Call for proposals – August 2021

Guidelines for project submission

Eligibility criteria

Project proposals must contribute to the main objective of the Foundation: **to preserve threatened tree species throughout the world, avoid their extinction and improve their conservation status**.

Projects will be selected against the main following criteria : (i) the project is scientifically sound and justified; (ii) the project is feasible ; (iii) results are reachable ; (iv) costs are reasonable ; (v) the proponent and his organisation are competent ; (vi) the project is a priority ; (vii) essential partners are involved ; (viii) impact is measurable and sustainable.

o **Eligibility**
   Any organisation with well-established expertise and efficiency in plant conservation can apply.

o **Species**
   Only projects aiming at improving the conservation status of globally threatened tree species listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species are eligible. Threatened species include those listed as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR). Therefore, applicants must check the status of their target species at www.iucnredlist.org to ensure that their project is eligible. If a species is considered as threatened but the assessment is not yet published on the Red List website, detailed additional information justifying a VU, EN or CR status must be provided. Priority will be given to projects targeting CR and EN species. Projects targeting VU species will be accepted when immediate investments will be necessary to stop a rapid decline.

   We define trees as plant species presenting a single trunk at least 2 meter high.

   Threatened tree species must be the main target species of the projects but projects proposing a positive impact on other threatened species and associated habitats will be favoured (collateral benefits). The Foundation will favour projects of global relevance (globally threatened species) versus projects protecting species locally or regionally threatened.

   In case the status of the species on the IUCN Red List is outdated or needs to be updated, the target species should be reassessed in collaboration with the team at Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) in charge of the Global Tree Assessment (https://www.globaltreeassessment.org/).

o **Geographic areas**
The Foundation can fund projects implemented all over the world but will favour areas with high biological diversity as well as areas where needs are important and funding opportunities are limited.

When there are several projects in the same geographical area, the Foundation wishes to see concrete collaboration between the different organisations active in the field, especially those it already supports (see current projects https://fondationfranklinia.org/projets-en-cours/).

o **Project types**
Projects must implement **concrete on-the-ground conservation actions**. Projects can span over a period of up to 3 years.

The necessary information must be provided to answer the following questions:
- Does the project leader have the necessary experience and knowledge?
- Does the project take into account experience gained at the proposed site or in another region?
- Do the target species need to be replanted or is there sufficient natural regeneration?
- Does the project reduce the most significant threats to the target species?
- Is the project likely to negatively impact other species?
- Is there sufficient genetic diversity of nursery-reared seedlings?
- What is the expected survival rate of the plantations?
- Is the environmental impact of the project reasonable (team and infrastructure near the site...)?
- What is the long term vision: 10 – 30 years (once new trees have reached maturity)?

All projects must adhere to the principles laid out in the recent scientific review 'Ten golden rules for reforestation to optimize carbon sequestration, biodiversity recovery and livelihood benefits' (Di Sacco et al., 2021):

(1) Protect existing forest first;
(2) Work together (involving all stakeholders);
(3) Aim to maximize biodiversity recovery to meet multiple goals (carbon sequestration, ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits);
(4) Select appropriate areas for restoration;
(5) Use natural regeneration wherever possible; (6) Select species to maximize biodiversity;
(7) Use resilient plant material (with appropriate genetic variability and provenance);
(8) Plan ahead for infrastructure, capacity and seed supply;
(9) Learn by doing (using an adaptive management approach);
(10) Make it pay (ensuring the economic sustainability of the project)

Click here to access the review.

o **Budget**
The Foundation favours conservation projects with reasonable budget in relation to proposed activities. Costs/benefits ratio will be an important criterion during project selection. Funding for the organisation's general costs will be limited and funding preferably spent where field activities are implemented. Long distance travels should be limited and only take place when local expertise is not available. Management costs (overheads) must represent less than 10% of the budget.

The budget must be submitted in US or Canadian dollars, euros, pounds sterling or Swiss francs. If the grant is awarded, the instalments will be paid in the budget currency.

o **Co-funding**
A minimum of 20 to 50% of co-funding will be required. The percentage will depend on project size and regions ; a diversified funding basis ensures a better sustainability. Co-funding will therefore be an important criterion but it is important to document the specific impact of the contribution of the Foundation.

o **Evaluation/Impact**
Projects must include specific indicators (KPIs) measurable and verifiable allowing to assess their implementation and impact on the ground. The foundation developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which allows tracking its impact at global level (document available in annex); each project should include specific indicators (with target values) aligned with the foundation's global indicators and indicate the long term vision (10-30 years; once new trees have reached maturity).

At least one indicator must relate to a direct action on species. Representatives of the Foundation may travel to project sites in order to evaluate project implementation and impact.

o **Coordination with existing projects and other donors**
The Foundation would like to ensure that funded projects are implemented in good coordination with activities funded by others and implemented in the same area. To that effect, the Foundation will maintain direct links with other donors ; proposals must indicate sources of co-funding (donors and amounts). Results of past activities must be mentioned in the proposal. In addition, the foundation's website should be consulted by project leaders in order to identify possible synergies with existing projects targeting similar species, countries or ecosystem types. A clear articulation with ongoing efforts supported by the Foundation is requested.

o **Partners**
Beneficiaries must ensure that they have all legal authorisations to work in the proposed project area. Projects including a partnership with local or national organisations will be favoured.

A link to the relevant IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups is desired (see list at https://www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups/plants-fungi/plants).

o **Useful resources**
The conservation of threatened tree species requires specific skills and techniques to which it is desirable to refer. The Foundation strongly recommends using available sources of information and practical advice such as those found in many languages on the websites of the Global Trees Campaign, the Society for Ecological Restoration, Arbnet or IUCN (Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning ; Red List assessment process ; Guidelines for invasive species planning and management on islands...).
These resources should help you address key issues for your project, for example, how to collect seeds, how to store them and prepare them for germination, how to design and manage a nursery, how to reintroduce threatened trees into the wild, how to develop a monitoring plan for threatened tree species, etc…

Submission of proposals

o   Projects must be submitted **using all 3 template documents** available from the Foundation's website: project proposal, budget and logical framework. Proposals submitted in other format will not be considered.

o   Thank you for being **concise and precise** and **respecting instructions** in order to facilitate the work of the reviewers.

o   The forms must be downloaded and **filled in entirely**. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

o   Proposals can be submitted in **French or English**. Forms and guidelines are available in both languages.

o   Proposals must be submitted **through the Foundation's website** (www.fondationfranklinia.org).

o   The deadline for project submission is **October 24th.**

Project review

Projects will be reviewed first by the Secretariat of the Foundation and then by its Expert Committee who will provide recommendations to the Board by the end of February 2022. The Board will take a final decision in **March 2022**. The projects will therefore not be able to start before April or May 2022.

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Annex: Tracking Franklinia foundation's impact at global level

The Monitoring and Evaluation framework (M&E) of Fondation Franklinia is designed **to track and assess performance and impacts of the conservation work it funds**. The main goal of this framework is to help the Foundation to assess the overall impact of its investments. It also helps to identify opportunities for improvement and to draw out any overarching trends and results at the Foundation level.

While the foundation can support a range of different activities, this M&E framework is determined by the main objective of the Foundation: **to preserve threatened tree species throughout the world, avoid their extinction and improve their conservation status.**

The Foundation requests all its beneficiaries to include specific indicators in their projects and to report against them. Impact is tracked at the level of individual projects through reports and field visits; the necessary information is compiled and aggregated at the level of the Foundation. This information is then be used to report to the _Conseil de fondation_, assess its performance and guide its strategy.

The framework is organized around **three pillars: (i) Direct action on species, (ii) Threat reduction and (iii) Enabling conditions for conservation**. It includes **19 global indicators** (bold in the table below) and **several tens of specific indicators at project level** (a sample of these are shown in the table below).

In addition the **long term vision** and the **exit strategy** are questioned from the start of the projects and are monitored.

1. **Direct action on species** - Under this pillar, the status of globally threatened trees is tracked. The foundation measures the impact of its support via **9 indicators** focusing on species and habitat management:

   At species level:

   - Number of globally threatened trees species benefiting from conservation action.

   - Number of seedlings planted and/or protected (with appropriate genetic diversity) for each of the threatened tree species benefiting from conservation action.

   - Number of mature individuals protected in-situ for each of the threatened tree species benefiting from conservation action.

   - Number of globally threatened tree species benefiting from ex-situ conservation action.

   - Number of changes in IUCN Red List / Green List status of globally threatened trees species benefiting from conservation action.

   At habitat level:

   - Number of hectares of production/mosaïc landscapes with strengthened management of threatened trees diversity.

   - Number of hectares of protected areas with strengthened management of threatened trees diversity.

   - Number of hectares of protected areas with dedicated management of threatened trees diversity created or expanded.

   - Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas for trees with improved management.

2. **Threat reduction -** Under this pillar the decrease in the main threats affecting globally threatened trees is tracked. This usually happens thanks to a range of actions such as creating alternative livelihoods for local stakeholders, raising awareness of the civil society, strengthening law enforcement and prosecution at local level. **3 indicators** are used to measure progress:

   - Number and categories of direct beneficiaries from activities providing alternative livelihoods.

   - Number and categories of people directly targeted by awareness raising activities.

   - Number of hectares with strengthened law enforcement activities targeting illegal logging.

3. **Enabling conditions -** Under this pillar conditions needed for the conservation of globally threatened trees to happen are tracked. **7 indicators** are used:

   - Number of organisations with improved organizational capacity.

   - Number of direct beneficiaries and categories benefiting from education and training activities.

   - Number of IUCN Red List assessment published.

   - Number of species, genera or families included in published flora.

   - Number of Key Biodiversity Areas for trees identified.

   - Number of Tree Conservation Action Plan published.

   - Number of scientific papers published (including description of new species)

Monitoring and evaluation at the project level

Monitoring of the projects is undertaken by the Secretariat of the foundation via several means and methods:

(i)   Review and compile data from project reports. These reports are mostly annual with more detailed information requested for the final reports.

(ii)   Field missions to assess if the projects deliver as promised.

(iii)   External evaluations of major initiatives supported by the foundation.

A number of tools have been developed to measure progress on activities and their outputs. Reporting templates include a standard logical framework and beneficiaries are asked to report against agreed indicators.

A complete overview of the monitoring framework can be seen below. Global indicators described above are highlighted in bold and examples of specific indicators at the project level are mentioned in the table.

1. Direct Action on species		2. Threat Reduction			3. Enabling Conditions			4. Exit Strategy
Species Management	Habitat Management	Alternative livelihoods	Awareness raising	Law Enforcement & Prosecution	Organisational development	Education & Training	Research & Monitoring	
Number of globally threatened trees benefiting from conservation action (global)	**Number of hectares of production/mosaïc landscapes with strengthened management of threatened trees diversity (global)**	**Number and categories of direct beneficiaries of alternative livelihoods actions (global)**	**Number and categories of direct beneficiaries of awareness raising actions (global)**	**Number of hectares with strengthened law enforcement activities focused on illegal logging (global)**	**Number of grantees with improved organizational capacity (global)**	**Number and categories of direct beneficiaries benefiting from various type of education and training (global)**	**Number of IUCN Red List assessment published (global)**	Permanent removal of a threat to habitat or species or a perverse incentive (%)
Number of seedlings of threatened trees planted and/or protected (global)	**Number of hectares of protected areas with strengthened management of threatened trees diversity (global)**	Number and categories of people in the project area (project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Awareness programmes; project level)	Reduction in illegally harvested threatened trees (%; project level)	Increase in number of permanent staff (project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Conservation classes; project level)	**Number of species, genera or families included in published Flora (global)**	Building capacity in local stakeholders and communities to continue conservation activities
Number of mature individuals of threatened trees protected in-situ (global)	**Number of hectares of protected areas with dedicated management of threatened tree diversity created or expanded (global)**	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (alternative incomes; project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Door to door engagement; project level)	Reduction in ha of deforestation (project level)	Increase in number of temporary staff (project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Education center; project level)	**Number of scientific papers published, including description of new species (global)**	Involvement of government agencies to continue the project
Number of changes in IUCN Red List status / Green List status (global)	**Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas for trees with improved management (global)**	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (alternative livelihood harvest method; project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Workshops; project level)	Number of patrol staff fully equipped and insured (project level)	Increase in annual budget (project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (support for strategic planning; project level)	**Number of Key Biodiversity Areas for trees identified (global)**	Outcomes influencing long term changes in behaviour and local attitudes
Number of seedlings with appropriate genetic diversity planted and associated survival rate (project level/short-term)	Core area (Km² or ha) impacted by the project	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (cooking stoves or biogas; project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Informers network; project level)	Number of patrols conducted (project level)	Increase in amount of matching funds secured (project level)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Training Protected Area staff; project level)	**Number of Tree Conservation Action Plan published (global)**	Benefits from good conservation results are shared equitably amongst stakeholder groups and genders
Number of individuals reaching the sapling stage (project level/mid-term)	Number of ha protected (project level)		Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Media; project level)	Number of chainsaws confiscated (project level)	Increased visibility (social media, website)	Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Training for poachers & reconversion; project level)		Handing over responsibility to capable organization for continued conservation activities
Number of individuals reaching maturity (project level/long-term)	Number of ha restored (project level)		Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Social media campaigns; project level)	Volume of timber confiscated (m3; project level)		Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Training in sustainable livelihood; project level)		Project interventions are integrated into other long-term initiatives, involving government
Number of mature individuals protected in-situ (project/long-term)	Number of ha cleared from invasives (project level)		Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Exhibitions, festivals or sport events; project level)	Number of land encroachment cases stopped (project level)		Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (writing manuals; project level)		Creation of policy or governance change placing the project under the control of stakeholders or appropriate government authority
Increase in density (# individuals/km²) on project area (project level/short-term)	Reduction in habitat loss or change (project level)			Number of prosecutions (project level)				New funding available including trust fund or similar long-term scheme for ongoing conservation
Reduction in volume cut or weight (project level/short-term)	Reduction in grazing pressure (project level)							