective, and <u>justifying why you</u> <u>expect it will be successful</u> 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 <u>manage the work</u> (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).
- what practical elements will be included to embed new capabilities.

Recent projects led by our Guinea partnership have focussed on raising saplings of threatened and socioeconomic species for replanting using Assisted Natural Reforestation (ANR) in the buffer zones of IPAs. Lack of seed availability, location of species across Guinea and having a team available for seed collection are limiting factors for scaling up these activities. Through training and reinforcing the capacity of local conservationists, botanists, foresters, and local communities, we will create a network of people able to collect data on location, abundance, threats, phenology and seed availability. This will facilitate national red listing of plants, and sustainable collection of seed and wildlings of threatened species to support village tree nurseries. Currently, there are several NGO projects focussed on reforestation around the new protected areas network, working with local communities to grow plants, mainly, but not always, using native species. Creating this capability will enable a sustainable supply of native plants and generate income for the local communities who can sell their plants to local NGO and government reforestation projects ensuring the right trees are planted in the right place (di Sacco & Hardwick, 2021).

The project will focus on building national capability, but also focus on two specific regions. We currently have

ten local community plant nurseries in Guinee Maritime and Guinee Forestiere. The local communities are incentivised to pursue these activities, understanding how this benefits not just themselves but future generations. All courses will aim to have equal participation from men, women and young people, and promote young researchers.

To achieve this we will deliver training in vegetation survey techniques, plant identification, IUCN Red listing, seed collection and storage training. Building on the success of training developed in 2022 as part of CEPF funding, a one-week simplified vegetation survey techniques course delivered, by RBG Kew and HNG staff will be delivered in each of the four natural regions of Guinea, training a minimum of 80 people over two years. The 6-day course (2 x theory, 2 x practice and 2 x analysis) was highly successful, and the first plant focussed training the local forest officers and partners had received. This course also revealed the lack of knowledge of Guinean plants, particularly non-woody and rare species or plant survey techniques. This is a countrywide issue since botany is not taught and plants are often overlooked in protected area management.

A French adapted version of the Kew Tropical ID course twice per year, one in Conakry and one in Sérédou (location of the two biggest herbaria), will be taught by RBG Kew and MBG staff to improve skills in plant identification by local conservation practitioners and researchers. Trial workshops with the trained researchers teaching local community participants to identify threatened plants in the field will be supported by HNG/RBG Kew and MBG.

Seed collection training will be supported by the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership, a Guinean researcher will be funded to attend a training course in Ghana to facilitate improving the national seed bank. Workshops on seed collection will be held with local stakeholders to start development of a national seed collection network that will support long-term restoration efforts.

IUCN Red List training courses will be run for researchers, government and NGO partners to facilitate national red listing efforts. This will be supported by the West African Plant Red List Authority.

An easy-to-use data recording system using KoboToolbox or SMART (used by ecoguards) will be developed with Guinee Ecologie to ensure data capture can be done by participants at all levels. Data will feed into the national herbarium data platform (RHIA) linked to GBIF to enable open access to data. Development of local seed monitoring and collection networks will be established in Guinee Maritime and Guinee Forestière. WhatsApp groups will be set up to facilitate sharing of information about seed collection and support to the teams in the different regions. The safeguarding framework developed for the CEPF project will be renewed with the communities. All data collection and sharing will be explained and PIC will be obtained. The project will support activities with local community groups to develop business models for their cooperative group village nurseries to increase their independence from project funding fluxes and provide long-term economic benefits. The skills acquired will provide local partners and stakeholders with the means to manage threatened plant species of Guinea for in-situ and ex-situ conservation and facilitate success of current and future projects. The project will strengthen partnerships between communities, local authorities and researchers.

### Q15. How will you identify participants?

How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and/or organisations) to directly benefit from the <u>capability and capacity building activities</u>? 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?

Participants will be identified from local institutions and organisations: Herbier National de Guinee, CERE, Université de Nzérékoré, UGAN, ISAV, Guinee Ecologie, AGEDD, RENACEDD, FFI, IRAG-Sérédou where priority for training will be given to young researchers who will continue to use and promote the skills learnt. Foresters, rangers and conservators will be identified by their institutions (OGPNRF, CFZ, DNFF) according to criteria set by the project e.g. at least secondary school education, good understanding of French, and an interest in plants. We will request that institutions put forward both male and female candidates. We will aim for a balance between male and female early career participants, where possible (government posts are predominantly male dominated).

Local community workshops and training will prioritise women and young people participation. There is a large

young population and few opportunities in rural areas. The communities identified will initially be the ten we have started working with the buffer zones of IPAs in Guinee Maritime and Guinee Forestiere, but we will aim to include other neighbouring communities. There are several local ethnicities present in the two regions we are focussing on. This will enable the project to assess the accessibility of teaching materials to different local ethnic groups e.g. Susu, Guerzé, Manon and Maninka and adjusting the teaching methodology where required.

### 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.

There is an inequality with the number of girls in education in Guinea, particularly going onto secondary education (World Bank, 2018, The Borgen Project, 2019) and therefore fewer women going on to do further education. We will encourage female applicants to apply in the selection criteria provided to partners for courses. In some communities, groups already exist for tree nurseries projects, these groups were set up with diversity in mind.

All training undertaken by the project will make every effort to have equal numbers of men and women represented at both community and local government stakeholder levels, we will aim for a minimum 30% female participation. We aim to engage with people across age ranges and be as inclusive as possible. We will also make sure that there are male researchers and female researchers available to address sensitivities when delivering training with different groups.

Workshops will be conducted with sufficient prior notification so that participants can arrange to attend, or they can alert the project to a potential issue e.g. time not suitable for many to take part/ village festival. Participation will be recorded and monitored throughout the project by collecting gender and socioeconomic data. Efforts will be made to address any imbalances at future workshops/ events throughout the project. Women are often responsible for gathering wood, foods and medicines; therefore they are likely to benefit from this extra training which can be carried out alongside these activities. The workshop team will contain both male and female researchers/teachers and encourage active participation by all.

A safeguarding framework developed for a previous CEPF project will be revalidated with communities before training workshops commence to provide a clear reporting procedure should any issues arise.

## 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.

Short term: A minimum of 80 people across regions and organisations will be trained in vegetation survey techniques over 2 years. Currently, the number of people able to identify the threatened plants of Guinea is small c. 5, many of them at the National Herbarium of Guinea, an additional 40 researchers will be trained in plant identification with a minimum of 30% female participants across government departments. A further 25 people will be trained in IUCN Red List Assessment methodology.

Two masters students will benefit from this training which will enable them to carry out studies on seed

germination and propagation of threatened plants. The national herbarium of Guinea will benefit from sending a researcher to Ghana for seed bank training supported by the RBG Kew Millennium Seed Bank.

Medium term: The development of a network of trained conservator and forestry agents will enable data to be collected during routine patrolling. Supported by a WhatsApp group, 60 additional community members (from mixed gender existing community groups) will be empowered to conduct data and seed collection of threatened and useful species in collaboration with other stakeholders and form a network for seed monitoring and collecting which will enable a sustainable supply of seed for community nurseries to supply reforestation projects contributing to poverty alleviation in both the short and long term. This is likely to benefit women more since they are often the ones gathering firewood or non-timber forest products and can record data alongside their daily work. The project will support activities with local community groups to develop a business model for their cooperative groups, benefitting ~30 households.

Long term: Young researchers and community members, both female and male will gain skills that they can develop further as future career opportunities. Local authorities in collaboration with trained community members will be able to train other local community groups in identification of useful and threatened plants, seed collection and nursery propagation.

Increased capacity for collecting data on threatened plants by local authorities and communities will feed into the national herbarium data repository. Data collected can be used to update national policy, contribute to the objectives of the national conservation action plan for threatened trees of Guinea and assist the government to meet its international targets in the long term.

Following training in plant identification and vegetation survey techniques we expect to see a higher number of specimens collected, properly identified, and deposited at both HNG and SERG herbaria. It will also lead to improved taxonomic capacity and biodiversity research in the long-term. Studies carried out by projects within the country will have a larger trained botanical staff to draw upon for expertise.

### 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?

Many of those to be trained are at research institutes (HNG, CERE) or government (CFZ, OGPNRF) on permanent contracts ensuring that knowledge and skills will be retained. Training of younger in-country researchers will mitigate against loss of skills due to staff turnover. Building up the capability and capacity of researchers at HNG and SERG will enable them to pass on this training through the HNG master's programme or organising future training workshops. Course materials will remain with both institutions. Training of red list assessors will ensure Guinea can assess its threatened taxa and fulfil international commitments.

Community awareness and outreach from this programme will encourage greater trust and collaboration with local authorities and partners to promote conservation of IPAs in Guinea. Translated posters and materials will be available free to download from the National Herbarium website (www.herbierguinee.org) for other organisations/individuals to use. The work done with communities in Guinee Maritime and Guinee Forestiere can be used as examples to promote similar activities in other regions.

The development of a network of seed monitors and collectors will benefit other community-based forest projects who can be trained by the original community groups, with support from the trainers, and become part of the network. Development of business models for village plant nurseries will ensure they are viable, independent of project funding being available.

All data generated will be stored on the HNG herbarium database platform (RHIA) which links to GBIF and will be available to all. All trainees will receive a course manual or access to training materials. All other materials developed as part of the project will be made available through the national herbarium website as free downloads.

We will facilitate collaborative projects being developed among the partners to continue the activities and maintain momentum after the end of this C&C project.

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

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- pdf 2.67 MB

## **Section 7 - Risk Management**

### Q19. Risk Management

Please outline the <u>6 key risks</u> 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
Fiduciary (financial) Funds mishandled and not used to enhance capacity of local stakeholders.	Major	Rare	Moderate	RBG Kew standard grant agreement will be signed by all partners. This will stipulate their budget. The agreement contains clauses about consequences of mishandling funds. Fund will be paid in instalments following receipt of a report with associated receipts.	Minor
Safeguarding Vulnerable participants taking part in the project are subjected to exploitation, abuse, bullying and harassment or unintended harm.	Major	Rare	Moderate	Project staff will have completed the Kew Safeguarding training prior to travel. In-country partners will be briefed on Kew's safeguarding policy prior to start of project. The safeguarding framework established under CEPF project will be revised and agreed with local communities.	Minor

Delivery Chain  Main in-country partner (HNG) are unable to assist with project activities (e.g. delivering training courses, community engagement).	Major	Rare	Moderate	Current MoU with HNG runs until 2025 and will be renewed promptly. Agreements with local communities are renewed at the beginning of the project and describe all the aims and activities in the local languages.	Minor
Risk 4  Political instability around election in 2025 mean travel to Guinea by international experts to deliver training is not possible.	Major	Possible	Major	Project partners will monitor the situation. In-country partners will be able to deliver some courses and community work providing movement is not restricted. Online training backed up by staff at HNG will be implemented for key courses e.g. plant identification and red list assessments.	Moderate
Risk 5  Outbreak of Ebola or other haemorrhagic fever in project area, preventing travel by international and national partners.	Moderate	Rare	Low	Project activities will be limited to regions outside of the outbreak, returning to the outbreak region when safe to do so. Response in Guinea to outbreaks has significantly improved. Project partners will monitor the situation, health and safety risk register for all participants travelling for the project are in place.	Minor
Risk 6  Community participation is lower than expected due to perceived impacts on access to forest resources, lack of trust between them and local authorities.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Work with communities where interest and trust has already been built and encourage those communities to explain the benefits to other communities. Workshops with local authorities and local communities to explain in local languages the aims and objectives of the project. Ensure continuity between personnel and communities to build trust.	Moderate

## 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.).

Yes

### Please provide brief details.

Detailed species location data is a potential sensitivity for this project, however data released on the RHIA platform to GBIF can be masked if deemed too sensitive.

## Section 8 - Workplan

### Q21. Workplan

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

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- docx 31.24 KB

### **Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation**

## Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive, and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the 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).

The project partners will meet monthly (in person or online) to discuss progress and identify any potential upcoming issues with the training programmes and community outreach.

The British Embassy has agreed to assist with monitoring the impact of the training through field visits and attending training.

Pre and post training assessments for each of the courses will be sent to all participants.

Data gathered throughout the project:

- No. of people attending training and gender breakdown,
- · No. MSc student projects submitted,
- · No. training assessment forms completed,
- · Number of seeds collected,
- Number of seed collection networks developed.

Post-training reports will be produced to highlight improvements needed for the next course. Six monthly progress reports will be required from partners before further funds are transferred.

RBG Kew project coordinator will oversee M&E with assistance from the British Embassy in Guinea.

Total project budget for M&E (£):

(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)



Total project budget for M&E (%):	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	•
Number of days planned for M&E	21

## **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
	40 people trained in plant identification skills by March 2026. Baseline: 6 people trained to date.	
	80 people trained in vegetation survey techniques by March 2026. Baseline: 35 people trained to date in Guinee Forestière.	
Outcome Increased capability of national researchers and local authorities to identify, survey, protect and propagate threatened plant species of Guinea.	By July 2025, 25 people trained in IUCN Red List assessments. Guinea currently has 4 people who have done training, but only 2 actively red listing.	Certificates, pre and post training reports.  Data transferred to HNG RHIA platform.  Seed collections made by the networks.
	By March 2026, MSc theses on seed propagation of threatened plants available. Two community networks for seed monitoring and collection set up and maintained by December 2025. Baseline: 0 networks in place.	

Output 1 Increased national capacity of researchers and local authorities in plant identification, surveying, red listing and enhance the data available for future national red listing.	1.1 80 people trained in vegetation survey techniques by March 2026. 1.2 40 people trained in plant identification skills by March 2026. 1.3 By July 2025, 25 people trained in IUCN Red List assessments. 1.4 By March 2026, MSc theses on seed propagation of threatened plants available.	1.1 First cohort of HNG and SERG herbarium trainees assist with teaching second cohort and communities. 1.2 Pre and post course assessments and reports. Blog post written for Kew website. 1.3 Pre and post course assessment and training report. 1.4 MSc students pass viva. Theses are available on the Kew Repository.
Output 2 Community groups and other stakeholders collaborate to set up seed monitoring and collection networks to enhance sustainable supplies of native seed for reforestation.	2.1 Six (mixed gender) community groups trained by project trained participants in plant identification, data collection and seed collection by May 2025.  2.2 Two community networks, one in Guinee Maritime and one in Guinee Forestière, set up for seed monitoring and collections with first seed collections made by December 2025.  2.3 Four community groups given training in setting up a business	2.1 Pre and post course assessments and training reports.  2.2 WhatsApp group set up; data recording app set up and being used; first seed collection made by network.  2.3 Training report and Initial business plans developed.
Output 3 French and local language course materials developed to enable	model for tree-based businesses.  3.1 Course materials developed and translated into French prior to first training course in June 2024.  3.2 Translation of key materials	3.1 Course manuals provided to participants after each course. Course materials remain with HNG and SERG for future training workshops.
future teaching by local partners.  Output 4	into local language posters for communities by Jan 2025.	3.2 Translated posters and materials available to download via the HNG website.
	No Resnanse	No Resnanse

### **Activities**

No Response

## 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.

No Response

- 1.1 Develop criteria to identify participants from among partner and stakeholder organisations,
- 1.2 Design pre and post course assessments,
- 1.3 Engage MSc students, identify and agree study species and supervisors.
- 1.4 Blog post written for Kew and HNG websites with contributions from trainees.

No Response

- 2.1 Organise workshops with local community groups to revalidate safeguarding framework.
- 2.2 Develop easy to use data recording tool with KoboToolbox and field test.

- 2.3 Organise training workshops with communities in Guinee Maritime and Guinee Forestiere on plant identification and seed collection.
- 2.4 Set up seed collection networks supported by trainers through WhatsApp groups.
- 2.5 Organise 2 training workshops in business planning for 4 communities in Guinee Forestiere
- 3.1 Preparation and translation of plant identification course materials
- 3.2 Identification of practical materials required for all courses
- 3.3 Creation of local language posters and materials for seed collection and identification of threatened plants.

### **Important Assumptions:**

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

- Guinea continues to be politically stable with reduction of poverty linked with sustainable exploitation of natural resources no longer a government priority.
- The current (10-year) strong collaborative partnership between UK-based and in-country scientific partners continues.
- The Guinea government Ministry of the Environment maintains its stated commitment to training protected areas staff.
- There is no pandemic or outbreak of other diseases which could prevent project going ahead as scheduled.
- Communities involved in the project remain engaged and committed to improving their livelihoods through tree-based activities.

## **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.

- & BCF-Budget-KEW Guinea-Darwin
- **ii** 17/10/2023
- © 11:56:43
- xlsx 98.57 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:

The training complements skills gaps identified by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development under funding from the World Bank to improve environmental governance. The project builds on the results from our 2021-22 CEPF project which delivered a first vegetation survey course and began community engagement work. It also builds on a larger programme around Important Plant Areas in Guinea previously funded by Darwin Initiative, Fondation Franklinia and GCBC.

# 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.

This will extend training opportunities available under a JRS Biodiversity Foundation grant which aims to produce a guide to threatened plants of Guinea in 2026 and provide training around this. This project will enable more people to be trained across the country than the focus areas for the JRS project. It will provide skills needed by Guinean botanists to increase sound data capture on threatened species and surveys of the new protected areas identified by the Guinean government through the World Bank. In Guinee Forestière this also complements a project by our partners Guinee Ecologie through Birdlife International for restoration activities at Mt Béro and delivery of the government management and development plans for Mt Béro, Diécké and, Ziama which is being led by FFI. It will also complement future GEF-8 child projects in Guinea.

### **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?

This project aims to leave a significant amount of in-country expertise which will reduce the future need for international experts for teaching and training on masters courses etc. Teaching courses in-country with practical application of the techniques has been previously tested and produces good levels of understanding and allows networking between stakeholders. The project will be supported by the TIPAs Guinea project coordinator (Charlotte Couch) who spends 4-6 months in-country to support the partners to deliver project outcomes, she is funded from other sources. She will contribute to teaching with HNG botanists. The project will benefit the expertise of Ehoarn Bidault from MBG who a native French speaker who also collaborates with SERG in Guinea. He will assist with translation, development and delivery of courses.

Translation of materials into French and local languages will foster inclusiveness and benefit many communities after the end of the project. By teaching communities about business plans and models we aim to make them more independent of project funding fluctuations thus enabling them to improve their livelihoods in the long term.

Government partners will contribute staff time, office and meeting room space to facilitate delivery of the project, demonstrating their support of the project.

### 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.

12 smartphones or tablets will be purchased for data recording and developing the seed collection network, they will remain with the community groups at the end of the project to continue the work.

## **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:

- <u>Safeguarding Policy</u>: 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.
- <u>Code of Conduct</u>: 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.

As a result of a previous project, we already have a safeguarding framework for use with communities which includes a hierarchy of incident reporting and an early warning system. This will be updated and validated by all participating communities prior to commencing the project.

Additionally, Kew has a safeguarding policy which will be shared with partners at the start of the project and followed by all project staff. Issues will be reported in adherence to the policy via an incident report form and escalated to a line manager.

## 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.

& RE Application to Darwin Initiative C&C

① 14:21:12

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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?
Charlotte Couch	Project Leader	20	Checked
Dr Sekou Magassouba	Co-PI	20	Checked
Dr Martin Cheek	Course development	5	Checked
Dr Xander van der Burgt	Training and course development	10	Checked

### Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ehoarn Bidault	Course development and trainer	10	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
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.

- ① 12:01:08
- pdf 653.03 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 <u>extent of their engagement so far</u>.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
www.kew.org
RBG Kew is a world-leading centre for plant science and conservation. Our mission is to understand and protect plants and fungi for the wellbeing of people and the future of all life on Earth. Kew has a long history of working with partners in over 100 countries to deliver projects. Kew has been working in Guinea since 2005, initially with botanical students from Guinée Ecologie. In 2008, Kew initiated the establishment of a national herbarium at the Université Gamal Abdel Nasser de Conakry with whom we have a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC). Kew continues to train local botanists and teach on the HNG master's course to train the next generation of researchers. Kew has extensive experience in teaching plant identification through the Tropical Plant Identification course. Kew will deliver develop and adapt course material for training and capacity building to partner organisations.
<ul><li>International</li></ul>
£
<b>⊙</b> Yes
<b>⊙</b> Yes

### Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Herbier National de Guinee

Website address:	www.herbierguinee.org
What value does this Partner bring to the project?  (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	HNG was created by Government Statute as an institution within the Université Gamal Abdel Nasser de Conakry. As a research institute, they provide data and advice to the government on plant conservation in Guinea. HNG has a long-standing MoC (2008-2025) with Kew and was the main partner in the TIPAs-Guinea project funded by the Darwin Initiative and lead partner for a GBIF-BID grant (2016-2019) and recent CEPF grant in collaboration Guinee Ecologie, COSIE and OGPRNF (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development). HNG started a master's course in Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in 2012, many of their staff have completed the course and are now doing PhDs. During past projects we built strong relationships with partners and stakeholders in plant conservation in Guinea, co-ordinating the TIPAs Working Group bringing together representatives from academia, government and NGOs. HNG manages the national plant database and seed bank collections. HNG will co-manage the project with RBG Kew support and coordinate with in-country partners to deliver the project objectives.
International/In-country Partner	
Allocated budget:	£
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<b>⊙</b> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<b>⊙</b> Yes

2. Partner Name:	Guinee Ecologie
Website address:	www.guineeecologie.net
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	Guinee Ecologie is a local environmental NGO established in 1989 with 30 years of experience in environment and nature conservation. They have collaborative links with government having been involved with drafting of various policy documents. In collaboration with the national directorates concerned with the environment and management of natural resources and the support of various development the organization has carried out studies and organized numerous information, awareness and training seminars, and workshops for
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	different audiences on the environment, natural resource management. GE is an association made up of volunteers providing training alongside delivering projects. Guinée Ecologie will be involved with communities to develop business models for tree-based businesses.
International/In-country Partner	<b>⊙</b> In-country
Allocated budget:	£

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<b>⊙</b> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<b>⊙</b> Yes

3. Partner Name:	Missouri Botanic Gardens
Website address:	www.mobot.org
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	MBG have expertise working across Francophone Africa doing plant surveys and supporting herbaria. MBG has previously worked in Guinea and has supported the SERG herbarium. For this project, MBG bring their French language skills to develop and deliver courses in
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	plant identification and survey techniques in collaboration with RBG Kew.
International/In-country Partner	<b>⊙</b> International
Allocated budget:	£
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<b>⊙</b> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<b>⊙</b> Yes

Website address:	www.medd-guinee.org
4. Partner Name:	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: Office Guineen des Parc Nationaux et Reserves de Faune (OGPNRF) and Centre Forestier N'Zerekore (CFZ)

MEDD are coordinating the activities associated with the World Bank loan to Guinea for the environment and Mining sectors. They are supportive of the training that members of their department have previously received and recognise this gap in skills. Responsible for implementing Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) and protected areas legislation, protection and fulfilling CBD and the Nagoya Protocol commitments. MEDD are involved in elaborating the National Plan for Economic and Social Development in which the 30x30 goals and What value does this Partner bring aspirations are laid out. The previous PNDES 2016-2020 sets out certain to the project? aspirations under Pillar 4.1, however the new strategy has yet to be published. Plus, offices under the MEDD umbrella including: Centre (including roles, responsibilities and Forestière Nzérékoré (CFZ) responsible for the protection of Classified capabilities and capacity): Forests and protected areas in Guinée Forestière. Office Guinéen des Parcs et Réserves de Faune (OGPNRF) is responsible for management of protected areas in Guinea. The revised network of Protected Areas will include the majority of the 22 TIPAs identified in Guinea in 2019. Direction National de Faune et Flore (DNFF) is responsible for reforestation in Guinea. No direct budget allocated, field agents will be given training in plant identification, seed collection and survey techniques for plant species. In-country International/In-country Partner Allocated budget: Representation on the Project No **Board (or other management** structure) Have you included a Letter of Yes Support from this partner? CRAA-Sérédou (part of IRAG) 5. Partner Name: Website address: https://irag-guinee.org/ CRAA have the responsibility for the SERG herbarium. They will What value does this Partner bring contribute to the project through organisation and providing use of to the project? facilities for the plant identification course. Through their work with communities developing agroforestry including useful and threatened native plants (currently funded by GCBC), CRAA and the communities (including roles, responsibilities and they work with will participate in developing the seed collection network capabilities and capacity): as well as the associated training. International/In-country Partner In-country Allocated budget:

structure)

**Representation on the Project** 

**Board (or other management** 

O No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<b>⊙</b> Yes
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?	O Yes O 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.

- & Binder Letters of support
- © 20:11:07
- pdf 2 MB

## **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
DARFW049	Juan Viruel	Onja Razanamaro
DARCC018	Liam Trethowan	Growing Indonesian Genomics
DARCC014	Aisyah Faruk	Enhancing the capacity and capability of orchid conservation in Armenia
28-012	Maria Vorontsova	Native grass forage management to feed people and protect forests.
27-014	Aaron Davies	Coffee natural capital for environmental and livelihood sustainability in Uganda
26-024	Bente Klitgard	Improving indigenous Bolivian Chiquitano people's livelihoods through sustainable forest management.

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

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

### I apply for a grant of

£197,151.00

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	Alex Antonelli
Position in the organisation	Director of Science
Signature (please upload e- signature)	Antonelli  19/10/2023  ○ 15:42:43  □ png 13.73 KB
Date	19 October 2023

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

<u>ABG Kew Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23</u>	ය Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew - Annual Report and
<b>i</b> 06/10/2023	Accounts 2021-22 (fully accessible links)
<b>①</b> 10:52:05	
pdf 1.01 MB	© 10:51:50
	pdf 761.3 KB

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

& <u>code-of-conduct</u>	<u> </u>
<b>(</b> ) 10:52:34	© 10:52:30
P pdf 241.17 KB	P pdf 389.28 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

<ul> <li>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</li> </ul>	Checked
My completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
<ul> <li>a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 27).</li> </ul>	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 <u>Forms and Guidance Portal</u>.

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).

	Activity	No. of	Y	ear 1	(24/2	5)	Υ	ear 2	(25/2	6)	Y	'ear 3	(26/2	7)	Y	ear 4	ar 4 (27/28) Year				(28/2	9)
	Activity	months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Increased national capacity of researchers and local authorities in plant identification, surveying, red listing and enhance the data available for future national red listing.	18																				
1.1	Develop criteria to identify participants from among partner and stakeholder organisations,	0.5																				
1.2	Design pre and post course assessments,	1																				
1.3	Engage MSc students, identify and agree study species and supervisors.	2																				
1.4	Blog post written for Kew and HNG websites with contributions from trainees.	1																				
1.5	Organise training workshops for courses	9																				
Output 2	Community groups and other stakeholders collaborate to set up seed monitoring and collection networks to enhance sustainable supplies of native seed for reforestation.	24																				
2.1	Organise workshops with local community groups to revalidate safeguarding framework.	1																				

	Activity	No. of	Year 1 (24/25)				Υ	ear 2	(25/2	6)	Y	'ear 3	(26/2	:7)	Y	ear 4	(27/2	8)	Year 5 (28/29)			
	Activity	months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.2	Develop easy to use data recording tool with KoboToolbox and field test.	6																				
2.3	Organise training workshops with communities in Guinee Maritime and Guinee Forestiere on plant identification and seed collection.	4																				
2.4	Set up seed collection networks supported by trainers through WhatsApp groups.	6																				
2.5	Organise 2 training workshops in business planning for 4 communities in Guinee Forestiere	4																				
Output 3	French and local language course materials developed to enable future teaching by local partners.	12																				
3.1	Preparation and translation of plant identification course materials	6																				
3.2	Identification of practical materials required for all courses	1																				
3.3	Creation of local language posters and materials for seed collection and identification of threatened plants	6																				