

Applicant: **Depeyre, Vanessa**
Organisation: **Tree Aid**
Funding Sought: **£2,746,594.00**

DIR29EX\1126

Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

The project will improve biodiversity and the income of 2,550 households living around the Mio, Sanekuy and Safienso forests in the Segou region of Mali. This will be achieved by strengthening decentralised forest governance at the regional and national level, expanding the successful approach used by Tree Aid at the local level in previous and ongoing projects. As a result, 26,700ha of forest will be under sustainable management. 10,000ha of forest, agricultural and pastoral land will benefit from restoration activities.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Miss
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Tree Aid
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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

Q4. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

No

Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Biome 2

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 2

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Conservation Action 3

Law & policy (legislation, regulations, standards, codes, enforcement)

Threat 1

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

Threat 2

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 3

Climate change & severe weather

Q6. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project will improve biodiversity and the income of 2,550 households living around the Mio, Sanekuy and Safienso forests in the Segou region of Mali. This will be achieved by strengthening decentralised forest governance at the regional and national level, expanding the successful approach used by Tree Aid at the local level in previous and ongoing projects. As a result, 26,700ha of forest will be under sustainable management. 10,000ha of forest, agricultural and pastoral land will benefit from restoration activities.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Mali	Country 2	No Response
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Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response
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Do you require more fields?

No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2023

End date:

31 March 2028

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

5 years

Q9. Budget summary

Darwin funding request	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total request
(April - March)	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	£ ██████████

Q10. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: % 89

Q11a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

██████████ will be raised from Tree Aid's portfolio of trust, foundation and corporate supporters, as well as new donors with priorities closely aligned with the work. Tree Aid has a strong donor base who regularly support our work, from which we are confident the required match funding can be secured. We are raising from ██████████ per year from Trust and Foundation, so we are confident that we can cover the ██████████ year needed in this project.

Q11b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) £250,000.00

Q11c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Tree Aid is highly confident that the amount can be raised among its long-standing donors. However, if we don't manage to secure the amount needed, Tree Aid could use its unrestricted funds. In 2021/22 Tree Aid raised about ██████████ of unrestricted funds

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the evidence of the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world with 44.7% of the population living in severe multidimensional poverty (1). The recent health, security, social and political crises have led to a 5% increase in poverty (2). Poverty is concentrated in the rural areas of southern Mali (90%), where the population density is highest. 5.9 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance (3), of which 2.2 million need food assistance. Mali's economy is low-income, undiversified and exposed to commodity price fluctuations (4). It is largely based on agriculture, employing 90% of the rural population, and is therefore particularly vulnerable to climate change which is leading to higher temperatures, reduced rainfall, flooding and increased desertification. Mali's forest ecosystems are suffering from deforestation and biodiversity loss, which threatens agriculture and food security. Between 1990 and 2015, Mali lost 30% of its forest area and today 500,000 hectares of forest are destroyed every year (5).

Mali's weakened socio-political context alongside security challenges, means the state has limited capacity to implement interventions to combat deforestation. Therefore, rural communities are key stakeholders in conservation of forest resources and consequently, any long-term strategies for sustainable forest management needs direct involvement of rural communities (6).

Decentralised forest management offers an opportunity to reshape how central governments and communities relate to one-another, providing a platform to build new socio-economic and institutional linkages. Decentralisation initiatives offer an opportunity to achieve development goals, improve governance and enhance participation in NRM.

The project will take place in the Safienso, Sanekuy and Mio forests in the Segou region of Mali. The Safienso and Sanekuy forests have been degraded through overgrazing, wood exploitation, unsustainable hunting and rapid agricultural expansion. The situation has been further exacerbated by low rainfall, increased bushfires, and resultant soil fertility degradation. Communities here depend heavily on tree resources as a source of food and income. As a result, tree loss has severely intensified the levels of poverty in the area. The Mio forest has seen a significant change in land use over the period 2000 and 2015, marked by an increase in shrub savannah, bare ground and human settlements, fields and fallow land as well as tree savannah and orchards with the following rates of change: 5%, 117%, 90%, and 100% respectively. This positive evolution of the vegetation cover should not, however, hide the effects of agricultural and pastoral pressure, which have more than doubled in the last 15 years. If no action is taken to ensure sustainable land management, the shrub savannahs, which are growing naturally, could be seriously degraded (7). The classified forest of Mio is subject to certain threats, the main ones being linked to human activities including rice cultivation, exploitation of wood, soil degradation, disappearance of fauna, and sedentary livestock being kept in the classified forest (8).

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 and describe which objectives your project will address.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

Mali adopted a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for implementing the CBD at the national level (revised and updated in 2014). The Strategy is divided into 19 ambitious but realistic and time-bound objectives that take into account

the Aichi Targets on biological diversity. The project contributes to these through its bottom-up approach, taking into account gender mainstreaming, poverty alleviation, and local community rights, including of disabled and marginalised people. Land restoration of dryland ecosystems will take place through promotion of soil and water conservation (SWC), practices agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration, tree planting, digging water reservoirs (boulis in local language) and zai pits, therefore increasing soil fertility and land productivity and in turn reducing degradation.

The promotion of decentralised forest governance will improve forest management and natural resources use of the three forests. The project will also advocate for decentralised forest management approach at the regional and national level by establishing 3 intercommunal syndicates and 1 consultation framework; mechanisms which will facilitate participatory exchanges and inclusive decision making between stakeholders at a variety of levels. This will take place alongside the restoration of 10,000ha of degraded forest, agricultural and pastoral land, contributing to Mali's UNFCCC and CBD commitments.

The project will reduce pressures on forest biodiversity and promote its sustainable use. The project will restore ecosystems by investing in institutional and organisational capacities, alongside the development of tools to support management of three forest areas (Aichi B5). An intercommunal forestry service in charge of supervising and supporting the decentralised management of the forests will be developed to help with effective implementation (Aichi B7). The restoration of degraded forest, agricultural and pastoral land through the promotion of agroforestry systems, tree planting and improved forest management (Article 10d) will increase resilience of ecosystems against climate extremes and increase carbon sequestration in the area (Aichi D17).

The project is designed around the needs of local communities and aims to empower them with the knowledge to manage their own forest resources. Project actions will promote economic development within targeted communities through the development of 30 village tree enterprises (VTEs) and 30 nutrition gardens based on the consumption, production and sale of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The development of livelihoods will provide additional income to help meet essential household needs such as food and education (Article 10c). Land restoration activities and prevention of deforestation will secure ecosystem services for these people, including increased availability of NTFPs to support livelihoods, taking into account needs and perspectives of women (Aichi D14).

The project aims to increase local knowledge on forest resources, the sustainable use of trees for livelihoods and cultural purposes, and the importance of forests for wildlife (Article 8d). By creating 1 nursery, upgrading 2 nurseries and planting locally adapted and threatened trees species, the decline in population numbers will be reversed and the conservation status of species including *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (9), *Terminalia habeensis* (10), *Azelia Africana* (11), *Khaya senegalensis* (12), *Dalbergia melanoxylon* (13), *Isobertia doka*, *Cordyla pinnata* and *Bombax costatum* will be reversed (Aichi C12).

Section 6 - Scaling up Approaches

Q14. Scaling up approaches

Q14a. Darwin Initiative Extra projects should utilise and build on evidence from past activities (from Darwin Initiative and beyond) to demonstrate why the approach will deliver. Please provide evidence and details on how your proposed project will do this.

The project is built on our extended experience of decentralised forest governance in Mali and Burkina Faso.

In Mali, our Darwin Initiative project (Ref. 24-022) supported inter-communal cooperatives to have stewardship of two forests and established a forest dialogue group and steering committee to provide an open discussion forum. 905 households out of 2,672 lifted themselves above the poverty line (██████████), due to increased income from shea and honey enterprises. NTFP household income increased by an average of ██████████

In Burkina Faso, Tree Aid is running its Forest Governance project in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment. Significant progress has been made since 2007 at all levels and the approach has been shared to promote decentralisation in the forest sector and improve natural resource management. At the national level, the Burkina Faso Action Research Group on Forest Governance (GAGF) has become a platform for reflection on decentralised forest management. At the community level, land was restored and put under the management of local communities. Also, 258 NTFP business groups were created (generating 44 million CFA francs), facilitated by a local management charter for each forest to improve access to forest products and control rights of entrepreneurs, especially women.

Q14b. We expect Darwin Initiative Extra projects to demonstrate that they are additional and complementary to other activities and funding in the same area or region.

Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

This is a new phase of work that will build on Tree Aid's previous experience promoting decentralized forest governance in Mali and Burkina Faso, enabling Tree Aid to scale-up its approach. The process of transferring forest management from central authorities to local communities and municipalities requires significant time and investment. Therefore, there is a need to continue the process in order to ensure its effective establishment. The project is also built on the Malian government's GEDEFOR (Programme de Gestion Décentralisée des Forêts) Programme, which aims to preserve forests by moving their management from central authorities to local communities (Decree No.2018-0079/PR-M (29/01/2018)).

Other organisations working on complementary projects in the region include Caritas who are implementing a 3-year project contributing to poverty reduction and strengthening the resilience of communities through ecosystem protection, sustainable agriculture, entrepreneurship and local governance. AMAPROS is working to increase resilience, food security and incomes through effective decentralized institutions and organizations for service delivery, improved natural resource management and local economic development. AMEDS are implementing projects contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development, improving cereal-legume systems by valuing farmers' knowledge and empowering women and youth. Synergies between the projects could offer the opportunity to share knowledge and learning.

Section 7 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q15. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- how you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence that it will be effective and justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how will you **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

The project will strengthen the process already started with two projects financed by the Darwin Initiative (Ref. 24-022 and Ref. 28-023) and extend the work to a new forest: Mio. Additionally, the project will campaign at the regional and national level for effective implementation of the decentralised forest governance policies.

Local governance will be promoted in 49 villages (5 around Mio forest, 16 around Safienso forest and 28 around Sanékuy forest) in the Ségou region. The project will support the establishment of one cooperative around the Mio forest comprising of community forest users (250 members - 50% women). The project will complement the current Tree Aid project (Ref. 28-023) by increasing the capacities of the cooperatives around the Safienso and Sanékuy forest on management tools, marketing and access to improved markets. The project will support the 3 cooperatives to sign official agreements with the government and communes in order to formalise the delegation of power for the management of the forests.

Each cooperative is supported by a surveillance brigade responsible for patrolling, surveying and protecting the forests. The brigades around Safienso and Sanékuy forests are already being set up, trained and equipped. Only the surveillance brigade around the Mio forest will be trained and equipped on ecological monitoring in this proposed project.

Key stakeholders at the local, regional and national level (which have not been yet targeted in Tree Aid projects) will be led

through a capacity-development programme to increase their understanding of legal texts around natural resource management (NRM), forest management and governance within a decentralised framework. Exchange visits to GEDEFOR sites will increase understanding of these processes, in particular the opportunity that organised forest users have to manage their natural resources.

This proposed project will go further, advocating for decentralised forest management at the regional and national level. 3 intercommunal syndicates and 1 consultation framework will be established. These two mechanisms are planned in the local authority code (code des collectivités) through the decrees 2015-0848/P-RM 22 December 2015 and 095/P-RM 21 February 2008 but have not been established in the project area. The intercommunal syndicate is a regrouping of 2 or more communes around a common interest, the forest. This framework makes possible the transfer of competences to the local level. The consultation framework is a platform of exchange and decision making between stakeholders at all levels according to need (from farmers to the highest authorities) on a subject of communal, local, regional or national interest. This framework facilitates participatory and inclusive management of the forests by all stakeholders. These dialogue groups will provide open forums to address conflicts and adopt joint plans. The project will also support the development of an intercommunal forestry service to supervise and support decentralised management of the forests. Moreover, gender will be integrated into decentralised forest governance by developing a gender strategy and promoting it to national authorities. A communication strategy will be developed to identify the best tools and channels to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned from the project with forest governance actors. Experiences and lessons learned will be capitalised to extend the approach in other countries like Senegal.

As we learnt from our previous experiences, the voluntary adoption of NRM practices is crucial for the success of the project and requires strong community engagement. The involvement of farmers and communities from the first stage of the intervention is key to scaling up and maintaining NRM in the long run. In this project, farmers and communities will be empowered to restore 10,000ha of forests, agricultural and pastoral lands.

2,300 farmers will be supported with training and equipment to carry out SWC practices, in particular stone bunds and soil fertility management, with practices such as zaï pits, agroforestry and farmer managed natural resources. 500,000 trees will be distributed and planted by the farmers on 2,000ha.

3,000ha of communal land including some pastoral land will be restored through the plantation of 1,000,000 trees by local communities. This planting will be done with fodder species in specific hotspot areas protected from the livestock. 3 water reservoirs (boulis) will be built to provide a stable source of water all year round for the animals and plants. By assessing exactly where the rainwater is collecting and understanding its natural flow, we can choose the perfect site to work on.

3 others boulis will be built as part of our restoration activities in over 5,000ha of forests. 2,000,000 trees will be planted by local communities during planting days. In order to supply all the tree seedlings needed in this project, 1 nursery will be established and the 2 nurseries in the Ref. 28-023 project will be upgraded. Reforestation activities include planting endangered and vulnerable species such as: *P.erinaceus*, *T.habeensis*, *A.africana*, *K.senegalensis* and *D.albergia melanoxylon*. To ensure the availability of seedlings from threatened locally adapted indigenous species in the Ségou region, 3 community seed banks and 3 seed production groves managed by women's groups will be established. Finally, to protect the restoration area, 3,000km of fire breaks will be created.

30 VTEs will be developed (750 members, 50% women), based on NTFPs chosen by the enterprises such as honey, shea tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa*), henna (*Lawsonia inermis*) or *Borassus aethiopicum*, all known to have strong market potential in the area. VTE members will also be members of cooperatives. Tree Aid utilises FAO's Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach, comprising a detailed business training programme which underlines the importance of sustainable use of natural resources. This will culminate in Enterprise Development Plans covering organisational setup, product quantity and quality, inputs, marketing, financial flow, budget, sales and profit. The project will provide solar multi-functional processing units and facilitate linkages with cooperatives, finance institutions and buyers including through the establishment of 2 NTFPs selling points. The project will set up 30 nutrition gardens (0,5ha) managed by 1,800 women. Each nutrition garden will produce baobab leaf, moringa and other market gardening products. Here, the intercropping of vegetables will allow better profitability of the gardens and an income for women all year long.

Q16. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit and the post-project value to the country.

Capacity building is a key element of the project design. The Mio cooperative set up by the project as well as the two cooperatives set up by the current Tree Aid project (Ref. 28-023) will have their capacity built in governance, organisational management, marketing, access to markets, provision of services and management tools for the forest areas. Through this, the members of the new cooperative will understand their role, rights and responsibilities, culminating in the implementation of the forest management plan. The cooperatives will have the tools and knowledge to provide the services needed by their members. The monitoring brigade associated to the Mio cooperatives will have increased capacity through training and equipment in ecological monitoring to effectively collect data on biodiversity in the area.

Within the framework of the transfer of competences and resources from the state to the communities, the management of forest resources is part of a changing development panorama, presenting new opportunities and challenges for the communes. It therefore appeared necessary, in the interests of continuity, to strengthen the capacities of the national, regional and local stakeholders, through information/awareness-raising workshops and specific training on Malian regulatory texts for NRM and decentralization in the forestry sector. The aim is also to strengthen the decentralisation process in the forestry sector to make it effective and respectful of the principles of good governance. As such, the project will be built on the capacity of newly created intercommunal forestry services. The communication strategy developed by the project will indicate the tools and channels that will be used to disseminate the result of our approach. This includes the organisation of national dissemination workshops in year 3 to 5. The project will provide support to new communes which would like to also implement our decentralised governance model.

Community members will be trained in SWC, soil restoration, agroforestry, tree planting, tree production and FMNR, empowering farmers with skills to preserve and restore their land, preventing further degradation and improving ecosystem services. Due to low literacy, training will be practical and interactive, delivered directly in the field. To ensure high attendance, training will be held outside of the planting season.

VTEs will benefit from training in MA&D to identify and access market potential and build business skills creating institutional capacity. This will be coupled with specialist technical training in NTFP processing. Nutrition gardens members will be trained on techniques for setting up and running nutrition gardens through theoretical and practical sessions on preparation, design and maintenance of seedbeds for sowing, harvesting and post harvesting treatment.

To improve the consideration of gender in particular, communal officials and forest management structures, community leaders and the project team in the field will be trained on the gender approach.

Q17. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality

The project is built on the principal of 'do no harm' and project design is based on a thorough understanding of the broader context in the intervention area to mitigate potential negative consequences from activities.

Women across Mali are impacted by gender inequality, with Malian society being highly patriarchal and unequal. Women in Mali are traditionally absent from natural resources management decision-making and lack access to credit, information and technical training. Therefore, women are disproportionately affected by extreme poverty.

The project will actively target women and ensure inclusion in project activities and outcomes, tackling barriers around women's perceived traditional roles. To ensure women's participation, techniques such as sensitising community leaders and project stakeholders on gender issues will be utilised. To ensure women can effectively participate and access training, activities will take place at times and locations that facilitate women's attendance.

To ensure greater inclusion in the decentralised governance structures, the project will develop a gender strategy. The strategy will support women's active participation in the forest management process to increase their sense of ownership over natural resources. The project will target 50% women in cooperatives, which is a realistic target given the context of the area. More globally the gender strategy will allow us to advocate for more inclusive forest governance at the national level.

Women will be empowered through participating in enterprise development (50% membership) and nutrition gardens (100% membership), contributing to household income, increasing skills and confidence through training, and taking up leadership positions within the organisations. This will increase women's voice in household and community decision-making and control over their lives.

Ensuring meaningful participation and women's leadership in VTEs, nutrition gardens and forest management cooperatives is crucial to success. By improving gender equality and empowering women to be more active in communal decision-making, local communities are more likely to monitor and assess long-term risks and manage and work with nature for long-term benefits.

Previous Tree Aid projects have found as women's contribution to household income increases so does their decision-making power and control over household savings. The Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey (RHoMIS) survey done in 2020 at the end of the Ref. 24-022 project showed that 87% of women reported a moderate to equal ability to choose how to spend their own income (compared to 29% from a control group of households as measured in the baseline of a new project in a neighbouring region of Mali). 56% of women also reported that their suggestions are taken into account in the household and 59% in the community. 75% of women said they had moderate to equal control over household savings (compared to 29% from a control group of households as measured in the baseline of a new project). From this, we can ascertain that the project appears to have supported women to have more say and control over their resources and is likely to have improved the status of women in the communities.

Q18. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

Tree Aid will raise awareness of the worth of biodiversity, particularly forest resources, by focusing on developing the capacity of key stakeholders such as farmers and authorities at the local, regional and national level. These stakeholders will be led through a capacity-development programme to increase their understanding of legal texts around NRM, forest biodiversity and management and governance within a decentralised framework and will be supported fully to ensure they have understood all the topics. Stakeholders will benefit from an exchange visit to the GEDEFOR programme area, enabling participants to learn and share experiences. The objective is to ensure the long-term sustainable management and exploitation of forest resources. The project will also form a consultation framework to allow stakeholders such as farmers and authorities to come together and have open discussions around forest management, with project staff on hand to help guide and support these sessions. Communication and knowledge sharing not only with communities but also with CBD focal points at the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development is key to achieving this objective.

Cooperatives will be empowered to act as a conduit of information and knowledge within communities, following tailored training and support in forest management. Ongoing participatory NRM will allow communities to learn about the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services first-hand.

Ecological surveys including forest inventories will increase understanding of diversity and the status of forest resources to inform appropriate management actions

Project results (along with results of our other projects) will be distributed to national stakeholders mainly through national workshops as examples of good practice in forest governance, biodiversity enhancement and poverty reduction. The information will also be available on our website. Tree Aid is keen to engage in any platforms established by Darwin, to share experiences and learning generated across other Darwin-supported projects.

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change (the Outcome) and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail - number of households should be the largest unit used.

In the short-term, the project will support the establishment and the capacity building of different structures such as the cooperatives, the monitoring brigade, the intercommunal syndicates and the consultation framework, which will make possible the transfer of the forest management to the local level. These structures will have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and benefits of sustainable management. Supported by development management plans and the intercommunal forestry service, they will have increased capacity to effectively manage their forest area (26,700ha). Communities will benefit from increased access to and control over forest resources resulting in a reduction in destructive practices.

To strengthen the influence of politicians and government officials in decentralized forest management and effective application of decentralization mechanisms provided for by the texts, advocacy actions are planned around a communication strategy that will be developed in collaboration with all the stakeholders of the project, especially the communities and forest users who are the main beneficiaries at the local level. This strategy will be a privileged tool in the scaling up of the Decentralised Forest Resources Management Programme in Mali and in obtaining political, financial and technical support from decision-makers and social leaders.

2,300 farmers and community members will learn sustainable land management skills to restore 10,000ha of degraded agricultural, pastoral and forest land. Well managed these lands improve soil fertility, increase land productivity and household income and prevent land erosion. Enrichment planting of 2,000,000 locally adapted tree seedlings (including endangered and threatened species) within the forest areas will contribute to the restoration of forest biodiversity and improved wildlife habitat. Our previous forest governance project in Segou resulted in an 8.3% increase in tree density, 31.5% increase in the number of trees over 30cm in diameter, 40.5% increase in above-ground biomass and 13.5% increase in tree diversity. We expect similar improvements to forest ecosystem health by the end of this project.

Trees also provide financial resilience for communities against crop failure. We work closely with local people to develop income generation schemes from NTFPs such as VTEs and nutrition gardens. The nutrition gardens have a double objective to provide an additional source of income and to increase food security at the household level. These schemes particularly benefit women, elevating their status within the community and providing dependable income for access to education and nutritious diets. As a result, 2,550 people (2,175 women) will see their income from NTFPs increase by 175%, and overall household income increase by 100%.

In the long-term, local communities will be empowered to sustainably manage their forests through structures established by the project. The local authorities will have the resources and knowledge to support the cooperatives in their management work. Local forest governance will promote the sustainable use of natural resources, ensuring the forest landscape is protected and that the benefits of sustainable management are enjoyed directly by the communities. The decrease in pressures from damaging human activities will result in continual improvements to forest coverage and biodiversity.

The regional and national authorities will have increased knowledge of the forest decentralised text, processes and resources needed to make it a success.

The restoration of 10,000ha of degraded forest, agricultural and pastoral land will increase land productivity and availability of tree resources, leading to a healthier and biodiverse landscape, reducing agricultural expansion and pressures on existing forest resources. Over time, as the soil quality around the boulis improves, life will begin to thrive, and communities can use the surrounding land to grow nutritious crops all year round. Planting an outer ring of trees around each bouli will help to further improve the environment and provide shelter from the wind for the crops growing within. Not only is water conserved for the community to use, but the whole surrounding environment is transformed. A healthier ecosystem will be better able to mitigate climate extremes.

As shown in other Tree Aid projects, the cooperatives and the VTEs formed by the rural communities will become better able to access credit, technology, training and markets, voice their needs and increase their bargaining power within the value chain. The additional household income generated can help to address key basic needs (food, health and education) after project completion. Communities will have a clear understanding of the link between forest resources and household income, embedding the incentive for sustainable forest management. The increased and diversified income will increase resilience to external shocks and stresses in the future. Empowering women will make an important difference in

increasing the resilience of the communities.

Q20. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

This should directly relate to your overall project's Theory of Change which must be uploaded alongside your application in Flexi-Grant. See the separate [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#) for further information on your Theory of Change.

Decentralized forest governance will be strengthened at the local, regional and national levels (output 1) through increased individual and organisational capacity building actions. Forestry services, intercommunal syndicates and consultation frameworks will be established and supported. A gender strategy will be developed and women's participation in forest governance will be increased. This will improve the management and the access, user right and the ownership of the local communities over the forests

10,000ha of forest, pastoral and agricultural land will be restored (output 2) through the adoption of sustainable resource management practices including agroforestry, tree planting (threatened species) and SWC. These activities will lead to increased land productivity, crop yields, NTFP availability and tree species diversity. Restoration of degraded land alongside reduced pressures on the forests will also decrease greenhouse gas emissions. This will help to improve the biodiversity in the area and reduce the pressure on forests.

Income will be increased for 2,550 households through the development of village enterprises and nutrition gardens (output 3) for the production and sale of non-timber forest products. Members will be trained and equipped with improved business and value chain knowledge as well as increased technical capacities to improve the quality and quantity of their products and their ability to sell them. These actions will provide an incentive for sustainable forest management going forwards while increasing the economic independence of women.

Through these targeted steps the project will strengthen local forest governance, investment in forests with endangered indigenous species and the valorization of non-timber forest products for the sustainable improvement of the livelihoods of 2,550 households in the Segou region (outcome).

Overall, the project will contribute to improving biodiversity in the forests of the Segou region and the income of local communities through the promotion of local forest governance (impact).

Q21. Exit Strategy

How will the project be sustained or continue to deliver benefits post-funding?

How will post-project scaling of the approach be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?

The project design is grounded in strengthening the capacity of stakeholders, to be fully functional and able to independently operate following project-end.

The project will build the capacity of the communes including through the support to the forestry service and training in natural resources management and decentralised forest management. So, the communes will have at the end of the project the capacities to support the decentralised forest management process and ensure the continuing functioning of the cooperatives, and therefore the surveillance brigades also.

New elections in Mali are planned in 2024, this will lead to the development of new communal economic, social and cultural development programmes (PDSEC) at the end of 2024/beginning of 2025. During the project lifetime, the project will advocate for the integration of the intercommunal forestry services, the intercommunal syndicates and the consultation framework into the new PDSECs of our targeted communes in order to ensure their sustainability. The communes targeted by this project already provided a principal agreement in the support letter that they will support the

forestry services after the end of the project. In addition, the project made sure that the support it provides to the intercommunal forestry services is in line with what the commune will be able to pay in the future by themselves. Finally, the intercommunal syndicates and consultation framework are disposition planned by law that the communes were supposed to established anyway.


The surveillance brigade is established within the Mio cooperative, and collaborate with the cooperative, Mayors and technical services, to monitor the forests in order to prevent cutting of green wood, poaching and bushfires. Brigade members will participate in VTEs, providing the incentive to commit to monitoring activities.


The restoration of farmland will improve productivity and on-farm income in the long-term, building community self-reliance. Capacity building of communities in sustainable land management will also ensure protection and sustainable use is maintained beyond project completion. Increased land productivity will in turn reduce pressures on natural resources on which communities depend. The benefits seen through the project, including supply of NTFPs to support livelihoods, will incentivise the continuation of practices promoted through the project.


By establishing 1 nursery, 3 community seed banks and 3 seed production groves and upgrading 2 nurseries, the project will contribute to increasing access for the local population to endangered tree species, both during the project and after it ends. Planting locally adapted and threatened trees species from the nurseries in the target area will lead to forest reforestation in the long-term.

Capacity building of enterprises and nutrition gardens groups will empower the groups to continue with income generating activities, long after project completion. By linking enterprises with financial institutions and buyers and creating NTFPs selling points, the project will enable groups to be self-sustaining, continue to grow, invest in themselves, and financially benefit in the long-term.

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

 [Maps and References](#)

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Section 8 - Risk Management

Q22. 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.

Projects should also draft and submit their initial risk register, using the [Risk Register template](#), and upload below.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
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<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>Possibility of fraud and/or litigation during the project implementation. The loss of budget could mean less money is available to deliver activities. In addition, this could damage Tree Aid's reputation with donors and local communities</p>	Major	Rare	Moderate	<p>Robust policies and procedures put in place especially on procurement. Effective financial management procedures implemented. The partner will adhere to Tree Aid's policies, which will be attached to the contract and will be trained. Tree Aid UK will review partner and Tree Aid Mali expenditure and supporting documentation</p>	Minor
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>The project will work with vulnerable adults and will use household surveys which can lead to safeguarding risks. A safeguarding incident could lead to reputational damage, as well as a loss of trust from local communities. This could threaten the ability to deliver projects in the area</p>	Major	Unlikely	Major	<p>Tree Aid has a strict safeguarding policy, in line with UK guidance/laws. Tree Aid, partner staff and enumerators receive training to ensure the highest standards of safeguarding. If an incident occurs, a formal procedure will be followed to ensure the risk to beneficiaries is removed and dealt with appropriately</p>	Moderate
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Poor tree survival rate would reduce tree cover and limit improvements to soil fertility, water retention, erosion control and the improvement in soil fertility</p>	Moderate	Possible	Major	<p>Monitoring plots will be set up in planting sites to follow survival rates. Farmers will be trained in effective tree planting and soil and water conservation. Farmers will be in charge of caring for trees planted on farmland and will protect the area around seedlings to avoid destruction by livestock</p>	Minor
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>With global financial pressures, very high in-country inflation is possible. If this occurs it could lead to a reduction in the activities that will be delivered</p>	Major	Possible	Major	<p>A detailed budget has been prepared with inflation built in. The yearly inflation built in this budget is higher than our usual inflation rate to mitigate against this risk</p>	Major
<p>Risk 5</p> <p>Due to the international context, the foreign exchange rate could change drastically during the project lifetime. This change could reduce the budget available in local currency for the project. As a result, the project would not achieve all its objectives/targets</p>	Major	Possible	Major	<p>Detailed budgets are prepared in the local currencies and take into account in-country inflation as forecast by IMF. Tree Aid monitors exchange rates and aims for final budgets using realistic rates based on market information</p>	Major

Risk 6

Moderate Unlikely Moderate


Security was one of the main criteria in the selection of the area where the project will be implemented. A Security and Response Plan involving the different project stakeholders will be developed. Tree Aid teams will be trained on security issues. Specific risks will be analysed regularly by INSO

Moderate

Insecurity (armed conflicts, progression of Jihadists etc) could pose a risk to the success of the project as some activities may need to be postponed. This could lead to limited accessibility of some target areas and difficulties in monitoring programme activities

Please upload your Risk Register, with Delivery Chain Risk Map, here.

 [Tree Aid Risk Framework](#)

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Section 9 - Implementation Timetable


Q23. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project and upload this below as a PDF.


[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

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

 [Tree Aid Mali-Timetable-2022-23-FINAL](#)

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Section 10 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

Darwin Initiative Extra Projects are required to commission an Independent Final Evaluation to report by the time that the project completes. The cost of this should be included in the project budget, and within the total project cost for M&E.

Tree Aid have a technical support team (Head of Programme Quality and Advocacy and MEAL Advisor) who are responsible for supporting M&E planning, delivery and analysis. An organizational M&E manual, including indicator guide, is used by all projects. Data is collected in Open Data Kit (ODK) on tablets using generic survey templates which are 'localised' for projects. Data is stored on ONA, a data storage and analysis website.

A start-up M&E workshop between Tree Aid and Sahel Eco will review the logframe and M&E plan. Partner staff are trained and supported to use tools effectively in line with organisational standards.

Outcome indicators:

Tree Aid use the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded RHoMIS to measure socio-economic change. It will capture the increase in total household income and increase in household income from NTFPs (Indicator 0.1). Management plans and by-laws will be monitored to measure the number of hectares benefiting from sustainable management by the end of the project (Indicator 0.2). The project will implement an Ecological Survey at baseline and endline, Land Restoration Survey (ODK module) and Point-Centered Quarter (PCQ) survey (ODK module) to measure the increase in tree species diversity in forest areas (Indicator 0.3). The RHoMIS will also capture the number of households living below the poverty line at endline compared to the baseline situation (Indicator 0.5).

Outcome indicators are the responsibility of the Project Manager, with support from the M&E assistant, the national M&E coordinator and the UK technical team.

Output indicators:

Monitoring of the functionality and competency of the cooperatives will be done through the Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCAT) Survey, as well as confirming the number of women forest management committee members (Indicators 1.2 and 1.4). Satisfaction with local governance of the forest will be measured by the Forest Governance Survey, disaggregated by women and youth (Indicator 1.3).

The Land Restoration Survey will capture the hectares of land benefiting from restoration activities, number of trees planted and the number of endangered species introduced (Indicators 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3). The percentage of farmers using SWC techniques on their farmland will be captured via the RHoMIS (Indicator 2.4).

A Product and Value Chain Survey will monitor the organisational structure and membership (gender disaggregated) of VTEs and nutrition gardens and VTE assessments will gather information on the production, skills and equipment, management and market access of the groups. Records will show turnover, profits and contracts with buyers (Indicators 3.1 and 3.2). The number of women involved in income generating activities will be measured through the OCAT survey and project records (Indicator 3.3).

Output data is collected by the local partner organisation, with support from the Project Manager, the M&E assistant, the national M&E coordinator and the UK technical team.

UK technical team.

The project has planned a baseline, mid-term and endline survey. At the end of the project, an independent final evaluation will be conducted.

Independent Final Evaluation in GBP

██████

Independent Final Evaluation (%)

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)

██████████

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q25. Logical Framework (logframe)






Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

See the [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#) for advice on completing a logical framework and selecting Indicators.

- [Logframe Template](#)

The **logframe template** needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**

Please upload your logframe and Theory of Change as a combined PDF document.

 [Darwin Extra Logical Framework and Theory of Change](#)
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Impact:

Improving biodiversity and reducing poverty in the Segou region through the promotion and implementation of decentralised forest governance

Outcome:

Strengthen local forest governance, investment in forests with endangered indigenous species and valorization of non-timber forest products for the improvement of the livelihoods of 2,550 households in the Segou region

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Strengthening of decentralised forest management at local level (in 6 communes of the Segou region) as well as at national level

Output 2:

10,000 ha of forest and agricultural and pastoral land benefiting from land restoration activities, through sustainable land management practices and the planting of 3,5 million trees including endangered native species

Output 3:

Increasing income of 2,550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

N.B. – Most projects have 3-4 Outputs. It is advised to have fewer than 6 outputs.

No

Activities

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

- 1.1- Establishment of 3 inter-municipal syndicates for the management of the natural resources
- 1.2- Facilitation of meetings of the inter-municipal syndicates
- 1.3- Training of 40 local stakeholders on Malian regulations for natural resource management and decentralisation in the forestry sector
- 1.4- Drafting and signing of partnership protocols between communities, technical services and cooperatives for the forest management
- 1.5- Support to community operations for local governance of forest resources within the framework of transferred competence
- 1.6- Organisation of an exchange visit for 60 local actors on decentralised forest management in the GEDEFOR area
- 1.7- Capacity building of Mio brigade members in ecological monitoring
- 1.8- Training of 60 members of the local consultation framework on participatory conflict management
- 1.9- Revitalization of resource management cooperative of Mio and the surveillance brigade
- 1.10- Training of cooperative members on governance, organisational management, market access and marketing
- 1.11- Training of Mio cooperative members on management tools and implementation of forest management plans

- 1.12- Support to the cooperatives and the surveillance brigades with equipment for forest development and surveillance
- 1.13- Establishment of 1 consultation framework for Mio
- 1.14- Facilitation of meetings of the consultation framework
- 1.15- Organise a national workshop to present the results of the study on the contribution of forests to the local economy
- 1.16- Development of a communication strategy for the promotion of the forest governance
- 1.17- Organisation of communal training workshops on leadership techniques and advocacy for the local governance of forest resources in local planning
- 1.18- Development of a gender strategy
- 1.19- Organisation of communal training workshops on gender and social inclusion

- 2.1- Installation of 1 nursery
- 2.2- Training of the nursery members on seedling production and grafting techniques
- 2.3- Plant production in nurseries
- 2.4- Installation of 3 seed production groves of endangered plant species
- 2.5- Training of the seed production groves members
- 2.6- Installation of 3 seed banks for endangered forest species
- 2.7- Restoration of 5,000 ha of forest by planting 2,000,000 trees
- 2.8- Restoration of 2,000ha of farmland
- 2.9- Rehabilitation of 3,000ha of pastoral land
- 2.10- Organisation of an annual competition to reward communities with the best reforestation survival rates
- 2.11- Opening and maintenance of 3,000 km of firebreaks

- 3.1- Carrying out a diagnosis of stakeholders and value chains of promising NTFP
- 3.2- Establishment of 30 VTEs
- 3.3- Development of 30 Business Development Plans for the VTEs
- 3.4- Training of groups on NTFP processing and conservation techniques to improve product quality
- 3.5- Installation of 3 multifunctional solar mini-platforms (solar factories) for various processing uses of NTFPs
- 3.6- Training of beekeepers in modern beekeeping techniques
- 3.7- Equip producers with 150 modern beehives and other beekeeping equipment
- 3.8- Installation of 2 NTFP sales points/stores to promote NTFP marketing

- 3.9- Equip NTFP processing units with modern packaging and labelling materials to facilitate packaging and marketing of their products
- 3.10- Support producers and processors to participate in various national and state fairs and other trade events
- 3.11- Installation of 30 nutrient gardens with solar drainage systems
- 3.12- Support to production in the gardens
- 3.13- Training of women in nutrition garden production
- 3.14- Workshop to connect with buyers
- 3.15- Support for transplantation of nutrition garden plants

M&E 1-Launching the project

M&E 2-Baseline (RHoMIS)

M&E 3-Endline(RHoMIS)

M&E 4-Mid-term evaluation

M&E 5-Baseline Ecological Survey

M&E 6-Endline Ecological Survey

M&E 7- Study on the contribution of forests to the local economy

M&E 8- Follow up by Tree Aid Mali

M&E 9- M&E workshop

M&E 10- Qualitative Data Analysis & visualization

M&E 11- Qualitative Data Collection

M&E 12- Land Restoration Survey-ODK module

M&E 13- VTE Assessments-ODK modules

M&E 14- PCQ Assessments- ODK models

M&E 15- Perimeter & Land Use Survey- ODK module

M&E 16- Data storage/management

M&E 17- Follow up by TAWA and Tree Aid UK

M&E 18- Organisation of a national workshop to disseminate the results

M&E 19- External evaluation

M&E 20- Audit

Section 12 - Budget and Funding

Q26. Budget

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

Note that there are different templates available, please ensure that you use the [BCF budget template](#). Please refer to the Finance Guidance for more information.


Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.


NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload the Lead Partner's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [Darwin Extra Mali- Tree Aid budget - donor template](#)

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Q27. Funding

Q27a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

New Initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new phase of work that will build on Tree Aid's previous experience promoting decentralized forest governance in the Segou Region of Mali as well as in Burkina Faso and Senegal. Tree Aid has been working on decentralised forest management in Mali's Segou Region since 2004 including through two Darwin's projects (Ref. 24-022 and Ref. 28-023). This project will build on the experiences and progress made to date to scale-up the approach to adjacent communes to those previously targeted as well as continuing the work on the current targeted communes. By building on learning so far, we are well positioned to extend our reach to additional communes and forest areas, securing forest resources for the benefit of people and biodiversity in the long-term. The process of transferring forest management from central authorities to local communities, requires significant time and investment, therefore, there is need to continue the process within the region, in order to ensure its effective establishment.

This project will go beyond what have been accomplished in previous Tree Aid's projects in Mali as we will promote the decentralised forest governance at the regional and national level and ensure that there is an adequate environment in place to scale up the decentralised forest governance national wide

This project will also compliment the work done by the government with the GEDEFOR (Programme de Gestion Décentralisée des Forêts) Programme in other regions in Mali.

Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q28. Capital items

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

The project will purchase the following capital items:

4 x motorbikes with accessories

1 x vehicle

8 x computers with accessories

5 x tablets

5 x camera/GPS

3 x Motorbikes for intercommunal services

3x IT tools for intercommunal services

60 x Bicycles for cooperatives and brigades

60x Phones for cooperatives and brigades

3x SWC equipment for cooperatives and brigades

150x Beehives for VTEs

This totals 3% of the project budget and is within the limits set by Darwin for capital items. The items will be used exclusively for the project and then will continue to be used for charitable purposes after the project ends.

Q29. 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). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

An important aspect for Tree Aid is to ensure the best value for money on each of its projects using the 4 "E" methodology: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity.

Economy: Tree Aid Mali worked with Sahel Eco to draft the budget, establish local costs and determine the best returns on investment. The value for money was then reviewed by Tree Aid UK's finance team. Key assumptions include fluctuation in exchange rates and inflation throughout the project. Sahel Eco will apply Tree Aid's procurement policies to ensure transparency and best value. Tree Aid provides staff with training and a competitive salary, to ensure staff are retained and are able to deliver results, which are both key drivers of success.

Efficiency: Sahel Eco project staff and the Tree Aid Project Coordinator will be based locally, minimising logistical costs. Trees will be grown by project nurseries creating planting cost efficiencies while increasing capacities (compared to buying seeds from private nurseries). Training will be done by project staff, which also ensures the cost efficiency of these activities. Tree Aid and Sahel Eco will frequently carry out joint monitoring visits to minimise M&E costs.

Effectiveness: The project is within our on-going programme in the Sahel, one of the poorest and most fragile regions in the world. We have strong partnerships and linkages to communities in the Segou region, and proven experience implementing similar projects successfully to achieve the desired outcomes. The theory of change and the project activities have been developed based on stakeholder consultations, so are appropriate and effectual to address beneficiary needs. Tree Aid uses adaptive management to adjust activities to local context changes.

Equity: Activities are appropriately targeted to individuals, to take into account specific needs around gender and age.

Based on our extensive experience, we anticipate a 100% increase in household income and a 175% increase in NTFP income by project end. The project represents an excellent return on investment delivering increases in forest cover, land

restoration and forest governance alongside poverty reducing outcomes. Incomes will continue to grow after project end through the increase in tree availability and land productivity

Section 13 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with all partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

If your project involves data collection and/or analysis which identifies individuals (e.g. biometric data, intelligence data), please explain the measures which are in place and/or will be taken to ensure the proper control and use of the data. Please explain the experience and role of the involved partners in managing this information in your project.

Tree Aid's safeguarding policy covers trustees, staff, volunteers and partners. It identifies a contact person for safeguarding in each regional office, as well as detailing the procedures in place. Safeguarding is included in partner agreements and is a standing item in partner meetings. Specific measures include posters displayed in offices to encourage incident reporting and a hotline from country offices for staff to report/discuss concerns. Safeguarding questions are included in household RHoMIS surveys, allowing project participants to raise concerns. Data collected is anonymised and stored on ONA Data. All analysis, through custom built Information Management System (AKUKO), is also anonymous

Q31. Ethics

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

The project will uphold all legal and ethical obligations in the UK and Mali. Tree Aid is a beneficiary-led and local partner-focused organisation, encouraging equal partnerships and ensuring due diligence in all endeavours. Sahel Eco has participated in the design of this project and Tree Aid will continue to consult them throughout the implementation process.

The project will protect the rights, privacy and safety of people impacted by activities. Further strengthening our community engagement approach, we will apply our Code of Conduct to safeguard communities and ensure Tree Aid has a positive impact. As per our policies, we have a zero-tolerance approach to financial crimes, abuse and retaliation.

Tree Aid uses Prior Informed Consent (PIC), with the project designed around the needs of communities. At the onset of the project, the activities will be thoroughly explained to ensure buy-in and understanding. Communities will have chance to provide feedback during baseline surveys, stakeholder consultations and focus group discussions, enabling their views to be taken into account and to guide implementation as it progresses.

Tree Aid will protect the health and safety of all project staff by following procedures to ensure working conditions are as defined in our health and safety policy.

Section 14 - FCDO Notifications

Q32. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 15 - Project Staff

Q33. 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.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Amadou Tangara	Project Leader	21	Checked
Recruitment in progress	Country Director (Tree Aid Mali)	21	Checked
To be recruited	Project Coordinator (Tree Aid Mali)	100	Checked
To be recruited	Project Finance and Admin Assistant (Tree Aid Mali)	100	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
To be recruited	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant (Tree Aid Mali)	100	Checked
Pierre Dembele	Executive Secretary (Sahel Eco)	10	Checked
Ibrahima Bore	Field Finance (Sahel Eco)	10	Checked
Adama Dena	Field Coordinator (Sahel Eco)	20	Checked
Sean McGough	Head of Programme Management (Tree Aid UK)	2	Checked
Pietro Carpena	Head of Programme Quality and Advocacy (Tree Aid UK)	2	Checked
Inès El Ghadab	Compliance and Risk Manager (Tree Aid UK)	2	Checked
Rasmata Ouedraogo	Head of Finance and Resources (Tree Aid West Africa)	2	Checked

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

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [All CVs and JDs](#)

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Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 16 - Project Partners

Q34. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) you should upload alongside Q22.

Lead partner name: Tree Aid

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

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

As project leader, Tree Aid has designed the project and coordinated the application process in collaboration with Sahel Eco. Tree Aid will have overall responsibility for the successful implementation of project activities and will work to deliver the project on-the-ground in collaboration with Sahel Eco and in synergy with local authorities. Tree Aid will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of activities, results, monitoring and reporting. Further ongoing technical support, financial management, monitoring and quality assurance will be carried out with support from Tree Aid's regional office in Burkina Faso, with additional backstopping from the Tree Aid UK office.

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 organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Sahel Eco

Website address: <http://www.saheleco.org/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Created in 2004, Sahel Eco is a national NGO, previously operating as the SOS Sahel International UK Mali programme. Tree Aid has been working with SOS Sahel International UK since 1998, having formed a partnership with Sahel Eco after its creation and been working together in the Segou region since 2013. Together, we have led on the development of participatory forest development and management plans an innovative approach in the Mali context to improve forest governance. Sahel Eco have expertise including agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, food security, sustainable management of natural resources and development of forestry and agricultural enterprises

Sahel Eco supported the design of this project and will lead on project implementation locally. They will be responsible for mobilising local communities, frontline delivery of training, capacity building and engagement of key stakeholders, organisational and business development, and technical support for the cooperatives and monitoring brigades, liaison with local and regional stakeholders, data collection and monitoring of activities. Sahel Eco's team comprises of: Executive Secretary, Field Finance, Field Coordinator and Field Facilitators.

International/In-country Partner In-country

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes

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

2. 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

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

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? 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

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

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? 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

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

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? 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

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

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? 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

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


Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? 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 cover letter and a combined PDF of all letters of support.


 [Cover Letter \(1\)](#)


 03/10/2022

 20:06:17

 pdf 69.44 KB

 [Darwin Extra -Support letters with English translation](#)

 03/10/2022

 20:06:08

 pdf 1.6 MB

Section 17 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35a. Has your organisation been awarded 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
27 28-010	Cheru Tessema	Developing Rural Pathways to Community Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration
27 28-023	Sean McGough	Promoting Forest Governance for Resilient Ecosystems and Communities in Segou
24 25-029	Sean McGough	Rehabilitation of the Ecosystem of the Park W Landscape
23 24-022	Amadou Tangara	Strengthening Malian Forest Management to Protect Biodiversity and Alleviate Poverty
19 20-019	Cheru Tessema	Wof Washa Forest: Sustainable Management for Resilient Livelihoods
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Q35b. Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the Lead Partner that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	Local Governance of Forest Resources WEOOG PAANI
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	██████████
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	5 years (2019-2024)
Role of organisation in project	Tree Aid is the lead for project implementation

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

1. Promoting an enabling environment for local governance of forest resources to ensure the sustainable management of these resources
2. Strengthening the regeneration and production capabilities of forest areas through investments in forest and plant resources, increasing the ecological and socio-economic value of these resources and motivation of the local population to participate in the sustainable management of their forest
3. Increasing the incomes of actors through the improved economic importance of forest resources by promoting NTFPs through the development of value chains and improving access to financing in order to link the actual economy to the conservation-restoration of forests

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

The Swedish Embassy in Burkina Faso - SIDA
Cecilia KELIMERT, Head of Programme for Environment and Resilience
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 2 Title

The Olympic Forest

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)

[REDACTED]

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

4 years (2021-2024)

Role of organisation in project

Tree Aid is the lead for project implementation

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

1. Production and planting of 355,000 trees for planting on agroforestry sites and as enrichment planting in forest sites
 2. Development of Management Groups
 3. Development and approval of Management Plans and local bylaws
 4. Engagement and training of local stakeholders in forest management
 5. Promotion of SWC practices and firebreaks
-

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

The International Olympic Committee (IOC)
Michelle LEMAITRE, Head of Sustainability
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 3 Title

Programme for the Valorisation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP 3)

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) [REDACTED]

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months) 4 years (2021-2024)

Role of organisation in project Tree Aid is the lead for project implementation

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

1. Rural and peri-urban households-including IDPs, women and youth-increase their production and consumption of NTFPs and their resilience to climate and security shocks around diversified and sustainable production systems (humanitarian-development nexus).
2. Processors, their organisations and NTFP enterprises, through appropriate marketing of different products, improve their competitiveness and have better access to finance and markets.
3. The government, local authorities and NTFP organisations, through an operational and dynamic institutional and regulatory framework, facilitate the valorisation and dissemination of information and ensure the sustainable management of forest resources, including NTFPs

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

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – Burkina Faso

Abel GOUBA, Programme Officer

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile phone: [REDACTED]

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 18 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Tree Aid

I apply for a grant of

£2,746,594.00

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 project key project personnel, letters of support, a budget, risk register (inclusive of delivery chain risk map), logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.





Checked

Name	Tom Skirrow
Position in the organisation	CEO
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Tom Skirrow Signature  03/10/2022  14:04:55  pdf 158.28 KB
Date	03 October 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 Tree-Aid-Annual-Report-and-Annual-Accounts-2020-21-Compressed  03/10/2022  14:45:41  pdf 3.84 MB	 Tree-Aid-Annual-Report-and-Annual-Accounts-2021-22-Compressed  03/10/2022  14:45:32  pdf 3.6 MB
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 Tree Aid Safeguarding Policy  03/10/2022  14:05:46  pdf 1.1 MB
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Section 19 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Financial 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:	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my budget (which meets the requirements above) 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my risk register, including delivery chain risk map, as an Excel file using the template provided 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my 1 page Theory of Change as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of support from the Lead Partner and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cover letter from the Lead Partner. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of the Lead Partner’s safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not. 	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 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
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: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Strengthening of decentralised forest management at local level (in 6 communes of the Segou region) as well as at national level																					
1.1	Establishment of 3 inter-municipal syndicates for the management of the natural resources	3																				
1.2	Facilitation of meetings of the inter-municipal syndicates	18																				
1.3	Training of 40 local stakeholders on Malian regulations for natural resource management and decentralisation in the forestry sector	3																				
1.4	Drafting and signing of partnership protocols between communities, technical services and cooperatives for the forest management	9																				
1.5	Support to community operations for local governance of forest resources within the framework of transferred competences	57																				
1.6	Organisation of an exchange visit for 60 local actors on decentralised forest management in the GEDEFOR area	3																				

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.7	Capacity building of Mio brigade members in ecological monitoring	6																				
1.8	Training of 60 members of the local consultation framework on participatory conflict management	3																				
1.9	Revitalization of resource management cooperative of Mio and the surveillance brigade	3																				
1.10	Training of cooperative members on governance, organisational management, market access and marketing	1																				
1.11	Training of Mio cooperative members on management tools and implementation of forest management plans	2																				
1.12	Support to the cooperatives and the surveillance brigades with equipment for forest development and surveillance	48																				
1.13	Establishment of 1 consultation framework for Mio	3																				
1.14	Facilitation of meetings of the consultation framework	9																				
1.15	Organise a national workshop to present the results of the study on	3																				

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	the contribution of forests to the local economy																					
1.16	Development of a communication strategy for the promotion of the forest governance	6																				
1.17	Organisation of communal training workshops on leadership techniques and advocacy for the local governance of forest resources in local planning	3																				
1.18	Development of a gender strategy	3																				
1.19	Organisation of communal training workshops on gender and social inclusion	3																				
Output 2	10,000 ha of forest and agricultural and pastoral land benefiting from land restoration activities, through sustainable land management practices and the planting of 3,5 million trees including endangered native species																					
2.1	Installation of 1 nursery	3																				
2.2	Training of the nursery members on seedling production and grafting techniques	3																				
2.3	Plant production in nurseries	18																				

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.4	Installation of 3 seed production groves of endangered plant species	6																				
2.5	Training of the seed production groves members	3																				
2.6	Installation of 3 seed banks for endangered forest species	48																				
2.7	Restoration of 5,000 ha of forest by planting 2,000,000 trees	36																				
2.8	Restoration of 2,000ha of farmland	9																				
2.9	Rehabilitation of 3,000ha of pastoral land	18																				
2.10	Organisation of an annual competition to reward communities with the best reforestation survival rates	24																				
2.11	Opening and maintenance of 3,000 km of firebreaks	15																				
Output 3	Increasing income of 2,550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation																					
3.1	Carrying out a diagnosis of stakeholders and value chains of promising NTFP	3																				
3.2	Establishment of 30 Village Tree Enterprises (VTEs)	3																				

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.3	Development of 30 Business Development Plans for the VTEs	6					■	■														
3.4	Training of groups on NTFP processing and conservation techniques to improve product quality	3							■													
3.5	Installation of 3 multifunctional solar mini-platforms (solar factories) for various processing uses of NTFPs	3								■												
3.6	Training of beekeepers in modern beekeeping techniques	3								■												
3.7	Equip producers with 150 modern beehives and other beekeeping equipment	3								■												
3.8	Installation of 2 NTFP sales points/stores to promote NTFP marketing	6								■	■											
3.9	Equip NTFP processing units with modern packaging and labelling materials to facilitate packaging and marketing of their products	9									■				■						■	
3.10	Support producers and processors to participate in various national and state fairs and other trade events	6										■				■						
3.11	Installation of 30 nutrition gardens with solar drainage systems	6					■	■														

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.12	Support to production in the gardens	3																				
3.13	Training of women in nutrition garden production	3																				
3.14	Workshop to connect with buyers	3																				
3.15	Support for transplantation of nutrition garden plants	3																				
	M&E activities																					
M&E 1	Launching the project	1																				
M&E 2	Baseline (RHoMIS)	2																				
M&E 3	Endline (RHoMIS)	2																				
M&E 4	Mid-term evaluation	2																				
M&E 5	Baseline Ecological Survey	3																				
M&E 6	Endline Ecological Survey	3																				
M&E 7	Study on the contribution of forests to the local economy	3																				
M&E 8	Follow up by Tree Aid Mali	60																				
M&E 9	M&E workshop	15																				
M&E 10	Qualitative Data Analysis & visualization	15																				
M&E 11	Qualitative Data Collection	15																				
M&E 12	Land Restoration Survey-ODK module	9																				

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
M&E 13	VTE Assessments-ODK modules	9																				
M&E 14	PCQ Assessments- ODK models	9																				
M&E 15	Perimeter & Land Use Survey- ODK module	9																				
M&E 16	Data storage/management	15																				
M&E 17	Follow up by TAWA and Tree Aid UK	15																				
M&E 18	Organisation of a national workshop to disseminate the results	9																				
M&E 19	External evaluation	3																				
M&E 20	Audit	9																				

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Improving biodiversity and reducing poverty in the Segou region through the promotion and implementation of decentralised forest governance (Max 30 words)</p>	<p>Improving biodiversity and reducing poverty in the Segou region through the promotion and implementation of decentralised forest governance</p>		
<p>Outcome: Strengthen local forest governance, investment in forests with endangered indigenous species and valorization of non-timber forest products for the improvement of the livelihoods of 2,550 households in the Segou region (Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1 100% increase in total household income and 175% increase in household income from NTFPs from the project baseline by the end of the project</p> <p>0.2 26,700 hectares benefiting for sustainable management by the end of the project</p> <p>0.3 15% increase in tree species diversity in forest areas compared to the project baseline by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.4 50% increase in the municipal budget for forest governance by the end of the project</p> <p>0.5 10% reduction in the number of households below the Poverty Line from baseline, by the end of the project (based on cash income)</p>	<p>0.1 RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey)</p> <p>0.2 Management plans, by-laws</p> <p>0.3 Ecological Survey, Land restoration Survey, PCQ survey</p> <p>0.4 PDSEC, communal administrative account</p> <p>0.5 RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey)</p>	<p>Climatic conditions do not disrupt activities</p> <p>Communities are willing to participate in the project</p> <p>No significant political instability effects the project region</p>

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

<p>Outputs: 1. Strengthening of decentralised forest management at local level (in 6 communes of the Segou region) as well as at national level</p>	<p>1.1 Decentralized forest management applied to three forests by the end of year 2</p> <p>1.2 Three functional and competent cooperatives for the management of the forest area by the end of year 2</p> <p>1.3 20% increase in good forest governance, for households and communities (as demonstrated through improved access to and control of forest resources, and the development of local management tools)</p> <p>1.4 50% of Mio forest management cooperative members are women by end of year 1</p>	<p>1.1 Management contract between the state and the communities</p> <p>1.2 Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCAT) survey; Project records</p> <p>1.3 Forest Governance survey</p> <p>1.4 Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCAT) survey; Project records</p>	<p>Households and communities allow women to participate in forest governance activities</p> <p>Laws on decentralised forest governance remain favourable</p>
<p>2. 10,000 ha of forest and agricultural and pastoral land benefiting from land restoration activities, through sustainable land management practices and the planting of 3,5 million trees including endangered native species</p>	<p>2.1 10,000ha of land (Ha) in and around the Mio, Safiensa and Sanekuy Forests benefiting from restoration activities by end of project</p> <p>a) 5,000 ha of forest year 1: 500ha year 2: 3,000ha year 3: 4,250ha year 4: 5,000ha year 5: 5,000ha</p> <p>b) 3,000ha of pastoral land</p>	<p>2.1 Land Restoration Survey</p>	<p>Climatic conditions are favourable to chosen species</p> <p>No major droughts, bush fires, or floods effect tree survival rates</p>

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	<p>year 1: 500ha year 2: 2,000ha year 3: 3,000ha year 4: 3,000ha year 5: 3,000ha c) 2,000ha of agricultural land year 1: 400ha year 2: 1,200ha year 3: 2,000ha year 4: 2,000ha year 5: 2,000ha</p> <p>2.2 3,500,000 of trees planted on 10,000ha by year the end of year 4 year 1: 600,000, year 2: 2,300,000 year 3: 3,300,00 year 4: 3,500,00</p> <p>2.3 10 native endangered species introduced by the end of the project year 1: 2 year 2:4 year 3: 6 year 4: 8 year 5: 10</p> <p>2.4 Three sustainable land management techniques used by 2,300 farmers (#) - disaggregated by Biological, Soil Water Conservation, and Gully Control.</p>	<p>2.2 Land Restoration survey and Project records</p> <p>2.3 Land Restoration survey and Project records</p> <p>2.4 RHoMIS (Rural Household Multiple Indicator Survey)</p>	<p>Participants engage with natural resource management technique training activities</p> <p>Participants adopt the techniques tough</p> <p>Community members are present for the planting days</p>
<p>3. Increasing income of 2,550 households through sustainable NTFP exploitation</p>	<p>3.1 30 VTE groups established (where 50% of VTE members are women) by end of year 1 with an Enterprise Development Plans by the end of year 2</p>	<p>3.1 Product & Value Chain survey; OCAT survey; Project records</p>	<p>Households and communities allow women to engage in VTE and nutrition garden groups</p>

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

	<p>3.2 30 nutrition gardens established by year 1</p> <p>3.3 2,175 women involved in income generating activities by the end of the project</p> <p>3.4 Average annual turnover for active VTEs established and increase to \$2,000</p> <p>3.5 15% increase in the proportion of women who report equal (or more) power than their partner</p>	<p>3.2 Product & Value Chain survey; OCAT survey; Project records</p> <p>3.3 Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCAT) survey, Project records</p> <p>3.4 VTE sales records; Enterprise Development Plan (EDP) assessment survey (ODK form)</p> <p>3.5 Voice, Choice and Control module</p>	<p>Climatic conditions favour produce chosen by VTE groups and the production of the nutrition gardens</p>
<p>Activities:</p> <p>1.1- Establishment of 3 inter-municipal syndicates for the management of the natural resources</p> <p>1.2- Facilitation of meetings of the inter-municipal syndicates</p> <p>1.3- Training of 40 local stakeholders on Malian regulations for natural resource management and decentralisation in the forestry sector</p> <p>1.4- Drafting and signing of partnership protocols between communities, technical services and cooperatives for the forest management</p> <p>1.5- Support to community operations for local governance of forest resources within the framework of transferred competence</p> <p>1.6- Organisation of an exchange visit for 60 local actors on decentralised forest management in the GEDEFOR area</p> <p>1.7- Capacity building of Mio brigade members in ecological monitoring</p> <p>1.8- Training of 60 members of the local consultation framework on participatory conflict management</p> <p>1.9- Revitalization of resource management cooperative of Mio and the surveillance brigade</p> <p>1.10- Training of cooperative members on governance, organisational management, market access and marketing</p> <p>1.11- Training of Mio cooperative members on management tools and implementation of forest management plans</p> <p>1.12- Support to the cooperatives and the surveillance brigades with equipment for forest development and surveillance</p> <p>1.13- Establishment of 1 consultation framework for Mio</p> <p>1.14- Facilitation of meetings of the consultation framework</p> <p>1.15- Organise a national workshop to present the results of the study on the contribution of forests to the local economy</p> <p>1.16- Development of a communication strategy for the promotion of the forest governance</p>			

Project Title: Local Governance of Forest Resources in Mali

- 1.17- Organisation of communal training workshops on leadership techniques and advocacy for the local governance of forest resources in local planning
- 1.18- Development of a gender strategy
- 1.19- Organisation of communal training workshops on gender and social inclusion

- 2.1- Installation of 1 nursery
- 2.2- Training of the nursery members on seedling production and grafting techniques
- 2.3- Plant production in nurseries
- 2.4- Installation of 3 seed production groves of endangered plant species
- 2.5- Training of the seed production groves members
- 2.6- Installation of 3 seed banks for endangered forest species
- 2.7- Restoration of 5,000 ha of forest by planting 2,000,000 trees
- 2.8- Restoration of 2,000ha of farmland
- 2.9- Rehabilitation of 3,000ha of pastoral land
- 2.10- Organisation of an annual competition to reward communities with the best reforestation survival rates
- 2.11- Opening and maintenance of 3,000 km of firebreaks

- 3.1- Carrying out a diagnosis of stakeholders and value chains of promising NTFP
- 3.2- Establishment of 30 VTEs
- 3.3- Development of 30 Business Development Plans for the VTEs
- 3.4- Training of groups on NTFP processing and conservation techniques to improve product quality
- 3.5- Installation of 3 multifunctional solar mini-platforms (solar factories) for various processing uses of NTFPs
- 3.6- Training of beekeepers in modern beekeeping techniques
- 3.7- Equip producers with 150 modern beehives and other beekeeping equipment
- 3.8- Installation of 2 NTFP sales points/stores to promote NTFP marketing
- 3.9- Equip NTFP processing units with modern packaging and labelling materials to facilitate packaging and marketing of their products
- 3.10- Support producers and processors to participate in various national and state fairs and other trade events
- 3.11- Installation of 30 nutrient gardens with solar drainage systems
- 3.12- Support to production in the gardens
- 3.13- Training of women in nutrition garden production
- 3.14- Workshop to connect with buyers
- 3.15- Support for transplantation of nutrition garden plants

- M&E 1- Launching the project
- M&E 2- Baseline (RHoMIS)

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- M&E 3- Endline (RHoMIS)
- M&E 4- Mid-term evaluation
- M&E 5- Baseline Ecological Survey
- M&E 6- Endline Ecological Survey
- M&E 7- Study on the contribution of forests to the local economy
- M&E 8- Follow up by Tree Aid Mali
- M&E 9- M&E workshop
- M&E 10- Qualitative Data Analysis & visualization
- M&E 11- Qualitative Data Collection
- M&E 12- Land Restoration Survey-ODK module
- M&E 13- VTE Assessments-ODK modules
- M&E 14- PCQ Assessments- ODK models
- M&E 15- Perimeter & Land Use Survey- ODK module
- M&E 16- Data storage/management
- M&E 17- Follow up by TAWA and Tree Aid UK
- M&E 18- Organisation of a national workshop to disseminate the results
- M&E 19- External evaluation
- M&E 20- Audit