

Applicant: **Djitrinou Fagla, Nadege**
Organisation: **JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. - World Education Division (JSI/WE)**
Funding Sought: **£199,940.00**

DIR30CC\1316

AgroNative: Increasing Native Species in Beninese Agroforestry through Government Leadership

Agriculture is a key entry point to improving biodiversity and livelihoods in Benin, yet farmers, communities, and the Government of Benin (GOB) do not practise biodiversity sustaining methods. The project (AgroNative) will strengthen GOB capacity to institutionalise evidence-based practices in agroforestry that sustain native biodiversity and produce high, resilient crop yields. AgroNative will support GOB to deliver these practices; develop demonstration plots; improve participatory forest management; strengthen gender-sensitive microentrepreneurship; and directly support farmers to develop biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots.

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AgroNative: Increasing Native Species in Beninese Agroforestry through Government Leadership

Section 1 - Contact Details

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GMS ORGANISATION


Type	Organisation
Name	JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. - World Education Division (JSI/WE)
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Section 2 - Title & Summary


Q3. Title:


AgroNative: Increasing Native Species in Beninese Agroforestry through Government Leadership

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [DIR30CC 1316 Cover Letter JSI-WorldEd AgroNative.docx](#)

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

Yes

Year of unsuccessful application:	Stage of application:	Application number (if known):
2023	Stage 1	DIR30S1\1270

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.

Agriculture is a key entry point to improving biodiversity and livelihoods in Benin, yet farmers, communities, and the Government of Benin (GOB) do not practise biodiversity sustaining methods. The project (AgroNative) will strengthen GOB capacity to institutionalise evidence-based practices in agroforestry that sustain native biodiversity and produce high, resilient crop yields. AgroNative will support GOB to deliver these practices; develop demonstration plots; improve participatory forest management; strengthen gender-sensitive microentrepreneurship; and directly support farmers to develop biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots.

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	Benin	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:	£96,754.00	£103,186.00	£199,940.00

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?

JSI/WE anticipates significant in-kind matched funding contributions through the direct contribution of government officials' time towards AgroNative's objectives and the use of government space for meetings and workshops. JSI/WE and Alafia will also continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with the private sector that result in in-kind contributions. Because these in-kind contributions are built in to project activities, and are not comprised of additional funds required for implementation, there is no risk posed to implementation. Risks concerning government buy-in to activities are addressed in Q19, Risk Management.

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.

Benin ranks 166th of 191 countries in the 2021 Human Development Index report (Benin, 2023). Around 80% of the population is employed by agriculture, accounting for one third of Benin's GDP. Agriculture is a key driver of biodiversity loss in Benin. Cash crop production and demand for food put increased pressure on biodiversity through habitat degradation, fragmentation and conversion (RdB, Stratégie et Plan d'Action pour la Biodiversité 2011-2020). Current agricultural practices deplete soils, leading to the abandonment of fallow land and search for new land. There is a severe lack of knowledge about alternative agricultural practices (ibid.).

Following national trends, anthropogenic pressures, primarily agricultural, drive biodiversity loss in Benin's Ouémé Supérieur and N'Dali forests. Current agricultural practices result in deforestation and soil depletion with fallow land regularly abandoned in search of more fertile soils. Despite efforts from Government of Benin (GOB) policy makers, local forestry units have been largely unsuccessful in engaging communities in natural resource management, in part due to communities' reliance on unsustainable agricultural practices to survive.

In Benin, there is enthusiasm around agroforestry, however, the term itself is largely unknown and current practices are not evidence-based, do not maximise crop yields or sustain native biodiversity, and are vulnerable to climate change. Current practices prioritise primarily crop species, integrating perennial fruit trees with annual crops. There is little integration of native tree and shrub species in agroforestry systems, a proven practice to increase biodiversity levels, strengthen climate resilience, and improve and diversify crop yields through improved pollination, pest control, soil retention, nutrient cycling, genetic diversity and local climate regulation. Improved, reliable crop yields directly address food insecurity and poverty.

While policies are in place that govern the management of natural resources in the agricultural sector, commune-level government representatives often lack the technical knowledge and institutional systems to properly deliver them, leaving farmers to continue unsustainable practices. Opportunities exist to strengthen GOB - specifically the Territorial Agricultural Development Agency (ATDA) of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) - capacity to institutionalise and promote government policies that support biodiversity levels and crop yields through the integration of native species. Opportunities also exist to strengthen linkages between MAEP/ATDA, the Ministry of Environments Directorate of Forests and Natural Resources (DGFRN), the Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development - Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêt et Chasse (MCVDD) - specifically the Forestry Administration, the National Agency of Land Management (ANDF) the better support best agroforestry practices and improve participatory forest management.

AgroNative thus addresses the need to strengthen government and community capacity to (1) understand the value of biodiversity in general and as an attribute to agriculture and livelihoods (as opposed to a threat); (2) implement techniques to sustain biodiversity and strengthen crops for overall livelihoods, such as native plant integration in agroforestry systems; and (3) sustain institutional systems enabling GOB to support communities and advance priorities in biodiversity as well as enable communities to function such that they can address concerns they themselves have raised around biodiversity, agriculture and livelihoods.

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)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your 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.

Benin's NDC emphasises reducing emissions through industry reforms - often agricultural, and by offsetting emissions through forestry by promoting deforestation reduction, increase in reforestation, and sustainable agriculture. Specifically, Benin's NDC cites agroforestry as an approach to absorbing carbon and encourages the uptake of agroforestry as a tool to improve engagement in forestry. AgroNative will advance both of these goals by improving agroforestry practices in Benin to support biodiversity and increase yields, offering an alternative to monocultures and harmful agricultural practices, such as yam growth. AgroNative leverages agroforestry to promote participatory management of forest resources.

Benin's NBSAPs prioritise an ecosystem approach to implementation, aligning with AgroNative's methodology. The NBSAPs recognise the role of agricultural expansion and ineffective practices in threatening biodiversity. The NBSAPs also recognise the ability of sustainable agriculture to sustain biodiversity and maintain levels of genetic diversity. AgroNative will advance this goal by building GOB capacity to design agroforestry systems that integrate native plant species, sustaining biodiversity and expanding habitat, thus contributing to the maintenance of genetic diversity.

Agriculture and forestry are key components of Benin's NAP. Agroforestry is a proven approach to agricultural adaptation to climate change. Beninese law stipulates how many native trees must remain on agricultural land based on its protected status.

AgroNative also aligns with GOB's initiative, the Communal Forest Management Support Project Phase II (PAGEFCOM2). PAGEFCOM2 reduces poverty through the sustainable management of forest resources, improves incomes and living conditions, promotes food security, protects biodiversity, and increases access to environmental services.

AgroNative will advance the two first goals of the CBD to conserve biological diversity and use its components sustainably, specifically by addressing articles 8. In-situ Conservation; 10. Sustainable Use of Biodiversity; 13. Public Education and Awareness [developing education and outreach programmes], as well as the Gender-responsive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity agreed upon at COP14.

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.

AgroNative will leverage agriculture as a powerful entry point to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in Benin. JSI/WE's Darwin Initiative-funded "Women-led, School-based Agroforestry in Benin" project (DARNV019) promotes the integration of native species in agroforestry systems - a proven best practice - to sustain biodiversity and improve the resilience, productivity and diversity of crop production and has garnered significant enthusiasm.

AgroNative will build on and institutionalise this enthusiasm in the Borgou Department in Benin, an area abutting the Ouémé Supérieur forest. To maximise the potential to scale these approaches nationally - potentially reaching 80% of Benin's population currently working in the agricultural sector - AgroNative will build local government capacity to support communities to roll out existing policies promoting the integration of native tree and herbaceous species in agriculture. This will improve overall biodiversity benefitting practices and specifically increase habitat for native invertebrate pollinators and insectivorous birds.

AgroNative will take a co-creation approach to strengthening capacity at the community-level and commune- and department-level GOB to institutionalise biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry practices. For true sustainability, capacity strengthening will be both technical (ecosystem functions; natural resource management; native plant integration in agroforestry; agronomy methods; etc.) and institutional (strategic planning; financial management; resource mobilisation; governance; leadership; program implementation; etc.). Our approach is participatory, leverages adult learning techniques, is led by the participants, and will result in the co-creation of all activities, ultimately enabling participants to make future decisions about biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and income generation.

AgroNative is structured such that Output 1 builds government capacity; Output 2 builds community capacity; Output 3 contributes directly to biodiversity conservation through on-the-job practice, strengthening Output 1/2 results; and Output 4 enables participants to examine the efficacy of their activities and provide evidence-based recommendations and changes to iteratively improve their activities. The following activities, organised by outcome, will result in long-lasting motivation and capacity for communities to advance biodiversity conservation through GOB support, forming the foundation for GOB to scale best practices across their jurisdictions, systemically improving biodiversity conservation through agriculture.

Outcome 1 activities to strengthen GOB:

AgroNative will administer an Integrated Technical/Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) with commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA resulting in a capacity strengthening action plan with modules on biodiversity sustaining agroforestry; participatory forest management/CBNRM; gender equity; and organisational mission, governance, systems, and program delivery. AgroNative will support the action plan as well as facilitate collaboration between MAEP, MCVDD, ANDF and DGFRN to jointly achieve agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity goals. Through the ITOCA action plan, AgroNative will provide on-the-job support to the MAEP-ATDA and MCVDD to train farmers and communities on biodiversity sustaining agriculture and CBNRM.

Outcome 2 activities to strengthen farmers and communities:

AgroNative will implement a participatory community diagnostic (PCD) aimed at engaging a diverse array of community members to solve problems related to biodiversity conservation and livelihoods, pinpointing issues

they see as important, and setting the stage for agroforestry activities. AgroNative will also engage the communities in a bioblitz to better understand correlations between the presence native plant species and fauna beneficial to agriculture, as well as the value of a functional ecosystem. AgroNative will convene farmer field schools (FFS) and CBNRM field schools, comprised of biweekly meetings with farmers and communities over the cycle of the growing seasons to observe changes in their agroforestry plots, enabling them to see for themselves the value of increasing biodiversity through intercropping native species, and to make decisions about their own agroforestry systems. AgroNative will replicate the FFS model for CBNRM. AgroNative will train farmers agroforestry-based microbusiness development with attention to gender equitable financial management, and will support participants to found savings groups.

Outcome 3 activities to establish model agroforestry plots:

AgroNative, through MAEP-ATDA, will support five communities / farmer field school (FFS) participants to establish agroforestry plots integrating native species in proximity to the Ouémé Supérieur Forest, increasing overall gamma diversity. In year three, AgroNative will provide resources for up to 10 FFS participants (at least 50% women) to replicate agroforestry plots and develop a plan with MAEP-ATDA to provide light supervisory support.

Outcome 4 activities to implement participatory action research (PAR) on native species integration in agroforestry and CBNRM:

AgroNative will partner with a local university to work with GOB and communities - especially women and youth - to carry out PAR assessing communities' uptake and interest in biodiversity sustaining agroforestry and CBNRM and GOB's capacity to support them. The PAR will inform AgroNative's adaptive management approach and provide a report guiding GOB to ensure their activities maximise impact and resonate with communities.

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?

AgroNative will be thoughtful and meticulous in ensuring the right participants are engaged, that they are engaged willingly and fairly, that all AgroNative activities and approaches resonate with them, and that the selection of participants fairly represents all interested parties - especially women, youth, and groups often excluded from important discussions. AgroNative will adhere to the following identification processes depending on participant group:

Commune- and department-level GOB:

The ITOCA is an important process ensuring engagement of a diverse array of voices in government entity engagement and decision-making. AgroNative will work closely with participants from MAEP-ATDA to ensure ITOCA participants represent all employment levels (from entry-level to leadership) and include equitable gender representation. Through the ITOCA action plan, all participants take a key role in decision-making.

Communities:

AgroNative will develop a set of criteria through which to select communities together with commune- and department GOB participants and establish a shortlist of communities based on these criteria. AgroNative will then present the criteria to the shortlist of communities and solicit their interest and commitment to the criteria. AgroNative will then work with GOB to determine which five communities will receive support based on interest expressed by the communities. Criteria will include commitment to project goals; commitment to ensuring gender equity and equitable representation; proximity to native forest; etc.

Selection of Farmer Field School, CBNRM Field School, and Participatory Action Research participants:

AgroNative will ask village leadership to nominate members based on jointly established criteria. To avoid exclusion, through the participatory community diagnostic (Output 2), AgroNative will identify subsets within the community that may be excluded (women, youth, etc.) and will ensure their inclusion. AgroNative will then establish a simple “application” process to ensure all interested participants have the opportunity to engage in activities and those demonstrating commitment will be selected.

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.

In Benin, climate change has worsened food insecurity, increased women’s domestic labour burden and contributed to land use patterns that threaten biodiversity. Beninese women are engaged in subsistence agriculture and cash-crop production, but men largely control the income from these activities. As climate change further pressures limited resources, women bear a disproportionate labour burden, especially given the climate-vulnerable agricultural techniques relegated to women. Anecdotal reports suggest that agroforestry is seen as “a man’s activity.” AgroNative’s design addresses the multi-leveled exclusion of women from entrepreneurial agriculture, formal markets, land, and decision-making fora and will thoughtfully work to establish a space for a more systemic involvement and leadership of women in agroforestry, CBNRM and agroforestry-based microbusinesses.

In addition to ensuring equitable gender representation in all activities, AgroNative will integrate reflections on gender equity in FFS activities, an important forum to engage community members who may otherwise not be exposed to such discussions. AgroNative’s ITOCA will build GOB capacity to account for GESI factors so that these important considerations are institutionalised through the GOB’s agriculture and forestry work. Finally, AgroNative will ensure a gender-equitable allocation of microbusiness training and funds and agroforestry start-up resources.

The PCD and action research will ensure accountability to and engagement of participants often excluded from decision-making (women, youth, those with disabilities, etc.). The PCD will also support AgroNative to mitigate the risk of exacerbating gender imbalances related to time-use and potential backlash from the transformation of gender norms, roles and responsibilities through its activities. The PCD will be a joint assessment of GESI gaps to ensure that AgroNative applies gender-differentiated strategies for conservation/agricultural management. In addition to qualitative community discussions, AgroNative will analyse gender- and disability-disaggregated monitoring data to track if progress made on outcomes is regressive or transformative and ensure activities are not exacerbating inequities.

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.

Communities in Northern Benin experience severe food insecurity and focus resources primarily on subsistence agriculture to survive. Such agricultural systems deplete native biodiversity and are susceptible to climate change, pest pressures, erosion, and declining soil quality, putting biodiversity and livelihoods at risk. The department- and commune-level GOB lacks the technical expertise and organisational systems to effectively support communities to access viable alternatives. Native species-integrated agroforestry plots can reverse these trends, strengthening the resilience of agriculture, harbouring native biodiversity, and improving food security and cash crop opportunities. GOB is key in advancing these alternatives, sustaining biodiversity and ensuring food security and livelihoods for communities in their jurisdictions.

AgroNative's Theory of Change (TOC) thus posits that:

-IF the GOB has the knowledge of agroforestry practices that sustain biodiversity and increase crop yield, and capacity and commitment to support communities and farmers to advance them;
-IF farmers and communities understand, appreciate, and practice biodiversity sustaining agroforestry and participatory forest management / CBNRM; and
-IF farmers and communities leverage agroforestry products for gender-equitable microbusinesses;
THEN communities will increase uptake of agroforestry techniques that intercrop native species and GOB will support them to do so. Ultimately, the department of Borgou, Benin will benefit from increased, diversified, climate-resilient crop yields; increased alpha and gamma diversity; and strengthened livelihoods and food security.

AgroNative's TOC is supported by evidence demonstrating that agroforestry systems are resilient to drought and flooding; improve soil quality and moisture; and produce a diversity of crop species, ultimately increasing dietary diversity. Intercropping native tree and plant species sustains native biodiversity and regulates pests. With higher crop yields and high value cash crops, communities - especially women - will be better poised to manage microbusinesses, improving their economic status. Working with and through GOB to support farmers and their communities to establish and manage agroforestry systems (increasing biodiversity, food security and livelihoods), and strengthening GOB capacity to deliver such support, will ensure sustainability and scalability.

Select benefits include:

Short-term benefits:

- 150 people (at least 50% women) from 5 communities learn biodiversity-sustaining, income generating agroforestry techniques and microbusiness development
- 15 hectares of land restoration initiated
- 10 farmers (at least 50% women) supported to establish their own agroforestry plots, in addition to the 5 plots established by AgroNative
- 1 department- and at least 2 commune-level GOB structures strengthened to deliver biodiversity sustaining agricultural practices
- 18* native plant species reincorporated into agroforestry systems (may vary by site)

Long-term benefits:

- 3,000 people (at least 50% women) benefiting from climate-resilient agriculture systems and engaged in CBNRM, improving food security and livelihoods
- 5 plots (~15 hectares) land restored through agroforestry to sustain native biodiversity, with at least 10 additional plots supported for further development
- At least 20 GOB trainers from department- and commune-level GOB deliver training and/or support in sustainable agroforestry practices and promote participatory forest management / CBNRM
- Evidence-based, biodiversity sustaining, high yield agroforestry practices institutionalised and supported by GOB
- Action Research representing voices of all community members (especially women and youth) presents best practices for scale-up by GOB

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?

AgroNative's capacity strengthening approach, based in adult learning science ensures that capacity strengthening activities result in knowledge acquisition and invoke action and skills application. Activities such as the bioblitz, community-led and GOB-facilitated with JSI/WE and Alafia support, are experiential learning opportunities through which participants gain knowledge and inspiration to act. Building both soft skills (environmental awareness, leadership, self confidence, etc.) and concrete skills (strategic planning, activity management, budgeting, etc.) ensures that AgroNative nurtures competent environmental leaders within communities and within the government (capacitation scaling) that advance environmental action long into the future.


With community-level agriculture being such a crucial entry point to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in Benin, government-level buy-in and support is vital to ensuring that evidence-based practices, such as the AgroNative-promoted native plant integration in agroforestry, are institutionalised and promoted systematically nationwide (systems change scaling). This will bring a largely community-based approach to national scale.


AgroNative will directly result in increased capacity and action of GOB, most notably, MAEP-ATDA and MCVDD, to advance biodiversity conservation and food security / poverty reduction in the Borgou department. Building on enthusiasm in Borgou, one of Benin's 12 departments, AgroNative has a clear pathway to national scale-up. National scale-up will not only involve exponentially increasing the number of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry systems across Benin (landscape scaling), but can also strategically address high-impact conservation practices (replication scaling). Agroforestry can establish corridors connecting the fragmented forest (eg. Oueme Superior Wari Maro forests), increasing the flow of genetic diversity and restoring river banks through riparian agroforests which will contribute to the overall health of the watershed and in many cases, communities' water supplies.


AgroNative will develop a roadmap to national scale-up, including pinpointing opportunities to advance local-level AgroNative successes at the national level, and developing processes to ensure that local successes inform national strategy.

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

 [DIR30CC 1316 Citations JSI-WorldEd AgroNative](#)

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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>Mismanagement of subgrant / seed-grant funds by CSOs.</p>	Moderate	Possible	Major	JSI/WE will draw from our robust financial management that are designed to build the capacity of partners for excellent financial stewardship. In the event of fraud, our fraud reporting system lays out a clear, no tolerance policy and a clear reporting system to catch fraud at its early stages.	Minor
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Backlash (emotional or physical violence) to female participants from male community members as activities result in transformation of gender norms, roles and responsibilities.</p>	Moderate	Possible	Major	The PCD process will be employed to involve men and community leaders from the project outset in discussions of gender norms and AgroNative design emphasising women's leadership, decision-making, and management of resources. The PCD is proven to obtain buy-in and allyship from male community members and mitigate backlash.	Minor
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Lack of community buy-in due to a shift in known agricultural practices.</p>	Unlikely	Minor	Minor	JSI/WE will work with GOB to engage communities from project outset through the PCD, which ensures communities express concerns around project approaches and offer solutions. The project's bioblitz engages communities in valuing biodiversity for agriculture. The participatory action research will give communities an opportunity to address and suggest changes.	Minor

Risk 4	Natural climate-induced events (floods, droughts, temperature fluctuations etc.) lead to poor growth of plant life and yields of agroforestry products.	Possible	Severe	Severe	JSI/WE will utilise proven methods from DARNV019 to work with GOB partners, AMEs, and farmers to sequence planting of species to ensure more crop resilient species that increase the overall landscape's resilience. We will also establish systems for short-term water storage or solutions in the events of drought.	Moderate
Risk 5	GOB's attention may be diverted from project activities due to competing priorities and responsibilities.	Moderate	Likely	Major	As a part of the GOB's capacity strengthening plan, JSI/WE will work with GOB partners to develop operational plans. These plans will enable GOB partners to plan activities according to activities they foresee and fit capacity strengthening activities in with existing planned professional development activities.	Minor
Risk 6	Inability to carry out items on the capacity strengthening action plan due to low initial capacity of GOB partners or local CSOs.	Moderate	Likely	Major	JSI/WE's capacity strengthening approach meets partners where they are. This means that partners receive capacity strengthening support that is tailored to their current levels of capacity.	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.

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).

AgroNative's M&E plan is integrated in its activities and driven by impact as envisioned by its participants. Below is an overview:

PCD and Bioblitz:

The PCD and bioblitz will collect qualitative and quantitative data with findings informing program design and targets, as well as community-driven data collection methods.

Monitoring:

AgroNative performance against indicator (including Darwin Standard and Core Indicators) targets will guide AgroNative towards its goal, highlighting risk factors. AgroNative team and key stakeholders will access synthesised information, and make course corrections based on evidence collected. AgroNative will engage communities in M&E activities through CBNRM and FFS. The ITOCA action plan also serves as a monitoring tool for capacity strengthening successes.

Evaluation:

Evaluations will determine impact through a mixed-method approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative research methods of collecting and analysing to assess progress made by AgroNative towards GOB capacity gains, community engagement, and increased biodiversity and crop yield through the collection of output data compared with data collected on outcome indicators.

Action Research:

AgroNative participants (especially youth and women) will lead a participatory action research process that they design to capture data on project goals, analyse them, and report back to the AgroNative team and key stakeholders with recommendations for changes to implement, informing AgroNative's adaptive management approach.

Team:

M&E data will be collected primarily by the Alafia M&E team with supervision and support from the JSI/WE Project Director. JSI/WE's HQ will engage the team in quarterly data reviews to ensure quality of data and achievement of targets.

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	117

Section 10 - Indicators of Success

Q23. Indicators of success

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

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
Outcome GOB policies, practices and capacity to support communities to advance CBNRM and biodiversity-sustaining agricultural practices that intercrop native flora species is increased	0.1 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends [DI-D11] Target: 3,000 people	0.1 Census data; community surveys; participatory action research (PAR) - disaggregated by gender and youth
	0.2 Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training [DI-A04] Target: 150 people	0.2 Endline KAP study, PAR, Integrated Technical and Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) action plan - disaggregated by gender and youth
	0.3 Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project. [DI-A05] Target: 20 people (6 at department-level GOB and 7 each from two commune-level GOB)	0.3 ITOCA action plan; PAR - disaggregated by gender

Output 1	Commune- and department-level GOB knowledge, capacity and commitment to prioritise agroforestry systems integrating key native species and engage communities in these practices, as well as participatory forest management is increased	1.1 Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training. [DI-A01] Target: 20 people	1.1 Training attendance sheets - disaggregated by gender
		1.2 Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues [DI-A07] Target: 3 institutions	1.2 KAP study, PAR, ITOCA action plan - disaggregated by gender
		1.3 Number of decision-makers attending briefing events [DI-C14] Target: 18	1.3 ITOCA action plan - disaggregated by gender and institution
Output 2	Farmers and community members knowledge, attitudes, and practices of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry are increased and participation in forest management is improved	2.1 Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed [DI-B03] Target: 5 plans	
		2.2 Number of individuals / households reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities [DI-B09] Target: 150 Individuals	2.1 FFS meeting notes; PAR - disaggregation N/A
		2.3 Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities [DI-B10] Target: 150 individuals	2.2 KAP study; PAR - disaggregated by gender and youth
		2.4 Number of individuals trained by the project reporting increased agricultural yield and improved entrepreneurship skills Target: 150 individuals	2.3 KAP study; PAR - disaggregated by gender and youth
		2.5 Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends [DI-D11] Target: 3,000 individuals	2.4 KAP study; PAR - disaggregated by gender and youth
			2.5 Census data; PAR, FFS meeting notes - disaggregated by gender and youth
Output 3	Biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots are established and profitable (for both women and men) with the	3.1 Proportion sustainable livelihood enterprises established that are functioning at project end (at least a year after	3.1 Endline survey; PAR - disaggregation N/A
			3.2 FFS notes; PAR; Endline survey

support of commune-level MAEP staff

establishment) [DI-A10]
Target: 80%

- disaggregation N/A

3.2 Number of new/improved sustainable livelihoods/ poverty reduction management plans available and endorsed [DI-B04]
Target: 5

3.3 FFS notes; PAR; Endline survey - disaggregated by previous land use data

3.3 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices [DI-D01]
Target: 15 hectares

3.4 Endline biodiversity survey - disaggregation TBD based on baseline biodiversity survey/bioblitz

3.5 Endline biodiversity survey

3.6 ITOCA Action Plan and reports

3.4 Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area [DI-D04]

All targets under 3.4 below are TBD after bioblitz

3.4a. (agriculture)
% increase in relative abundance of native invertebrate pollinators in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures

3.4b. (agriculture)
% decrease in relative abundance of pests in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures (as identified by communities and corroborated by literature)

Target Biodiversity:

3.4c. (biodiversity)
% increase in native insectivorous birds in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures

3.4d. (biodiversity)
% increase in abundance of native amphibian species in agroforestry plots vs. monocultures

3.5 Number of native plant species incorporated into agroforestry plots
Target: 18* (10 tree, 8 shrub / herbaceous)
*may vary by site

3.6 Number of GOB officials engaged in

Output 4 Data from a participatory action research activity demonstrates the added value of integrated native species in agroforestry systems and improved participatory forest management and action researchers build environmental leadership skills	4.1 Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed [DI-C01] Target: 1 blueprint for agroforestry	4.1 PAR; Endline survey - disaggregation N/A
	4.2 Number of projects contributing biodiversity conservation or poverty reduction evidence to policy/ regulation/ standards consultations [DI-C07] Target: 5	4.2 PAR, Endline survey - disaggregation N/A

Activities

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

Output 1: Commune - and department-level GOB knowledge, capacity and commitment to prioritise agroforestry systems integrating key native species and engage communities in these practices, as well as participatory forest management - is increased

1.1 Assess commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA capacity to support communities in improving their ability to monitor natural resources and improve agricultural practices to sustain biodiversity

-1.1.1 Develop ITOCA tool to capture organisational capacity domains including: leadership, governance, strategic management, finance and administration systems, resource mobilisation, activity management, and strategic information

-1.1.2 Develop ITOCA tool to capture technical capacity domains assessing capacity in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, community engagement, natural resource management, and more.

-1.1.3 Administer Integrated Technical and Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) tool to commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA to identify technical and organisational capacity strengths and gaps

-1.1.4 Support MAEP-ATDA to develop Capacity Strengthening Action Plan (CSAP) to address the gaps identified during ITOCA

1.2. Build commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA capacity to support communities in improving their ability to monitor natural resources and improve agricultural practices to sustain biodiversity

-1.2.1 Design an engaging, participant-centred training and mentoring plan with MAEP-ATDA to support communities that aligns with the CSAP

-1.2.2 Carry out trainings per CSAP including: strategic and operational planning, budgeting and resource mobilisation, biodiversity conservation, biodiversity-sustaining agricultural, mission and vision development, community mobilisation, etc.

-1.2.3 Facilitate collaboration between MAEP, MCVDD, ANDF and DGFRN to jointly achieve agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity goals

-1.2.4. Align AgroNative work plan activities to CSAP to ensure all AgroNative activities actively strengthen GOB capacity through on-the-job training and support

Output 2: Farmers and community members knowledge, attitudes, and practices of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry are increased and participation in forest management is improved

2.1 Carry out Participatory Community Diagnostic (PCD) activity as an entry point to community engagement in each of the communities

-2.1.1 Adapt PCD tool to assess communities' perceptions around challenges preventing biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture and to pinpoint opportunities to address them

-2.1.2 Administer PCD with each community through one-on-one interviews, focus groups and plenaries

including representatives from women's groups, youth groups, religious leaders, private sector groups, etc.

-2.1.3 Support community to develop community action plan (CAP) proposing actions the community can take to address the issues and challenges they identify during the PCD

-2.1.4 Align CAP and PCD results with all AgroNative activities to ensure they resonate fully with communities and build off of community strengths

2.2 Implement community-led bioblitz activity to build community buy-in and design agroforestry systems that sustain native biodiversity

-2.2.1 Convene community for a basic overview of ecosystem functions and carry out discussion on bioblitz purpose and connection to agroforestry design

-2.2.2 Provide introduction to use of technology (iNaturalist, if appropriate) required for bioblitz

-2.2.3 Implement bioblitz to collect data on invertebrates, birds, herpetofauna, and flora on four different parcels of land including fallow land, monoculture, agroforestry, and intact / mostly intact native forest.

-2.2.4 Convene community to discuss initial anecdotal observations

-2.2.5 Analyse data with select community members and present data back to community; revisit discussion on anecdotal observations in support of integrating native plant species in agroforestry

-2.2.6 See Activity 3.1 for use of bioblitz data for design of agroforestry

2.3 Convene farmer field schools with community members

-2.3.1 Design farmer field school curriculum with MAEP-ATDA and MCVDD to train farmers on biodiversity sustaining agroforestry through intercropping native species

-2.3.2 Convene biweekly meetings with farmers and communities over the cycle of the growing seasons to observe changes in their agroforestry plots

-2.3.3 Record observations made by farmers for information share and to support farmers in making decisions about their future agroforestry plots

2.4 Convene CBNRM field schools with community members

-2.4.1 Design CBNRM field school curriculum with DGFRN and MCVDD to train community members on CBNRM

-2.4.2 Convene biweekly meetings with community members across the seasons to observe changes in biodiversity in the native and human-made ecosystems

-2.4.3 Record observations made by community members for information share to support community decisions around CBNRM

Output 3: Biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots are established and profitable (for both women and men) with the support of commune-level MAEP staff

3.1 Design agroforestry plots that sustain native biodiversity

-3.1.1 Conduct desk research with literature on native tree and shrub species to Northern Benin and analyse results from the bioblitz, DARNV019 studies and PCD

-3.1.2 Using research and analyses, support communities to design agroforestry plots that contain native plant species* that attract invertebrate pollinators and pest predators (invertebrates, insectivorous birds, etc.)

3.2 Support communities to build and stock nurseries with seedlings for crop and native plant species and ensure their upkeep through farmer field schools

3.3 Plant agroforestry plots through community planting days

3.4 Train farmers on agroforestry-based microbusiness development with attention to gender equitable financial management, and will support participants to found savings groups

3.5 Provide resources for 20 farmer field school participants (at least 50% women) to plant agroforestry plots

-3.5.1 Through farmer field school activities, work with participating farmers to identify opportunities for them to replicate the agroforestry plots (3.3) on their own land

-3.5.2 Work with participating farmers to identify 20 groups or individuals (4 per community, at least 50% women) to plant agroforestry plots

-3.5.3 Supply materials and seedlings for 20 nurseries

-3.5.4 Provide guidance to those planting agroforestry plots and support broader farmer field school membership to provide oversight on the plots

Output 4: Data from a participatory action research activity demonstrates the added value of integrated native

species in agroforestry systems and improved participatory forest management and action researchers build environmental leadership skills

4.1 Convene action research course that researches and provides guidance on the practice of sustaining biodiversity by integrating native plant species in agroforestry systems

-4.1.1 Convene a group of 12-20 youth, women, agricultural workers, community members and local GOB representatives to participate in an action research course and implementation process

-4.1.2 With a Beninese university, deliver an action research course covering principles of action research, tool design, data collection, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, leadership, and agency

-4.1.3 Through course, support researchers to design research questions around the GOB's agroforestry practices, community engagement in agroforestry and CBNRM, and overall AgroNative activities

4.2 Carry out community-led participatory action research

-4.2.1 Support community researchers to carry out data collection in northern Benin based on the research questions they conceived and data collection tools they designed

4.3 Review data and present back to GOB and broader community with suggestions for improvement in rolling out biodiversity sustaining agroforestry

-4.3.1 Support communities to review and analyse data, identifying key findings

-4.3.2 Support communities to understand their findings and apply them to improve CBNRM and native species-integrated agroforestry

-4.3.3 Support communities to present their findings to GOB and recommend suggestions based on them

4.4 Support GOB to implement suggestions for improvement in rolling out biodiversity sustaining agroforestry

4.5 Carry out subsequent rounds of research and recommendation making based on results - an iterative process throughout AgroNative

4.6 Feed action research findings into AgroNative's overall adaptive management approach and monitoring and evaluation plan

*We will aim to plant at least 30 native trees per hectare and achieve approximately 20% native shrub coverage. Beninese law requires at least 10 trees per hectare in agricultural systems.

Important Assumptions:

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

-GOB devotes time and focus to AgroNative activities

-Communities remain engaged in and committed to AgroNative activities, understanding the value of biodiversity for agriculture





-Communities and GOB have strong contingency plans to adapt to inclement weather / climactic events (drought, floods, storms, extreme heat) that harm early-stage agroforestry plot establishment

-Community cohesion and support for women-led entrepreneurship remains in tact

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 1316 Budget-over-£100k JSI-WorldEd-AgroNative](#)
 23/10/2023
 19:13:11
 xlsx 374.87 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:

AgroNative builds on JSI/WE's existing Darwin Initiative project (DARNV019)'s school-based agroforestry approach by institutionalising community learning through the government (Q25b). In 2023, DARNV019 implemented a community-led bioblitz to assess biodiversity levels in monocultures, fallow lands, polycultures, and native forest. The bioblitz data, triangulated with literature on native biodiversity, will result in a blueprint for agroforestry systems that integrate native tree and shrub species, attracting invertebrate pollinators and both vertebrate and invertebrate predators that benefit agriculture. The bioblitz process drew significant enthusiasm from participating community members and local GOB officials alike, all of whom expressed interest in including native species in agroforestry systems.

AgroNative will leverage this evidence and enthusiasm and will use the DARNV019 agroforestry plots for experiential learning opportunities to strengthen GOB/MAEP capacity and build on DARNV019 by institutionalising its evidence-based agroforestry practices. DARNV019 and previous JSI/WE and Alafia's engagement in Borgou over the last two decades has established trusting relationships with AgroNative's stakeholders. Alafia is a trusted GOB partner with MAEP approval to provide agricultural council - a requirement in Benin crucial to AgroNative. We will leverage the interest of communities and GOB - in part due to enthusiasm garnered by DARNV019 - to advance biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry.

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.

JSI/WE is currently implementing the Darwin Initiative-funded "Women-led, School-based Agroforestry in Benin" (DARNV019). DARNV019 works with communities using women-led school structures as community centre points to advance biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry activities that integrate native plant species into agroforestry systems. DARNV019 is community-based and works in three communities. AgroNative's focus is institutional, and will apply learning from DARNV019's community activities to build GOB capacity to

institutionalise community best practices and advance them systematically long into the future, with the potential for national scale up.

AgroNative is an important next step to DARNV019 as it will ensure that community learning does not stay within each community, but is disseminated at the department-level (with the potential for national-level dissemination) and informs government policy and practice. Through AgroNative, department- and commune-level GOB institutions will learn from DARNV019, replicate best practices, and integrate them into their systemic approach to supporting communities in agriculture, CBNRM, and economic development.

Such systemic integration will be a powerful tool in ensuring that agricultural practices across Benin reverse current trends in biodiversity loss, food insecurity and poverty, but act as a key driver in biodiversity conservation, resilience, food security, and improved livelihoods.

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?

AgroNative is designed to set the foundation for long-term, sustainable biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods. The project will leverage existing community-level successes in agroforestry that integrate native plant species and enshrine them in government practices so that they can be replicated and adapted to the diverse cultural and ecological contexts across Benin.

To do so, AgroNative's focus is on training a cadre of government officials on best practices in biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry and building their institutional systems such that they can deliver agricultural services and trainings to communities long into the future. Our capacity strengthening approach ensures that not only do individuals acquire skills, but institutions apply them, ensuring practices remain institutionalised even as staff and regimes turn over.

AgroNative will support GOB to accompany five communities in establishing agroforestry plots that will improve biodiversity and strengthen resilience against food insecurity and poverty. While these five plots will offer tremendous impact to the communities who establish them, AgroNative is designed to utilise them as learning opportunities for the GOB so that they can lead their replication department-wide, covering a vast catchment area and possibly nation-wide.

Funds covering community engagement around agroforestry, staff time to strengthen GOB capacity, and materials to establish plots lay the foundation for GOB to advance practices learned under the project, expanding the impact of the initial funds invested in AgroNative exponentially.

With over two decades of experience in Benin, JSI/WE has established cost efficiencies to ensure all expenses achieve the highest value for money possible.

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.

██████████ in capital costs is allocated to JSI/WE's project partner Alafia for purchase of one (1) motorbike for project-related travel to target communities for project implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation activities.

Following project end, these items will remain in the possession of Alafia for use on other ongoing projects in Benin.

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.

JSI/WE is committed to the protection of adults and children from all forms of abuse, harm, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse and violence. All JSI/WE staff and associates have a duty of care and responsibility to ensure that all adults and children with whom AgroNative staff is in contact with are safe from abuse and harm.

JSI/WE's Code of Conduct and Safeguarding policy ensures all staff are committed to a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation both within the organization and on our projects. The Safeguarding Focal Point (SFP) will review JSI/WE's safeguarding materials updated under DARNV019, taking into consideration local norms to ensure policies are context-specific and realistic. In line with JSI/WE's robust policy, AgroNative will involve and include adults and children as participants in safeguarding practice.

AgroNative staff, including GOB partners, will complete the safeguarding and ethics training to ensure all staff understand policy expectations. JSI/WE has an anonymous incident reporting system (wei.ethicspoint.com) and will integrate local reporting mechanisms into project delivery. The SFP will work with a local psychosocial support expert to ensure that staff is trained in privacy and referrals for reported cases.

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q29. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies. Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

If no, why not?

JSI/WE and Alafia focused our planning discussions with in-country partners and stakeholders. We plan to engage UK Government Representatives in our current Darwin Award and will ensure their expertise, priorities, and lessons learned globally benefit AgroNative.

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?
Nadege Djitrinou-Fagla	Project Leader	20	Checked
Djamal Alfa Gambari	Agroforestry Specialist	100	Checked
Ben Vorspan	Technical Advisor - Biodiversity	5	Checked
Safouratou Akpaki Abdou	Accountant	40	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Marietou Kana Traore	Secretary and Data Collection Officer	40	Checked
Martin Omer Ahouandogbo	Alafia Executive Director	50	Checked
Hadi Adamou Sabi	Alafia Accountant	50	Checked
Senior Program Officer	Michaela Tobin	5	Checked
Senior Finance and Operations Manager	Annette Champney	2	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	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.

 [DIR30CC 1316 CVs and Job Descriptions_JSI-Wor
IdEd_AgroNative](#)
 23/10/2023
 19:51:53
 pdf 300.16 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q31. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

Lead Partner name: JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. - World Education Division (JSI/WE).

Website address: <https://worlded.org/>

JSI/WE manages USG, FCDO and other donor - funded projects in over 80 countries worldwide. JSI/WE has a long history of natural resource management, sustainable development and institutional capacity strengthening, in addition to nearly 30 years of women's empowerment and community mobilisation experience in Benin.

JSI/WE brings decades of community-based sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and capacity strengthening methodologies. As a pioneer of integrated pest management (IPM), an ecologically-sound approach to farming and pest control, JSI/WE has led IPM 'Farmer Field Schools' in Asia and Africa to improve natural resource management practices of thousands of farmers and NGO staff.

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

The JSI/WE has institutionalised best practices in capacity strengthening through the JSI/WE Capacity Development (CD) Center, which fosters capacity changes across organisations and institutions, shifting, leadership, ownership and decision-making to partners around the world. The CD Center developed the OCA tool, which is currently used by USAID and its global partners and can be adapted to partner and donor needs.

JSI/WE will implement with long-term partner Alafia. JSI/WE will manage the grant, stakeholder relations, finance, compliance, monitoring , evaluation, and work plan. JSI/WE will lead the capacity strengthening component and Alafia the agroforestry component.

International/In-country Partner International

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £ 

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: Alafia NGO

Website address: <https://www.facebook.com/beninalafiaong/>

Alafia is a Beninese NGO founded in 2000 to foster community development with past experience in environmental protection, education, sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, WASH and health education. Alafia was a major implementer of the GIZ-funded Sustainable Management Land (GDT) / Climate Change Adaptation (ACC) project. Alafia provided training to local farmers and supervised the implementation of sustainable land management measures and adaptation to climate change. Additionally, Alafia has worked with communities to construct biodigesters, training local farmers how to use and maintain the technology.

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Alafia currently leads the agroforestry component of DARNV019, providing hands-on, experiential learning based training to local farmers, and advising in the development and management of school-based agroforestry plots to improve food security in the face of climate change, increase biodiversity levels, and increase livelihoods opportunities.

Alafia has a history of collaboration with the GOB and has secured MAEP approval to provide agricultural council - a requirement in Benin that is crucial for this project. Given Alafia's extensive experience working with communities, farmers, and local authorities in the target communities in activities of environmental protection, microentrepreneurship and school management, and Alafia's role on DARNV019, Alafia will lead the Project's agroforestry activities.

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:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

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

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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

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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

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

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

No Response

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00





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

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

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

-  [DIR30CC 1316 Letter of Support JSI-WorldEd AgroNative](#)
-  23/10/2023
-  20:00:10
-  pdf 553.19 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q32. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DARNV019	Nadege Djitrinou Fagla	Women-led, School-based Agroforestry in Benin
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response

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

Company

of

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. - World Education Division

I apply for a grant of

£199,940.00

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 Adam M. Turney

Position in the organisation Vice President, Africa Portfolio, World Education Division





Signature (please upload e-signature)  [DIR30CC 1316 Certification Signature JSI-WorldEd AgroNative](#)
 23/10/2023
 20:16:54
 pdf 71.57 KB

Date 23 October 2023

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

 [DIR30CC 1316 Audited Financial Statements 2021 and 2022 JSI-WorldEd AgroNative](#)
 23/10/2023
 20:17:26
 pdf 370.53 KB

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

 [DIR30CC 1316 Safeguarding and Relevant Policies JSI-WorldEd AgroNative](#)
 23/10/2023
 20:17:37
 pdf 2.26 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 27). 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: AgroNative: Increasing Native Species in Beninese Agroforestry through Government Leadership

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Output 1	Commune - and department-level GOB knowledge, capacity and commitment to prioritise agroforestry systems integrating key native species and engage communities in these practices, as well as participatory forest management - is increased									
1.1	Assess commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA capacity to support communities in improving their ability to monitor natural resources and improve agricultural practices to sustain biodiversity									
1.1.1	Develop ITOCA tool to capture organisational capacity domains including: leadership, governance, strategic management, finance and administration systems, resource mobilisation, activity management, and strategic information	1								
1.1.2	Develop ITOCA tool to capture technical capacity domains assessing capacity in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, community engagement, natural resource management, and more.	1								
1.1.3	Administer Integrated Technical and Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) tool to commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA to identify technical and organisational capacity strengths and gaps	1								
1.1.4	Support MAEP-ATDA to develop Capacity Strengthening Action Plan (CSAP) to address the gaps identified during ITOCA	1								
1.2	Build commune- and department-level MAEP-ATDA capacity to support communities in improving their ability to monitor natural resources and improve agricultural practices to sustain biodiversity									
1.2.1	Design an engaging, participant-centred training and mentoring plan with MAEP-ATDA to support communities that aligns with the CSAP	1								
1.2.2	Carry out trainings per CSAP including: strategic and operational planning, budgeting and resource mobilisation, biodiversity conservation, biodiversity-sustaining agricultural, mission and vision development, community mobilisation, etc.	20								
1.2.3	Facilitate collaboration between MAEP, MCVDD, ANDF and DGFRN to jointly achieve agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity goals	20								

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
1.2.4	Align AgroNative work plan activities to CSAP to ensure all AgroNative activities actively strengthen GOB capacity through on-the-job training and support	20								
Output 2	Farmers and community members knowledge, attitudes, and practices of biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry are increased and participation in forest management is improved									
2.1	Carry out Participatory Community Diagnostic (PCD) activity as an entry point to community engagement in each of the communities									
2.1.1	Adapt PCD tool to assess communities' perceptions around challenges preventing biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture and to pinpoint opportunities to address them	1								
2.1.2	Administer PCD with each community through one-on-one interviews, focus groups and plenaries including representatives from women's groups, youth groups, religious leaders, private sector groups, etc.	1								
2.1.3	Support community to develop community action plan (CAP) proposing actions the community can take to address the issues and challenges they identify during the PCD	1								
2.1.4	Align CAP and PCD results with all AgroNative activities to ensure they resonate fully with communities and build off of community strengths	20								
2.2	Implement community-led bioblitz activity to build community buy-in and design agroforestry systems that sustain native biodiversity									
2.2.1	Convene community for a basic overview of ecosystem functions and carry out discussion on bioblitz purpose and connection to agroforestry design	1								
2.2.2	Provide introduction to use of technology (iNaturalist, if appropriate) required for bioblitz	1								
2.2.3	Implement bioblitz to collect data on invertebrates, birds, herpetofauna, and flora on four different parcels of land including fallow land, monoculture, agroforestry, and intact / mostly intact native forest.	1								
2.2.4	Convene community to discuss initial anecdotal observations	1								
2.2.5	Analyse data with select community members and present data back to community; revisit discussion on anecdotal observations in support of integrating native plant species in agroforestry	1								

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
2.2.6	See Activity 3.1 for use of bioblitz data for design of agroforestry	1								
2.3	Convene farmer field schools with community members									
2.3.1	Design farmer field school curriculum with MAEP-ATDA and MCVDD to train farmers on biodiversity sustaining agroforestry through intercropping native species	1								
2.3.2	Convene biweekly meetings with farmers and communities over the cycle of the growing seasons to observe changes in their agroforestry plots	18								
2.3.3	Record observations made by farmers for information share and to support farmers in making decisions about their future agroforestry plots	18								
2.4	Convene CBNRM field schools with community members									
2.4.1	Design CBNRM field school curriculum with DGFRN and MCVDD to train community members on CBNRM	1								
2.4.2	Convene biweekly meetings with community members across the seasons to observe changes in biodiversity in the native and human-made ecosystems	18								
2.4.3	Record observations made by community members for information share to support community decisions around CBNRM	18								
Output 3	Biodiversity-sustaining agroforestry plots are established and profitable (for both women and men) with the support of commune-level MAEP staff									
3.1	Design agroforestry plots that sustain native biodiversity									
3.1.1	Conduct desk research with literature on native tree and shrub species to Northern Benin and analyse results from the bioblitz, DARNV019 studies and PCD	1								
3.1.2	Using research and analyses, support communities to design agroforestry plots that contain native plant species* that attract invertebrate pollinators and pest predators (invertebrates, insectivorous birds, etc.)	1								
3.2	Support communities to build and stock nurseries with seedlings for crop and native plant species and ensure their upkeep through farmer field schools	1								

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			Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
3.3	Plant agroforestry plots through community planting days	1								
3.4	Train farmers on agroforestry-based microbusiness development with attention to gender equitable financial management, and will support participants to found savings groups	1								
3.5	Provide resources for 20 farmer field school participants (at least 50% women) to plant agroforestry plots									
3.5.1	Through farmer field school activities, work with participating farmers to identify opportunities for them to replicate the agroforestry plots (3.3) on their own land	2								
3.5.2	Work with participating farmers to identify 20 groups or individuals (4 per community, at least 50% women) to plant agroforestry plots	3-4								
3.5.3	Supply materials and seedlings for 20 nurseries	2								
3.5.4	Provide guidance to those planting agroforestry plots and support broader farmer field school membership to provide oversight on the plots	3-4								
Output 4	Data from a participatory action research activity demonstrates the added value of integrated native species in agroforestry systems and improved participatory forest management and action researchers build environmental leadership skills									
4.1	Convene action research course that researches and provides guidance on the practice of sustaining biodiversity by integrating native plant species in agroforestry systems									
4.1.1	Convene a group of 12-20 youth, women, agricultural workers, community members and local GOB representatives to participate in an action research course and implementation process	2								
4.1.2	With a Beninese university, deliver an action research course covering principles of action research, tool design, data collection, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, leadership, and agency	2								
4.1.3	Through course, support researchers to design research questions around the GOB's agroforestry practices, community engagement in agroforestry and CBNRM, and overall AgroNative activities	1								
4.2	Carry out community-led participatory action research									

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)			
			Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
4.2.1	Support community researchers to carry out data collection in northern Benin based on the research questions they conceived and data collection tools they designed	15 (iterative)								
4.3	Review data and present back to GOB and broader community with suggestions for improvement in rolling out biodiversity sustaining agroforestry	15 (iterative)								
4.3.1	Support communities to review and analyse data, identifying key findings	15 (iterative)								
4.3.2	Support communities to understand their findings and apply them to improve CBNRM and native species-integrated agroforestry	15 (iterative)								
4.3.3	Support communities to present their findings to GOB and recommend suggestions based on them	15 (iterative)								
4.4	Support GOB to implement suggestions for improvement in rolling out biodiversity sustaining agroforestry	12 (iterative)								
4.5	Carry out subsequent rounds of research and recommendation making based on results - an iterative process throughout AgroNative	12 (iterative)								
4.6	Feed action research findings into AgroNative’s overall adaptive management approach and monitoring and evaluation plan	12 (iterative)								