



## Call for proposals – February 2026

### Mediterranean basin

### Guidelines for project submission



## **Eligibility criteria**

Projects must contribute to the main objective of the Foundation: **to preserve threatened tree species, 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 achievable ; (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.

### ○ **Eligibility**

Any organisation with well-established expertise and efficiency in plant conservation can apply. No more than one project can be submitted per organisation.

Where applicable, projects should support the implementation of existing Threatened Tree Species Conservation Strategies and complement strategies from other donors in particular CEPF (See <https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/mediterranean-basin>)

Projects must demonstrate a willingness to collaborate with others, share lessons learned, data and results and to contribute to efficient coordination at the national level.

Projects where conservation NGOs collaborate with and benefit from the expertise of botanists will be favoured.

### ○ **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](http://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 or the need for additional research allowing the assessment of its extinction risk must be provided. We define trees as plant species presenting a single trunk at least 2 meter high.

**Priority will be given to projects targeting multiple CR and EN species.** Projects targeting VU species will be accepted when immediate investments will be necessary to stop a rapid decline.

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/>) and the IUCN/SSC Mediterranean Plant and Global Tree Specialist Groups.

- **Geographic areas**

For this call, the Foundation will only accept projects focusing on threatened tree species occurring in the Mediterranean regions of the following countries:

Gibraltar, Spain, Portugal, Monaco, France, Malta, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Cyprus, Türkiye, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

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.

- **Project types**

Projects must implement **concrete on-the-ground conservation actions**. Projects duration should be three-year long, but in some specific cases, up to five years may be considered.

All projects must adhere to the principles laid out in the 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.

- **Budget**

The Foundation favours conservation projects with reasonable budget in relation to proposed activities. 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. Indirect costs (overheads) must represent a maximum of 10% of the budget.

The budget must be submitted in USD, EUR, CHF or GBP. If the grant is awarded, the instalments will be paid in the budget currency once a year; therefore, the bank account must be able to receive the instalments in the chosen currency.

- **Co-funding**

A minimum of 20% of co-funding is required; 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.

- **Evaluation/Impact**

Projects must include clear milestones to follow project implementation and **quantitative Key Performance Indicators** (KPIs) to assess its 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 must include **quantified targets** for these indicators. The indicators and targets must be listed in section 8 of the proposal as well as in the logical framework. Applicants should also 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.**

Given trees' long generation length, selected beneficiaries will be asked to provide an annual impact report for a period of 10 years after completion of the project and detail their long term monitoring plan. Representatives of the Foundation may travel to project sites in order to evaluate project implementation and impact.

Projects with the most competitive cost/impact ratio and best aligned with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Foundation will be favoured.

- **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. A clear articulation with projects supported by other donors such as CEPF is also requested.

- **Partners**

Applicants 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. They should explain how partnerships will be structured and how the results of the project will be shared with other organisations including government bodies. A link to the relevant IUCN Species Survival Commission Groups (in particular the IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group) is desired (see <https://iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/iucn-ssc-mediterranean-plant-specialist-group>).

- **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 developed jointly by Fauna & Flora and BGCI. Click [here](#) to access them. 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 tree species into the wild, how to develop a monitoring plan for threatened tree species, etc...

## **Important considerations before preparing your proposal**

- **Do you qualify for Franklinia funding?** We welcome applications from any organisation, or group of organisations, that is committed to tree conservation, and we are committed to supporting and encouraging organisations that are based within the range and culture of a threatened tree species. We expect applicants to have an organizational mission that is relevant to tree conservation and to have a strategic plan that encompasses or references tree conservation. We do not rule out applications from commercial entities as long as they demonstrate the ability to deliver the cost-effective and quantifiable conservation of threatened tree species. We favour organisations that are flexible, responsive and action-oriented.
- **What is special about trees?** We encourage proposals from conservation groups that understand the particular conservation needs of their target tree species and the general context. We recognise that tree conservation can only benefit from a wide range of contributing organisations but we also recognise that these groups will need to work in collaboration with local and regional tree expertise but also with people with a practical experience and know how in nature conservation. Trees, like any other group of organisms, possess particular characteristics that will influence their conservation management.
- **Can you focus on the threats to a tree species?** We strongly encourage project proposals to focus on tackling the threats to a particular tree species or group of species. The proposal must be designed to directly tackle the threats facing the target species. Proposals including taxonomic studies, applied research, building of nurseries, public outreach etc., need to justify these investments as relevant to tackling the conservation threats faced by the species. Often, collaboration is needed to tackle general threats and we encourage this, in particular at national level.
- **Can you focus on conserving wild populations?** We encourage applicants to focus their conservation planning on the wild populations and working with threatened trees *in situ*. This will require identifying the direct threats and taking action in response to those threats. We recognise that tree planting may be part of that response and expect the proposal to justify that action and how the project will manage issues such as ensuring genetic diversity and ensuring low mortality in any planted populations.
- **Can you work with the ecological complexity of trees?** We encourage applications to see trees as living components of habitats and ecosystems. Each tree species has a matrix of ecological relationships (fungal symbionts, pollinators or fruit dispersal agents) that will influence conservation management. Similarly, a set of threatened tree species in an ecosystem may face shared threats from timber extraction, charcoal harvesting, over-grazing, invasive pests and diseases.
- **Can you work with the cultural complexity of trees?** We encourage applications to see trees as living components of cultural landscapes. With the exception of a few wilderness areas tree conservation will be delivered in inhabited landscapes. As such tree conservation measures will need take into account the prevailing land uses, land ownership, economic and cultural dynamics of a landscape. All applications must include details on land tenure, access agreements and recognise the rights of traditional and tribal communities in their relevant landscapes.
- **Can you commit to preparing for an intergenerational commitment?** Trees are long lived organisms and their conservation management needs to reflect that a three or five year project has to not only deliver immediate impact but also needs to prepare for successful species recovery over subsequent decades. Early success is integral to long term success.

- **How will you ensure the survival of your trees?** The success of a threatened tree conservation project will be measured by the abundance and viability of wild populations. It is important that you take a medium to long term perspective when designing your proposal. Your work should not cause damage to a wild population through over-harvesting of seed or seedlings. Any plantings must be protected against livestock, drought, fire, or high temperatures. Are there pest and disease threats that are impacting the population? Monitoring is an essential part of any proposal. Each proposal should contain a plan for the continuity of monitoring and management beyond Franklinia funding. We expect you to commit to reporting over a longer period of time than the project duration.

### **Submission of proposals**

- 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 formats or not respecting these guidelines will not be considered. Keep the existing file format for submission (Word, Excel).
- Thank you for being **concise and precise** and **respecting instructions** in order to facilitate the work of the reviewers. Applications with clear and simple project structures, together with clear and achievable targets will be favoured.
- The forms must be downloaded and **filled in entirely**. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.
- Proposals must be submitted in **English or French**.
- Proposals must be submitted **through the Foundation's website** ([www.fondationfranklinia.org](http://www.fondationfranklinia.org)).
- The deadline for project submission is **March 25<sup>th</sup> 2026**.

### **Project review**

Project selection will take place in April and May 2026. A decision will be taken in **June**. Please schedule your start date accordingly.

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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 **21 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 **11 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 seedlings planted for each of the non-threatened tree species propagated
- 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/mosaic 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 brought under ecological restoration
- 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 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 and non-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 (Km <sup>2</sup> 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 & reversion; project level)		Handing over responsibility to capable organization for continued conservation activities
Number of individuals reaching maturity (project level/long-term)	Number of ha brought under ecological restoration (project level)		Number and categories of direct beneficiaries (Social media campaigns; project level)	Volume of timber confiscated (m <sup>3</sup> ; 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/km <sup>2</sup> ) 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)							