



Submit by 2359 GMT on Monday 29 January 2018

Darwin Initiative Application for Grant for Round 24: Stage 2

Before completing this form, please read both the Fair Processing Notice on pages 17 and 18 of this form and the [Guidance](#). Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

Eligibility**1. Name and address of organisation**

(NB: Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 6)

Applicant Organisation Name:	Bethlehem University (via Vice President for Finance)
Address:	9 Rue des Freres
City and Postcode:	Bethlehem, 00001
Country:	Palestine (West Bank and Gaza)
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref:	Title (max 10 words): Biodiversity Conservation and Community Development in Al-Makhrour Valley in Bethlehem, Palestine
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3. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. 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 [GOV.UK](#). Please bear this in mind, and write this summary for a non-technical audience.

(max 80 words)

British and Palestinian collaboration to conserve biodiversity in Al-Makhrour Valley of Bethlehem (Palestine) benefitting the local communities through sustainable use of ecosystem services, including (a) promoting agriculture/green practices, (b) developing ecotourism, and (c) reducing human impact via environmental awareness and education programs while promoting sustainable lifestyles. Project outputs delivered will focus on biodiversity conservation, traditional farming reviving, eco-tourism enhancement, and capacity building. All activities will be supported with project committees' consultation, gender inclusion, media coverage, and evaluation.

4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

Country 1: Palestine (Occupied Palestinian Territories)	Country 2: United Kingdom - UK
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5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 st September 2018	End date: 31 st March 2021			Duration: 2years and 7months
Darwin funding request (Apr – Mar)	2018/19 £ 76127	2019/20 £121254	2020/21 £89962	Total £ 287343

Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost	14%
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6. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed. You may copy and paste this table if necessary.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2	Project Partner 3
Surname	Qumsiyeh	Rabadi	Gray	Ghattas
Forename (s)	Mazin B.	Moussa B.	Alice	Roubina N.
Post held	Professor and Director	Director	Director	Founder and Director
Organisation (if different to above)	PIBS/PMNH, BU (Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability/ Palestine Museum of Natural History, Bethlehem University)	ICP- BU (Institute for Community Partnership Bethlehem University)	Byspokes Sustainable community development CIC	PCC (Pioneer Consultancy Center for Sustainable Development)

7. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)? NO

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title

8a. If you answered 'No' to Question 7 please complete Question 8a, b and c.

If you answered 'Yes', please go to Question 9 (and delete the boxes for Q8a, 8b and 8c)

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	1973
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO No Government No University Yes Other (explain)
How is your organisation currently funded?	(Max 100 words) Bethlehem University is a public university established in 1973 whose funding is of mixed sources: tuition, public monies, private donations, and grants and contracts. The two key entities at Bethlehem University that are involved in this project are: The Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability and its Museum of Natural History (PIBS/PMNH palestinemnature.org) and the Institute of Community Service (ICP, https://www.bethlehem.edu/3-ic/ic-icp/about-

	icp). Both institutions and the mother University have stable funding from the sources mentioned above. Audited financial statements attached.
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?	Yes

8b. Do not complete if you answered 'Yes' to Question 7.

Provide detail of 3 contracts/awards held by your organisation 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 Darwin application.

1. Title	Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability and Palestine Museum of Natural History
Value	USD \$400,000 = 282,288 GBP
Duration	August 2014 – June 2018
Role of organisation in project	Management and Operation
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	The aim was to research, educate about, and conserve our natural world, culture and heritage and use knowledge to promote responsible human interactions with our environment by creation and operation of PIBS/PMNH. The goals/objectives included: 1) Explore and research the diversity of the fauna, flora, and human ethnography via collections and research; 2) Environmental protection and responsible interaction between people and the environment. 3) Use the knowledge gained and the books and databases and collections to promote science education; 4) Catalogue and build a physical and an electronic data base of all animal and plant species existing; 5) develop respect a) for ourselves (self-empowerment), b) for our fellow human beings (regardless of background), and c) for all living creatures and our shared earth. We achieved more than expected outcomes and in a shorter period of time including: opening a museum and garden, hosting thousands of students, publishing over 24 scientific research articles and over 20 other articles, developing an environmental impact assessment unit, and much more. For a short video highlighting these accomplishments, see https://youtu.be/BPhFLOsEIMO and see also https://www.palestinenature.org/accomplishments-and-call-for-support/ and referenced publication on website).
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	

2. Title	Education for Environmental Awareness and Conservation
Value	US \$77,000 =54,340 GBP
Duration	Sept. 2016 – January 2018
Role of organisation in project	Management of all aspects including monitoring and evaluation

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>The main purpose was to increase awareness of sustainable environmental and agricultural practices in marginalized communities in Bethlehem and Salfit areas. In the Salfit part (funded by UNDP/GEF/SGP) it was also to ensure valuing ecosystem services and study and protection of the area of Wadi Zarqa Al-Ulwi which is a biodiversity- rich area. Some of the objectives achieved included a) Creating a model recycling centre for solid waste like plastics and cardboard; b) Creating a model composting centre which now picks compost from homes and even daily from the central vegetable market, creating usable organic fertilizer while reducing solid waste; c) Training school students via workshops on the value of biodiversity and in renewable energy focusing on energy use for permaculture (like aquaponics); d) Working with university students to develop educational modules and to publish applied research of direct relevance to the sustainability and biodiversity. For a short video that describes the outcome of the US funded portion of this, please see https://youtu.be/AZOoOzXU7tQ</p> <p>As a side-line result of the above, we have a garden educational center which we use as a “community participatory center,” involved not only in active practical learning but also in sustainable production of organic products for the community. The botanical garden also acts as a meditative peace garden in the middle of political turmoil. Community members of all ages can use the garden as an oasis within the difficult circumstances they face. We are a 10 minute walk from two refugee camps in Bethlehem (Azza and Aida), and this is an added value to the residents of the camps, encouraging them to start engaging with us via gardening, and enjoying nature while also learning the importance of composting, recycling, and reducing our carbon footprint.</p>
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3. Title	The Improved Access to Markets for Female and Male Small Scale Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Producers in the West Bank
Value	Total CHF 543,040= 410,527 GBP
Duration	May 2015-June 2017
Role of organisation in project	Business and governance support services for cooperatives, small scale producers, and marginalized women and youth groups, private sector value chain actors and relevant farmers representative bodies

<p>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.</p>	<p>To contribute to sustainable farming and/or an increase in income of small- scale women and men fresh fruit and vegetable producers in the West Bank.</p> <p>Outcome 1: Improve Raw and Processed Fresh Produce Supply and more productive small-farm FFV farming system, with more visible influencing power of women producers.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Demand more trustful, inclusive and fair market channels for small-farm FFV produce.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enable Environment Inclusive and enabling policies and practices stimulating investment and facilitating sub-sector growth, pro-actively led by the Palestinian Government, and supported by the private sector and international community.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Prepare for the phase out from the olive value chain, plan for and the start of the implementation of a successful phase out of the olive value chain, build upon past achievements and sustainability elements.</p>

8c. Do not complete if you answered 'Yes' to Question 7.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department)

<p>Aims (50 words)</p> <p>The Palestine Museum of Natural History (PMNH) and the Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS) of Bethlehem University work to research, educate about, and conserve our natural world, culture and heritage and use the knowledge gained to promote responsible human interactions with our environment</p>
<p>Activities (50 words)</p> <p>1) Exploring and researching natural history & biodiversity and using the knowledge gained towards sustainable living. 2) Fostering responsible interaction between people and the environment. 3) Via facilities and programs, developing respect a) for ourselves, b) for our fellow human beings, and c) for the larger ecosystem.</p>
<p>Achievements (50 words)</p> <p>1) Educational exhibits visited by thousands (e.g. https://www.palestinenature.org/education) 2) Published over 25 research papers (e.g. https://www.palestinenature.org/research) 3) Developed management plans and worked with local communities to protect key areas 4) Consulted to governments, NGOs, and academia on issues of education, environmental health and research, among others.</p>

9. Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Institution) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

<p>Lead institution and website:</p> <p>PIBS/PMNH, BU ((Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability/ Palestine Museum of Natural History), (Bethlehem University)) http://palestinenature.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>The lead institution (PMNH/PIBS at BU) has the management and other skills needed to ensure this project achieves all its stated goals and objectives in a timely manner as summarized above. Its role in this project will be as a lead organization responsible for timely implementation of the objectives and sub-objectives, and activities following the indicated timeline not only by own staff and volunteers but also by the partners (ICP, Byspokes and PCC). Our capacity to lead this project is validated by infrastructure, people and expertise. In terms of infrastructure, PIBS/PMNH has over 500 square meters of office, laboratory, and collections space. We also have a botanical and agricultural research and implementation garden of about four acres with greenhouses, a rain harvesting system, pool, compost, and other facilities (for helping in both in situ and ex situ conservation). We have a staff of director, administrator, agricultural specialist, zoologist, and others on site who have helped with similar projects and will work on this project. The university also has a finance/accounting department with a grant controller staff (2) who will administer the grant.</p> <p>For short videos of other activities illustrating ability lead this, please see https://youtu.be/BPhFLOsEIM0 and https://youtu.be/AZOoOzXU7tQ and http://palestinenature.org</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available: ICP (Institute for Community Partnership) – BU https://www.bethlehem.edu/icp</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>ICP aims at “human capital development” through promoting solid technical, entrepreneurial, and managerial education, and providing access to such education to as many individuals and organizations as possible, while always recognizing and emphasizing the need to develop a common strategic vision and definition for development in Palestine. It provides numerous opportunities for community participation; innovative business ideas and encouraging more integrated service delivery across organizational boundaries. ICP is going to support the project by offering its expertise in terms of enhancing agro-marketing channels by organizing festivals and building the farmers’ and women / agriculture cooperatives’ capacities in the field of agro-marketing, by the creation of small business enterprises, and by teaching them methods of governance and of sustaining their businesses. They will follow up the initiation of women selling points as SMEs.</p> <p>ICP has extensive experience in capacity building programs that enhance living conditions and improve the economy. It has experience in enhancing marketing management in the project related fields.</p>	
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>		<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available: Byspokes Sustainable Community Development– UK http://www.byspokes.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Byspokes is passionate about sustainable development and resource management. It is registered as a Community Interest Company in the United Kingdom in 2013. They are dedicated to revitalising the environment; sustainably enhancing food and water justice for all, and reconnecting communities with nature. Byspokes main expertise is in providing training courses and exchanging knowledge in the field of organic and permaculture farming and aquaponic techniques. Hence, Byspokes will support the project by participating in offering training sessions in the field of best practices in traditional farming, mainly organic, biological control and permaculture farming. Hence a specialist from Byspokes will visit Palestine twice to offer these trainings to the Palestinian farmers.</p>	
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>		<p>Yes</p>

Partner Name and website where available: PCC (Pioneer Consultancy Center for Sustainable Development)	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) PCC aims at providing expertise/services in the fields that would benefit both nature and people in a sustainable manner. It supports efforts that secure effective nature conservation, clean environment and green solutions, in addition to generate economic/educational benefits and empowerment to local vulnerable communities focusing on females; mainly through the support of a strong team with diverse backgrounds and high qualifications. PCC is going to support the project with its expertise in terms of biodiversity (mainly flora) inventory, assessment and monitoring as it will participate in the implementation of the project activities related to identifying conservation targets, flora surveys, setting flora/ecosystem monitoring indicators, conservation framework and management plan for priority habitats. It will also participate in the project's sustainable agriculture component, starting by selecting farmers and ending with ensuring successful agro-production, throughout providing support via capacity- building trainings and extension field visits. PCC is totally capable of conducting its role in the project, as it will dedicate a selected qualified team in the field of biodiversity (Plant genetic Resources) and agriculture production and extension (see attached CVs).
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?	Yes

10. Key Project personnel

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached*?
Mazin B. Qumsiyeh	Project Leader	PMNH/PIBS	20% (31 months)	Yes
To be determined	Project manager	PMNH/PIBS	100% (31 months)	No (Job description attached)
Ibrahim AlBandak	Economics and marketing specialist	ICP	50% (13 months)	Yes
Alice Gray	Permaculture UK expert	Byspokes	40% (2 months)	Yes
Roubina N. Ghattas	Biodiversity Conservation local expert	PCC	40% (30 months)	Yes
Mohammed A. Abu-Amrieh	Sustainable Agriculture local expert	PCC	80% (30 months)	Yes
Elias Handal	Project assistant	PIBS- BU	50% (not covered by Darwin Fund but co-financed by PIBS- BU)	Yes
Mohammad Najajreh	Project assistant	PIBS-BU	50% (not covered by Darwin Fund but co-financed by PIBS-BU)	Yes

***If you cannot provide a CV, please explain why not.**

11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

(Max 300 words)

The project area, Al-Makhrour Valley, is the last remaining biodiversity-rich area in the Bethlehem district. A 2.6 Km² of natural areas interspersed with agriculture and rich flora and fauna¹; also with an equivalent buffer zone of an area more than 5 km². It is also one of 13 IBAs in Palestine² rich in cultural heritage, including old Roman tombs, wells along with old Palestinian watchtowers and a part which is considered a WHS by UNESCO³ (attached map). However, no management plans or conservation programmes have been implemented by any organization in the area⁴. As the valley is located in Area C⁵, it suffers from diverse pressures: (1) habitat loss and land fragmentation; causing biodiversity loss, (2) challenging livelihood conditions as a result of the lack of economic motivations, no subsidies for farming practices, and inadequate markets for extra production and others.

Innovative actions with outside support are needed. Hence the project proposes to protect the ecosystems from biodiversity loss through surveying and assessing its components upon which monitoring datasets, conservation framework and management plan for habitats are forwarded to decision makers and stakeholders, while engaging and supporting the communities (Al-Walaja, Battir, Beit Jala, and Al-Khader) through enhancing the economic base for these impoverished communities through sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism combined with relevant awareness programs.

The following studies emphasize the importance of this proposed project and identify the problems:

- 1) Desktop study and 70 individual interviews covering private and public sectors using questions from Sutherland *et al.*⁶ to SWOT analysis to sustainable environment in the Palestinian areas⁷.
- 2) In the target area, PIBS-BU conducted two studies that suggested decline in biodiversity over the past few decades⁸
- 3) UNESCO nomination report for Battir Village⁹ and IBA report for Middle East Region nominating Al-Makhrour valley as IBA site in Palestine¹⁰.

¹ Amr, Z.S., E.N. Handal, F. Bibi, MH Najajreh, and M.B. Qumsiyeh. 2016. Change of diet of the Eurasian Eagle Owl, *Bubo bubo*, suggest decline in biodiversity in Wadi Al-Makhrour, Bethlehem Governorate, Palestinian Territories. Slovak Raptor Journal.10:75-79

² <http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/palestinian-authority-territories> and <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?cty=240&fam=0&gen=0>

³ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492>

⁴ ibid

⁵ <https://www.ochaopt.org/location/area-c>

⁶ Sutherland et al, 2009, *Conservation Biology*, 23, 557-567

⁷ Qumsiyeh and Amr, 2016, Environmental Conservation and Protected Areas in Palestine: Challenges and Opportunities. Report done to The Hanns Seidel Foundation, Bethlehem, xii+159 pp, summarized at http://www.mahmiyat.ps/uploads/171013%20HSF_Bethlehem_Printed%20Version_NC.pdf and Anabtawi 2016, Is Development Under Occupation Sustainable? Agriculture as A Model –Permaculture. MICAD, Bethlehem University.

⁸ Amr, Z.S., E.N. Handal, F. Bibi, MH Najajreh, and M.B. Qumsiyeh. 2016. Change of diet of the Eurasian Eagle Owl, *Bubo bubo*, suggest decline in biodiversity in Wadi Al-Makhrour, Bethlehem Governorate, Palestinian Territories. Slovak Raptor Journal.10:75-79; Qumsiyeh, Mazin, Sibylle Zavala, and Zuhair Amr.2014. Decline in Vertebrate biodiversity in Bethlehem, Palestine. Jordan Journal of Biological Sciences 7(2):101-107.

⁹ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492>

12a. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Your project must support the objectives 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 and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	Yes
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	No

12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement

(Max 500 words)

The proposed project will address the three key principles of CBD: (1) conservation of biological diversity, (2) sustainable use of nature, and (3) fair and equitable sharing of the benefits; by developing community empowerment in areas near ecologically sensitive areas (identified through our scoping study). In particular, the project will help in Palestinian compliance with several articles of CBD including:

- (1) Article 8 on in situ conservation (communities protecting biodiversity with buy-in), reflected when the project will identify conservation targets, develop conservation frameworks and management plans; highlighting the special measures needed to be taken to conserve rich and sensitive habitats at Al-Makhrour valley. The project will promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to Al-Makhrour valley and restore selected degraded habitats along the valley (based on GIS/RS analysis for degraded areas and field verifications) while maintaining knowledge and practices of local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- (2) Article 10 on sustainability (sustainable communities of humans considering social inclusion, fauna, and flora), reflected mainly when the project will integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at Al-Makhrour valley and surroundings into local and national decision-making, improve the knowledge of local communities regarding reducing adverse impacts on biodiversity and the best practices for sustaining natural resources of the area, and the formulation of local committees for follow up and supervision of project interventions.
- (3) Article 12 on research and training (developing our capacity to conduct research in areas of biodiversity and environmental impact), reflected as the project will encourage research in a developing country (Palestinian Territory) in the field of biodiversity conservation and eco-service sustainability. It will strengthen the capacity of local communities and related organizations to revive traditional farming and safeguard their cultural/natural landscapes.
- (4) Article 14 on impact assessment studies (by empowering a specialized unit for this), the project will set national response plans for conserving the threatened habitats at Al-Makhrour valley, while encouraging local, national and international cooperation to supplement such efforts through participatory approach with locals, and experience exchange with the UK partner.
- (5) Article 16 on access and transfer of knowledge (in our case of traditional farming as a

¹⁰<http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/palestinian-authority-territories> and <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?cty=240&fam=0&gen=0>

tool of conservation in sensitive areas), among others. The project will consider adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights for all affiliated project parties, and it will also ensure the dissemination of information generated by the project for the public through media campaign and others.

All the above and others will be accomplished through the successful implementation of the project. This will support Palestine as a party to fulfil its obligation to the CBD and its protocols.

In particular emphasis on the themes of agricultural sustainability, ecosystem services (including ecotourism), forest biodiversity, and inland waters biodiversity. The project contribution to CBD objectives will be coordinated with the CBD Focal Point in the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) Mr. Mohammed Mahassneh, who has been consulted during the design of the project.

12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES focal point in the host country?

Yes **No** **if yes, please give details:** Mr. Mohammed I.M. Mahassneh (Environment Quality Authority) for CBD and ABS.

12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

(Max 250 words)

Of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, the project will help in (1) reducing poverty reflecting on SDGs 1, 2 by strengthening local communities' food security through sustainable agriculture; mainly increasing agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, secure agro-resources, and implement resilient agricultural practices, (2) sustainable community development reflecting on SDGs 8,11, by strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard Palestine's cultural and natural heritage, reducing the adverse environmental impact of human population, promote sustainable tourism/agriculture that creates jobs (for women and youth) and promotes local culture and products (3) responsible consumption and production; reflecting on SDG 12 by introducing organic production concepts, reducing household's/community's waste through composting and adopting the traditional farming concepts, (4) secure gender equality reflecting on SDG 10 by integrating women in the project activities where gender inclusion and women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities will be taken into consideration at all levels throughout project implementation and giving women equal rights to economic resources; mainly through the business enterprises initiative that will take place during the project, (5) improved quality of life reflecting on SDG 13, 15 by introducing nature protection concepts, promoting the implementation of sustainable management of Al-Makhrour Valley, restoring degraded forest and rich biodiversity areas, enhancing adaptation to climate change, and integrating Al-Makhrour ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning.

13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

Activities	Outcomes	Partners' Roles
Conduct biodiversity inventory, assessment and monitoring at Al-Makhrour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation targets, habitats of value • Biodiversity inventory and monitoring datasets • Necessary feeds to management plan 	PIBS-BU & PCC

Set biodiversity management plans for the valley in cooperation with villagers and local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT analysis and consultation with stakeholders • conservation frameworks and biodiversity management plan • restoration schemes and works • enhance adaptation to climate change 	PIBS-BU & PCC	
Enhance ecotourism development at targeted sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors path at the valley developed • Women market selling points established • Partnership between sustainable tourism operators and local communities built 	PIBS-BU & tourism operators	
Support sustainable traditional farming at targeted sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional farming and food security enhanced • Marketing channels for local products opened • Local products festivals conducted 	PIBS-BU & Byspokes & PCC & ICP	
Capacity building and training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant educational material, publications, TV sessions, website, social media etc. • Best practices in conservation, farming, eco-tourism and marketing introduced 	PIBS-BU & ICP & Byspokes & PCC	
Evaluation, monitoring and follow-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress and final reports. • Project Baseline and end line evaluation sheets. 	PIBS-BU	

Project structure– see details in section 22:

I. Assessing and Conserving Biodiversity of Al-Makhrour area

1. Analyse relevant literature through desk study and collection of data.
2. Hold town meetings in targeted localities for SWOT analysis.
3. Conduct biodiversity inventory for Al-Makhrour valley; including studying habitats, flora/fauna/birds, values of biodiversity, threats using scientific methods such as RSCN¹¹ and Braun and Blanquet methodology (species richness, distribution and others)^{12&13}.
4. Establish ecology, biodiversity databases including monitoring indicators
5. Prepare biodiversity management plan for the valley with conservation frameworks and restoration schemes for selected habitats using CMP model¹⁴, IUCN guidelines¹⁵ and GIS/RS analysis
6. Restore key habitats, upon consultation (mostly cultivation of native tree species).

II. Provide economic benefits to the local communities in proximity to Al-Makhrour valley

1. Establish committees from key stakeholders to facilitate and follow up this intervention.
2. Revive the traditional farming through providing selected farmers with necessary friendly agriculture inputs and enhance their products' marketing through exchange visits, local festivals, and partnerships with cooperatives (gender inclusion).
3. Promote ecotourism through (1) developing the valley's path (2) Support women to establish marketing points, (3) Build partnership between tourism operators and locals.

III. Capacity building and awareness program; supported with gender inclusion

1. Conduct three workshops and three training sessions with the aim to build capacities and raise awareness of local beneficiaries such as active farmers, local tourism initiatives, cooperatives in the project fields. Specialised experts will lead those different workshops with support of all necessary educational materials and tools. Theoretical and practical sessions will be conducted; supported with field exchange visits and others.
2. Advocacy campaign and Media coverage to support all project activities
3. Hold meetings in schools to raise awareness, initiate environmental clubs

14. Change Expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change 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). Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of

¹¹ RSCN. 2005. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature: Field Research Manual.

¹² <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01866672>

¹³ <file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/9783319154633-c2.pdf>

¹⁴ CMP, 2013. Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation of the Conservation Measures Partnership

¹⁵ IUCN, 2012, Ecological Restoration of Protected Areas: Principles, Guidelines and Practices.

communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

(Max 500 words)

The project expects advancement in knowledge in a biologically important area of Bethlehem with marginalized/vulnerable human communities in the area, in addition to developing ways to protect biodiversity while supporting the local population economy via enhanced traditional farming and ecotourism. In the short term, the project will draft a biodiversity management plan to the whole valley and a conservation framework for specific habitats based on assessments and field studies which have not been done comprehensively before with the vision of sustaining the ecosystem services of the valley. This is accomplished while also considering outreach to the decisions makers and stakeholders to create a national impact on biodiversity conservation level that can be replicated. The habitats that need immediate restoration will be restored by either non-intervention restoration policy or through cultivation of native species (depending on cause of damage), applied with the full participation of national and local authorities. Immediate interventions, concerning hunting, logging and trash dumping, will take place with the support of local/national authorities in cooperation with local authorities (to secure 10% annual reduction of damage).

The project will generate benefits to women and youth that work in the field of eco-tourism and agro businesses in the valley, where (1) as at least 12 women will benefit directly from the initiation of small business enterprises, specifically the initiation of selling points in selected villages, (2) at least 32 households of alternative tourism operators (50% females), tour guides, souvenir shops and others will benefit directly while number of tours in the valley increase by 30%, and (3) 80 farmers (50% females) will benefit directly from agriculture intervention and market festivals. Up to 324 persons (50% females) will benefit from relevant training courses/workshops that will build their capacities in the field of plant production, best farming practices, agro-marketing, food processing, eco-tourism activities, valuation and best practices for conservation of natural heritage and biodiversity of the valley, and environmental awareness.

In the long term, the project plans to develop and implement modules in ecotourism and sustainable agriculture will result in both improved food security, economy and in biodiversity conservation. These outcomes will support local people in elevating themselves out of poverty by having better economic opportunities, promoting local tourism, encouraging buy-in for environmental protection, networking among producers and consumers at local cooperatives/associations level, producing green agriculture fresh/processed even with limited natural resources, while protecting the biodiversity. Four rural communities, at least 344 individuals (of which 185 women, and 119 young) targeted are sensitized to the protection of the biodiversity/landscapes and appreciation of organic/sustainable agriculture, are able to run small business enterprises and are able to apply and transfer their knowledge to their communities through capacity building and awareness campaigns.

School students and community members will:

- a) Use modules for local initiatives including in ecotourism, composting organic material, and gardening.
- b) Get empowered/educated to conserve the local biodiversity
- c) Develop skills/resources needed to enhance responsible ecotourism and protect of natural/cultural heritage around the valley.
- d) Develop the spirit of volunteerism and community responsibility.

15. Gender

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

(Max 300 words)

Women make up almost 50% of Palestinian population (1.03 men/woman)¹⁶. It is Palestinian women, who comprise large numbers of students enrolled, e.g. in tertiary education (54.4%)¹⁷, become a supportive source of income for families. However, women still face more difficulties than men in finding employment and are exposed to a significant gender-based pay gap and unequal inheritance and ownership. Women employment trends in Palestine indicate systematic gender disparities in the labor market¹⁸. The gap in the participation rate between males and females was huge; it reached 72.5% for males compared with 19.1% for females in the labor force, while the unemployment rate for males was 22.3% compared with 39.7% for females¹⁹. Women do not have equal access to all sectors compared to men, this inequality concentrated mainly in the agriculture and services sectors²⁰.

The project aim is to improve women's access to decent work in an attempt to promote social justice and economic growth by advancing gender equality while creating jobs of higher quality at the grassroots and community levels. The project will take care to involve women in all the project activities where around 50% of the beneficiaries shall be females or female-headed households. The project evaluation/reporting will disaggregated data by gender.

The project will provide small business enterprises owned by females (12), more jobs at cooperative level, and eco-tourism levels and better production of food (at least 40 female headed households). More than 162 women will be trained in diverse fields. They (up to 30) will have the opportunity to sell their own products in well-organized festivals, and they will be introduced to different market channels. The project will empower targeted women to have positive influence and decision making. There is no reason that would prevent females from accessing the opportunities created.

16. Exit strategy

State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

(Max 200 words)

The project was designed to reach a sustainable end point by various methods; the formulation of committees of relevant key stakeholders to facilitate and sustain the project activities during and after the project ends, securing the support/willingness of authorities and other stakeholders to follow up the achievements of the project and adopt the project recommendations (see letters of support), and through providing advanced relevant training/capacity building to all project beneficiaries to run sustainably the inputs of the project.

The six committees are: (1) for sustainable agriculture program (1/village) (2) for eco-tourism program (1 for the valley) (3) for restoration works (1 for the Valley). They are formulated of relevant Government bodies, local organizations, and village councils/municipalities. An agreement will be signed with the farmers / tourism operators emphasizing the sustainability of the relevant activities at the valley after the project ends. The conservation management plans will be adopted by EQA to follow up their implementation at the valley (see EQA support letter). The livelihood and eco-tourism activities are welcomed and highly-valuated by MoTA (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities) and the selected local village councils/municipalities and communities based on consultation/planning took place with them (see support letters and cover letter).

¹⁶ Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics (2012). Gender Statistics: Population and Household.2010.

¹⁷ ibid

¹⁸ as noted in the government's labor-sector strategy for 2014–2016

¹⁹ Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics (PCBS) (2015). Labor Force Report.

²⁰ Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics (PCBS) (2012). Agricultural Census – 2010.

17a. Harmonisation

Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Please give details

(Max 200 words)

This project is new in the context of integrating ecosystem/biodiversity conservation and socio-economic management at the targeted site. The project is going to conduct comprehensive biodiversity surveys, set management plans, and develop restoration schemes for the first time at Al-Makhrour Valley as a whole. Traditional farming and eco-tourism activities are already running at the valley especially at Battir village and the touristic path of Al-Makhrour valley (at least 500 tourists per week)²¹. However, both needs further enhancement; noting that traditional farming is less practiced as the young generation prefers the engagement with other sectors. They find no incentive in supporting their families in farming. However, the project will come with agricultural assets that will be later owned by them and would help them sustain their home garden production and secure food self-sufficiency at home. The tourism sector is in general weak since it is not organized by a certain body but is comprised of independent hikers/visitors. A plan for developing tourism at the site is set in a participatory approach with MoTA, and local stakeholders. PIBS-BU and PCC are currently implementing related projects; setting management plans and biodiversity conservation in two Protected Areas (Wadi Janata and Wadi Al Zarqa).

17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? Yes

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

There are some known relevant projects/development efforts that have been done or are still on-going :

- (1) A Few Palestinian families turned their old houses that are located at Al-Makhrour visitors' path into restaurants and picnic areas for visitors on the path that connects Beit Jala with Battir villages along Al-Makhrour was opened. ²². Reflecting on this: the proposed project activities for developing the visitors' path and build tourism partnerships will build on those efforts by encouraging eco-tourist activities at the site but only those that ensure sustainably protecting the environment. It will also encourage the locals to remain on their land.
- (2) Several institutions dealing with social matters were developed in the targeted villages during the last 20 years, such as sport and women clubs, woman and child centres and committees, health work committees, agricultural cooperatives and committee, etc. Reflecting on this: the proposed project is willing to engage some of the key relevant mentioned institutions on the committees that the project is going to formulate or to benefit from the training/workshops campaign.
- (3) Battir Landscape Eco-Museum project was initiated in the year 2011 by UNESCO as well as by Italian local authorities through the Palestinian Municipalities Support Programme (PMSP) in cooperation with local organizations at Battir village, which aims to contribute to the safeguarding and valorisation of Palestinian natural and cultural landscapes in Battir.²³ Upon consultation with Battir Village council, it was mentioned that the project has finished and hence they welcome new efforts that build on previous success. Reflecting on this: the proposed project will focus on sustaining farming activities, enhancing tourism activities and increase awareness of locals at Battir village which will partly build on the eco-museum project which in its turn focused on enhancing tourism at the site through rehabilitating the

²¹ According to feedback from MoTA

²² <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/11/west-bank-israel-settlements-park-palestinian-land.html#ixzz53D4yBim1>

²³ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/ramallah/culture/institutional-development/cultural-and-eco-tourism/battir-landscape-eco-museum/>

visitors path at Al-Makhrour valley and developing a museum showing the history of the village.

- (4) Battir with its rural landscape was recognized by UNESCO with the Melina Mercouri International Prize in the year 2011.²⁴
- (5) Battir 2020 is another local initiative looking for interested bodies to join the initiative in supporting tourism activities at the village. Reflecting on this: they will be part of the proposed project committee formulated for eco-tourism program (support the committee with the parts related to Battir village), and will be part of the eco-tourism- built partnerships and will benefit from the relevant trainings.
- (6) Battir was also recognized as a World Heritage Site in the year 2014. However, as mentioned by UNESCO state of conservation report 2017 that Battir and its landscapes was inscribed in the list of WHS in Danger, since it is affected by a number of threats including: (1) changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system, (2) identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community, (3) invasive/alien terrestrial species and (4) potential construction of a separation fence (wall)²⁵. Any efforts that would reduce these threats are highly welcomed by UNESCO. Reflecting on this: the proposed project will contribute in stabilizing the traditional ways of life and the social cohesion through the sustainable traditional farming program. The project's comprehensive surveys will identify the invasive species, and hence recommend a plan to limit their spread.
- (7) Most of the implemented projects in AL Khader town, Beit Jala City and Al Walaja village are targeting the infrastructure and services sectors at the localities. However, the local communities have recognised that the agriculture sector is their priority need. This ²⁶ project will provide means to overcome this need.

Communication with UNESCO will be comprehensive when initiating the agriculture program and eco-tourism program in Battir village to secure the full understanding of our project and its interventions at Battir and the potential harmonization with other initiatives UNESCO might have in mind for the site.

The project is designed to get all necessary feedback from key stakeholders (Town hall meetings, etc.) at the beginning of the project implementation to optimize the harmonization with other efforts at the targeted site, necessary when considering the varied aspects of the project, including selection of beneficiaries, targeted farmers' lands, local operating organization at the different villages; especially in case of exiting similar projects that we did not know about.

18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the [Guidance](#).

(Max 300 words)

The project will satisfy both the Palestinian and the UK legal and ethical obligations. The project was designed to be in line with the aims of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPP)²⁷; emphasizing access and benefit sharing of local communities, maintaining the traditional knowledge of Palestinian plant utilization and eco-system services, and addressing the legal frameworks regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The project aims at engaging the local communities in all the project interventions, and hence ensure their needs and welfares are properly addressed. It will respect the privacy and rights of the locals when implementing the project activities e.g. the privacy of their personal information during the surveys, the rights of ownership when signing agreement, their rights when disseminating

²⁴ http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/armenian_and_palestinian_sites_share_2011_cultural_landscape_prize/

²⁵ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/3541>

²⁶ http://vprofile.arij.org/bethlehem/pdfs/VP/Al%20Khader_tp_en.pdf and http://vprofile.arij.org/bethlehem/pdfs/VP/Al%20Walaja_vp_en.pdf

²⁷ <http://www.environment.pna.ps/ar/files/National%20Biodiversity%20Strategy%20And%20Action%20Plan%20For%20Palestine.pdf>

information, etc.; attention will be given to women, girls and youth. The project recognizes the importance of traditional knowledge utilization as it aims at strengthening local capacity for maintaining and benefiting from traditional farming and support traditional systems of resource management. The project leader and its partner institutions are all well-known institutions in Palestine and the UK with honourable history and reputation. They work on increasing the number of local highly qualified experts. The project team will be insured for health and work safety during the working hours. The team partners will be oriented to review and follow the ethics policy of their institutes. They will be asked to consider the use of ethics and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for research and traditional knowledge systems. PIC will be used throughout the project, and its requirements will be the basis for community engagement. They will be trained in this context after preparing a brief of guidelines that will be used by the project team, especially when dealing with the traditional knowledge holders.

19. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

(Max 300 words)

The project will work on influencing local and national policies regarding biodiversity management and conservation through developing the biodiversity conservation frameworks and management plans for Al-Makhrour valley, specifying habitats of local/global conservation value and setting recommendation for potential development for the site including ecotourism program. The project outputs will be planned, implemented and later shared with local and national Palestinian authorities, mainly EQA, MoTA, MoA (Ministry of Agriculture), and village councils and municipalities of targeted villages. EQA supports the project and is willing to adopt its recommendations (see support letter).

The project will also work on raising community/stakeholders awareness to support better management and valuation of biodiversity. The comprehensive biodiversity studies including surveys' findings, conservation targets, key threats, and management strategies/action plans will all be presented as a descriptive and educational type of information to the relevant stakeholders during specialized workshops. The community awareness regarding valuation of ecosystem services and the safeguarding/valorising of their natural/cultural landscapes will be raised during a specialized training session. The specialized workshops will ensure the information be presented in a friendly manner and easy to comprehend by locals. It will also introduce guidelines and orientations on how to use the available resources in their vicinity in a sustainable manner.

The project will secure a dissemination plan for the project findings through diverse media tools such as newspaper announcement, article, brochure, websites, and social media. The audience are diverse including the researchers, academics, GOVs, NGOs, universities, international organizations, funding agencies, local councils and municipalities, community members, cooperatives/associations, tourism operators, students and others. Social inclusion, mainly women and youth involvement, will be taken into consideration.

20. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

(Max 300 words)

The project will secure capacity building programs to support the successful implementation and sustainability of the project interventions. Three capacity building workshops, four training sessions, two cross village demonstration and knowledge exchange visits and ten school meetings will be conducted aiming at enhancing the knowledge, skills and practice regarding the project activities.

The capacity building workshops and trainings are:

- (1) Workshop targeting key stakeholders to understand the necessary measure and strategic objectives to ensure a sustainable management of the valley and its biodiversity components according to the international criteria and guidelines.
- (2) Workshop targeting the local farmers and women cooperatives with the aim to build their capacities in fields related to marketing networks, initiation of business enterprises, and methods of governance and of sustainability.
- (3) Workshop for alternative tourism operators and representatives of the local communities to introduce best methods for successful eco-tourism plan and business enterprises, to building partnership for sustainable running of eco-tourism at the valley.
- (4) Training course to introduce best sustainable farming practices, including home gardening, using and preparing organic compost, maintaining irrigation systems and optimizing the use of water resources, etc.; aiming at sustaining their practice and maintaining the project inputs.
- (5) Training course regarding food processing will be offered to local women (practical and theoretical) with the aim to find ways to benefit from excess produce or products not marketed effectively.
- (6) Training course regarding best practices in conserving biodiversity and maintaining the eco-system services of the Valley and the forested area around.
- (7) Training course for women entrepreneurs who will run the market selling points initiated by the project
- (8) Raising awareness of school students in environmental issues including the protection of nature and its resources, concepts of composting and recycling, concepts of eco-tourism and others through introducing modular and through initiation of environmental clubs.

21. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific funds you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

(Max 250 words)

An open access to information will be applied to all forms of project published research outputs, including scientific articles, brochures, and awareness campaign presentations. All will be self-archived after the project ends in PIBS-BU institutional repository. All project publications will be freely accessed through the project website that will be initiated as a sub-webpage under the PIBS-BU website (<http://www.palestinenature.org>), specialized in presenting the project activities, outcomes, announcements, field visit reports, publications, photos and others. The website will be a free accessed web-link and it will be designed to be interlinked with other related webpages or engines that present the project scientific publications. The project scientific publications will be published in an open access journal. Pure open access journals do not charge subscription fees, but some may charge an article processing fee (PIBS-BU is willing to pay this). So we are not going to seek funds from Darwin to fund this.

Series of advocacy tools will be used for information dissemination, including:

- (1) Up to 15 newspaper announcements and articles will be published along the project development such as the commencement and ending of each project intervention, finalizing of project trainings/workshops, etc.
- (2) At least 106 social media announcements,
- (3) 4 TV sessions, each session will be specialized in certain field such as biodiversity conservation, traditional farming, and eco-tourism management to discuss the status and needs of each field at the country and Al-Makhrour level
- (4) a website specialized to present the project achievements and free dissemination of information.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Measuring Impact

22. Logical Framework

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome if funded. 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.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: The semi-natural ecosystems of the southern areas of the West Bank are sustainably maintained with resultant enhancement of Biodiversity conservation, traditional agriculture practices, and socioeconomic development of local people.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words)</p> <p>By 2021, the Palestinian communities' accessed benefits through valuation/conservation of their ecosystems, reviving traditional farming, and enhancing ecotourism activities at Al-Makhrour valley where at least 344 households will directly benefit</p>	<p>0.1 Baseline study of biodiversity covering the area of 2.6 km² core area (5 km² with buffer zones) then re-evaluation at end of three years shows preservation or increase of biodiversity (versus the decline that has been going on in the past few years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (year 2019) and end line (2020) reports for ecology/biodiversity components, • 3-5 scientific publications, • Ecology, flora, fauna and birds databases including monitoring indicators (see activities for e.g.) • 20 Field visit reports including photos and maps • # of field survey equipment • Maps delineating the valley, forested area surrounding it and semi-natural areas inside the village boundaries • 5 project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021. • Final technical and financial reports 	<p>Political turmoil does not interfere in project implementation; (the project has flexibility in shifting locations when one community has disturbances).</p> <p>Staff and workers employed by the project are living in Bethlehem Governorate to ensure their availability during needed periods during the project implementation despite any political turmoil</p> <p>Assume supplies and equipment remain possible to be purchased with few restrictions.</p> <p>Continued cooperation of local and national authorities.</p>
	<p>0.2 Number of households acting in environmentally sensitive ways around their homes increase to 30 households (average 6 members of each household) by the first years and then to 244 households (50% females) by year three</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 baseline and 2 follow up surveys (one per year) of sample of local households (20% of total beneficiaries (of which 50% females) targeted per year) by staff and volunteers • Follow up reports every year; to 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
		<p>measure impact of the project including environmentally sensitive practices (includes findings of follow up surveys)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field visit reports by project staff • 5 project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021. • Final technical and financial reports 	
	<p>0.3 By year 3, at least 224 households (120 hh in farming - 50% females) including 80 hhs in festivals (50% females) and 80 hhs in food processing (100% females), 60hh running cooperatives (50% females), 12 hhs running market points (100% females), 32 hhs in eco-tourism (50% females) have developed income generating activities like sustainable agriculture, marketing and ecotourism activities and act as models in their communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up report at end of the project (year 3); to measure impact of the project including generation of income where number of M&E questions are embedded. • Maps locate the targeted farms, festival, selling market points, eco-tourism visitors' path, etc. • 5 project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Project audit report every year. • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
	<p>0.4 Sustainable agricultural productivity increases at targeted sites where vegetables production increases by 30% of yearly production (estimated between 27-33 tons for 60 dunums per year)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up reports every year; to measure impact of the project including increase in vegetables production at targeted sites where number of M&E questions are embedded • Project audit report every year. • Field visit reports by project staff • 5 project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	0.5 By year 3, at least 10 modules of transferrable knowledge are developed in a manner that would enhance conservation and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized modular that are based on project studies in different project field including composting, traditional farming, eco-tourism, biodiversity and conservation, advanced marketing, etc. that is transferrable to people documented in writings and via photos. • Final project technical report 	
	0.6 Reduction of damaging human activities (hunting, logging, trash dumping) in the protected areas by 10% annually from baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up report at end of the project (year 3); to measure impact of the project including reduction of damaging activities where number of M&E questions are embedded • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Inventory and assessment for biodiversity at both habitat and species level are conducted in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of conservation management and protection within the project area</p>	1.1 Up to 2.5km ² of Al-Makhrour valley is surveyed for its biodiversity components at both ecosystem and species levels. This includes 5 field trips/surveys covering the different seasons of the year (total 20 field trips per year). Comprehensive surveys in the first and updating for second project years (2018/2019, 2019/2020) and evaluation surveys in the third project year 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Reviews for national and global relevant research documents • 20 Field visit reports by project team • Two biodiversity reports that describes the ecosystems, habitats at the Valley, threats and drivers of change, flora and fauna species, conservation values and others • Ecology, flora, fauna and birds databases including monitoring indicators (see activities for e.g.) • 3-5 publications in scientific journals utilizing data of biodiversity in the targeted areas 	<p>Potential travel restrictions could delay arrival via alternative roads (we need flexibility in timing of project activities).</p> <p>Women participation in town hall meetings, interviews with stakeholders, or committee formulated for restoration, depends on availability of women in related positions.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>1.2 One ecosystem management plan will be developed for the whole valley using CMP model (Conservation Measures Partnership, 2013) and IUCN relevant guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Interviews with stakeholders (4 village councils, 4 GOV. Bodies, and 4 local organizations) – questionnaires, attendance and photos. • One report that describes the management plan for the Valley, considering both the landscape, socio-ecological systems, and climate change aspects to be handed to relevant decision makers and stakeholders. Data disaggregated by gender when appropriate 	
	<p>1.3 Three priority habitats at the Valley, their conservation frameworks and restoration schemes were identified and designed with their assessments and monitoring data sets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of one committee for restoration actions from key stakeholders from local communities, EQA and MoA directorates in Bethlehem Governorate, and others (40% females). • 6 field visits for selected habitats • One report that describes the conservation values including the priority habitats, their conservation frameworks and restoration schemes (where necessary), and list of monitoring datasets (linked to database mentioned in 1.1). • Up to 3 dunums will be restored, the method for restoration will be decided based on the type of pressures and threats affecting the sites. 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	1.4 Four town-hall style meetings will be conducted for 40 community members for each targeted locality (total 160 local participants, 50% women) about plans of project development, SWOT analysis for key challenges, environmental remedies and ecological economic potentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media coverage, newspaper announcement, list of attendees, photos • a report about main findings and recommendations; data disaggregated by gender 	
2. Economic benefits to the local communities; including women and youth, in proximity to Al-Makhrour Valley are secured through sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism enhancement	2.1 By year 2 (2019), 40 dunums for 80 farmers (50% women farmers) will be provided green agriculture inputs including 56,000 meters of irrigation pipes (1400m/1dunum), 80 water tanks (1cubic meter), 80 pumps (1horse power), 44,000 vegetable seedlings (1100seedling/dunum) or 240kg seeds (6kg/dunum), 2000 liters of organic compost (50L/dunum).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of one committee for traditional farming program from key stakeholders from local communities, MoA directorate in Bethlehem Governorate, and others (40% females). • Announcement inviting farmers to apply for selection process for the agriculture intervention • Applications filed by farmers from targeted villages/towns • Inspection field visits for sample of farmers before signing MoUs. • List of selected farmers • Signed MoUs with the selected 80 farmers • Order of purchase for agricultural inputs • 4 Field visit reports per farmer per season (640 visit/year), • evaluation report for vegetables production (expected to produce 1500-2000 kg/dunum), • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	<p>Getting “buy-in” by local people. (Willingness and interest of local people is a key stone that the project rely on and hence the team will always work to secure this factor especially during the selection process of beneficiaries for the different interventions and through the formulated project committees)</p> <p>Cooperation of local authorities of targeted localities (town councils and municipalities) while implementing the project activities. (The applicant collected letters of support during the planning of the project local authorities, emphasizing their continuous involvement in the project activities, formulated committees and follow ups))</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	2.2 A two day workshop for 20 cooperatives (10 productive coop – at least 3 member each (sell local fresh and processed local products) and 10 consumption coop – at least 3 members each (buy local fresh and processed products)) to build marketing networks and partnerships (contacts will be exchanged).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop invitation, • list of attendees and their contacts, • Minutes of meeting and photos, • follow up report for marketing progress done yearly (years 2019 & 2020) • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
	2.3 Two market festivals for Al-Makhroul local products; 40 local farmers/festival (50% female farmers); one selling summer agro-produce (June or July 2019) and the second selling winter agro-produce (February or March 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees for renting a venue and setting the bazar area for the festivals, • list of farmers participating at each festival, • field visit reports and photos, • Follow up report for the progress and impact of the festivals, • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
	2.4 Mark the Al-Makhroul visitors path by installing 20 arrow signs, 20 plant-info signs and 2 maps with some volunteer cleaning works along the Valley's trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of one committee for eco-tourism program from key stakeholders from local communities, MoTA directorate in Bethlehem Governorate, and others (40% females). • Specifications and order of purchase for signs, and maps • Field visit report for installation and cleaning works at Al-Makhroul valley including photos • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>2.5 Four sub-grants for 4000 (£) each are given to four existing/initiated women business enterprises (an average 3 women members per enterprise) for market local products at four targeted localities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final technical and financial audit reports • Announcements at local authorities for the sub-grant, • Application forms for sub-grant request, • Evaluation reports for selection ensuring the integrity and governance of the process • Selection of 12 women for initiating business selling points (each 3 will start a selling point at their village) • Signed MoUs with women to start the four initiatives. • Four market selling points' business plans for marketing the valleys agricultural and cultural and touristic products, • Government registration certificates, • Follow up reports every year to measure the success of this initiative. • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>3. Raise awareness of and build capacities of local communities and stakeholders to better manage their natural resources, support conservation measures and benefit from sustainable agricultural and eco-tourism interventions while impacting the national legislation and involving both females and youth</p>	<p>3.1 One day workshop for 20 main stakeholders from targeted localities, governmental bodies mainly EQA, MoA, and MoTA and media to present the Valley's biodiversity management plans to be considered at legislative level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop's invitation, agenda, presentation, and submitted document (biodiversity plan report prepared by the project earlier), • Minutes of meeting including photos, list of attendees, • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	<p>Locals including schools willingness to participate in training sessions and workshops to learn about local and national environment, biodiversity conservation, and business interventions for better livelihoods (the project will initiate this activity through Ministry of Education and Higher Education)</p> <p>The trainees buy-in the training educational materials, orientations and recommendations (the project will ensure motivation and engagement of all participants)</p> <p>Some of the targeted farmers might change by the project team during the project implementation; only in case they show inefficiency in delivery aimed at outputs. The project team will perform the selection upon the same set of criteria; used at the beginning of the project.</p>
	<p>3.2 Four 1 day workshop to emphasize marketing networks, initiation of small business enterprises, and methods of governance and of sustaining their businesses for farmers and relevant cooperatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop's invitation, agenda, presentation, and educational material • Minutes of meeting including photos, list of attendees, • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
	<p>3.2 Four 2 day training sessions for best sustainable farming practices (organic, permaculture, managing the farm, etc.) (120 farmers in total, 50% women, 30 farmers per workshop)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions' invitation, agenda and presentation (including training material), • Training courses' evaluations by attendees, • list of attendees, educational material, photos, • Project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	3.3 Four 2 days training sessions for best practices in conserving biodiversity and maintaining the eco-system services (theoretical and practical at the valley) (60hhs in total, 15 hhs per village) (50% women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions' invitation, agenda and presentation (including training material, • Training courses' evaluations by attendees, • list of attendees, educational material, photos, • Project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
	3.3 One day training session for women entrepreneurs who has initiated their business selling points during the project (12 women in total)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions' invitation, agenda and presentation (Business plan for each selling point • Training courses' evaluations by attendees, • list of attendees, educational material, photos, • Project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
	3.4 Two 2 days food processing training sessions for women headed households (one in first year 2019 and one in second year 2020 of the project) (40 women in total, 5hhs/village/year, (100% women))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions' invitation, agenda and presentation (theoretical session) including training material • Order of purchase for food processing tools • Training courses' evaluations by attendees, • list of attendees, educational material, photos, • Project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>3.4 Two day workshop for alternative tourism operators (10 representatives – 2 persons each) and 12 representatives of the local communities (3 members per locality) that works in the tourism sector (50% women)</p>	<p>reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop invitation, agenda, list of invitees and educational material in best method for successful eco-tourism plan and business enterprises • Tourism business plan for the valley is set by both parties (tourism operators and local communities with benefit sharing concept), • list of attendees and their contacts, • Minutes of meeting and photos, • follow up report for eco-tourism progress done yearly (years 2019 & 2020) • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
	<p>3.4 Ten meetings for 5 schools located in Bethlehem District to present the project, the valley, raise environmental awareness, and create school environment clubs (20 students each, 50% females).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of cooperation from Ministry of Education and higher Education (MEHE) • Letter of invitation for the schools • Educational material and modular • T-shirts, caps, bags, etc. • Meetings minutes of meetings, photos, list of students • Schools' environmental clubs follow up reports • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	3.5 At least 106 social media announcements, 15 newspaper news, and 4 TV sessions, a website for the valley will be disseminates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The announcements and news documented in progress reports, • fees for newspapers, development of the website and TV sessions upon bidding procedure). 	
	3.6 Up to 2500 copies of a brochures for education about the valley, its trail and potential conservation and development opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the brochure print outs • Fees for montage and print outs • project progress reports (one every six months); from September 2018 to February 2021 • Final technical and financial audit reports 	
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>0.1 Recruit project coordinator, scientific researchers, consultants, and local field staff</p> <p>0.2 Project start up workshop inviting relevant stakeholders including GOVs., NGOs, Universities, Local authorities (village councils/municipalities), tourism operator, cooperatives, media, and many others at Bethlehem University.</p> <p>Output 1: Inventory and assessment for biodiversity at both habitat and species level are conducted in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of conservation management and protection within the project area</p> <p>1.1 Analyse literature for national and global relevant research documents. This includes a desk study and collection of data of relevance to the project and its outputs.</p> <p>1.2 Initial town-hall style meetings for community members in each targeted locality about plans of project development, SWOT analysis for key challenges, environmental remedies and ecological economic potential; supported with media coverage and reporting. (Gender inclusion for attendees).</p> <p>1.3 Conduct biodiversity inventory for Al-Makhrour valley; including comprehensive surveys for Al-Makhrour Valley ecosystem, identification of habitats, including flora and fauna species, birds (winter/summer migration), values of biodiversity, conservation targets and their threats using RSCN methodology for fauna surveys²⁸ and Braun and Blanquet for flora surveys²⁹, IUCN guidelines³⁰ and GIS/RS analysis). This includes five field trips/surveys per targeted locality and the whole valley at the different year seasons (total 20 field trips).</p> <p>1.4 Prepare baseline evaluation report for ecosystem/biodiversity status at Al-Makhrour Valley (conducted during Spring year 2019)</p> <p>1.5 Establish ecology, flora, fauna and birds databases; information will be gathered form literature review, stakeholders meetings, and field surveys.</p> <p>1.5.1 Ecology section with set of indicators such as: studying areas, borders, physical characteristics, type /area of vegetation cover, type/area ecosystem type and number/type of habitats, and other cultural/ natural features/resources and heritage items of the targeted area, and others. Using GIS and RS</p>			

²⁸ RSCN. 2005. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature: Field Research Manual.

²⁹ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01866672>

³⁰ Example: <https://www.iucn.org/content/how-incorporate-gender-conservation>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>applications.</p> <p>1.5.2 Flora and fauna section will be based on measuring taxonomic diversity of a targeted geographic area; looking at species richness, abundance and frequency, etc. at this area, conservation values of targeted habitats using Braun and Blanquet method for flora, IUCN red listing, species global / national conservation status, utilization/economic values, endemism and others³¹.</p> <p>1.6 Establish monitoring database including monitoring indicators divided into sections related to the natural feature investigated such as ecology, habitat, flora, fauna, and birds. Examples on indicators are: total degraded area of total targeted area (using GIS&RS applications), changes in degradation, changes in habitats and NDVI over 10-15 years, habitat/species richness from baseline to end line surveys and others</p> <p>1.7 Prepare biodiversity management plan for the Valley, considering both the landscape, socio-ecological systems, and climate change aspects to be handed to relevant decision makers and stakeholders supported with CMP model (CMP, 2013)³² and interviews with stakeholders and gender inclusion.</p> <p>1.8 Identify key sensitive habitats along the valley and set their conservation frameworks and restoration schemes for selected habitats; supported with field visits, reporting and monitoring data base (section 1.6) (referring to IUCN, 2012)³³; building on the findings of previous sections 1.3, 1.5, and 1.7 and others³⁴).</p> <p>1.9 Hand the management plant, conservation frameworks and restoration schemes documents to EQA and MoA.</p> <p>1.10 Formulation of one committee for restoration actions from key stakeholders from local communities, EQA and MoA directorates in Bethlehem Governorate, and others (40% females).</p> <p>1.11 Restore up to max. 3 dunums of key habitats where found necessary, the method for restoration will be decided based on the type of pressures and threats affecting the sites.</p> <p>1.12 Prepare end line evaluation report for updating ecology/biodiversity status at Al-Makhrour valley conducted in Spring 2020</p> <p>1.13 Publish 3-5 scientific publications of relevant to this project output</p> <p>1.14 Follow up report at end of the project (year 3); to measure impact of the project on reduction of damaging activities (hunting, logging, dumping waste, fires, etc.) where number of M&E questions are embedded. It will include sum the findings of other conducted follow up surveys during the project period such as the ones mentioned in 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, and 1.12.</p> <p>Output 2: Economic benefits to the local communities; including women and youth, in proximity to Al-Makhrour Valley are secured through sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism enhancement</p> <p>2.1 Formulation of one committee for traditional farming program from key stakeholders from local communities, MoA directorate in Bethlehem Governorate, and others (40% females)</p> <p>2.2 Prepare and distribute announcement invitation to local farmers to apply for the selection process for the project agriculture intervention, invitations are distributed at key organization, shop, and religious sites</p> <p>2.3 Revise the applications filed by farmers from targeted villages/towns with the formulated committee based on set of criteria for the selection process; supported with</p>			

³¹ <file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/9783319154633-c2.pdf> and

³² CMP, 2013. Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation of the Conservation Measures Partnership (<http://cmp-openstandards.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CMP-OS-V3-0-Final.pdf>)

³³ IUCN, 2012. Ecological Restoration of Protected Areas: Principles, Guidelines and Practices (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-018.pdf>)

³⁴ Folke, C., R. Biggs, A. V. Norström, B. Reyers, and J. Rockström. 2016. Social-ecological resilience and biosphere-based sustainability science. Ecology and Society 21(3):41. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-08748-210341>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
inspection field visits for a sample of selected farmers (50% of targeted farmers)			
2.4	Sign MoUs with the selected 80 farmers to specify the roles and responsibilities of both parties; emphasizing the obligation to sustain the inputs after the project ends		
2.5	Purchase agricultural inputs for 40 dunums for both agricultural summer/winter seasons 2019 and summer/winter seasons 2020 including		
	2.5.1 Irrigation network: main pipes (1200 meters of 16 ml pipes/dunum) and secondary pipes (200 meters of 25 and 32 ml pipes/dunum)		
	2.5.2 Up to 1 water tank (1 cubic meter and 1 pump (1 horse power) for each farmer beneficiary.		
	2.5.3 Up to 1100 seedlings and /or 6 kgs of seeds of vegetables per dunum per season (summer vegetables will be Battiri eggplants, hot & sweet pepper, cowpeas, beans, squash, cucumber, tomatoes, okra and others. Winter vegetables will be cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, raddish, broad beans, onions, thyme and others)		
	2.5.4 Up to 25-30 litres of organic compost per dunum per season		
2.6	Land preparations, weed removal and organic compost additions for selected land-farms (0.5 dunum for each selected farmer)		
2.7	Distribution of agricultural inputs and cultivation of diverse summer and winter vegetable crops at selected farms under optimum sustainable conditions		
2.8	Conduct 4 follow up field visits per farmer per season (320 visit/ season), supported with reports		
2.9	Conduct two cross village exchange and demonstration visits (during first three cultivation seasons). After having a successful plantation season an exchange visit will be arranged per season to demonstrate sites, and to foster collaboration and cooperation between participating villages/farmers and extension to villages outside the scope of this project.		
2.10	Evaluation report for summer /winter vegetables production (expected to produce 1500-2000 kg/dunum) and income generation / food self-sufficiency of this activity on yearly basis		
2.11	Conduct first /second festival during harvesting period of summer cultivation season in Battir village and of winter cultivation in Beit Jala upon consultation with formulated committee and the 40 selected farmers (50% women) for each festival. This includes renting an accessible open place in Battir/ Beit Jala, setting tables with simple tents, all necessary coordination and announcements and media coverage, etc. Priority will be given to project targeted farmers.		
2.12	Prepare the follow up report for the success and lessons learnt from the festival events after one month from ending the festivals		
2.13	Conduct a 2 day workshop for cooperatives partnerships, introduction to Fair Trade Networks (Palestinian and Arab) and business enhancement and prepare workshop minutes of meeting including list of attendees and their contacts, photos and recommendations		
2.14	Prepare the follow up report for marketing progress of the selected cooperatives on yearly basis (years 2019 & 2020), based on evaluation survey for the cooperatives		
2.15	Formulation of one committee for eco-tourism program from key stakeholders from local communities, MoTA directorate in Bethlehem Governorate, and others (40% females)		
2.16	Study the Valley's path and identify the best places to mark the visitors' path; supported with specification for the marks and consultation of the relevant formulated committee		
2.17	Conduct cleaning works and install 20 arrow signs, 20 plant-info signs and 2 maps with some volunteer works along the Valley's visitors' path		
2.18	Prepare follow up report for the level of enhancement in tourism sector in targeted area		
2.19	Provide four sub-grants (for 4000 (£) each) for four existing/initiated women business enterprises for marketing local products at four targeted localities based on consultation with eco-tourism committee, selection process, market selling business plans and after signing agreements with the initiatives. The project will support them with ideas and provide them with the required entrepreneurial and business coaching that enables them to develop their ideas into successful businesses		
2.20	Prepare follow up and evaluation report for the progress of the initiated SMEs on yearly basis		

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
2.21 Follow up report at end of the year; to measure impact of the project including generation of income, including outcomes of the other follow up surveys and evaluation reports (2.9, 2.12, 2.14, 2.18, and 2.20)			
Output 3: Raise awareness of and build capacities of local communities and stakeholders to better manage their natural resources, support conservation measures and benefit from sustainable agricultural and eco-tourism interventions while impacting the national legislation and involving both females and youth			
1.2	Conduct one day workshop for key stakeholders to present the Valley's biodiversity management plans to be considered at legislative level. Gender inclusion		
1.3	Conduct four one day workshop to enhance marketing networks, initiation of small business enterprises, and methods of governance, and protecting traditional knowledge for farmers and relevant cooperatives supported with educational material and gender inclusion		
1.4	Conduct two-days' workshop for alternative tourism operators and of the local targeted communities that works in the tourism sector; supported with educational material and gender inclusion		
1.5	Conduct four two days training sessions for best sustainable farming practices, permaculture, organic farming and biological control for benefited farmers; supported with educational material, training evaluation, and gender inclusion		
1.6	Conduct four two days training sessions for best practices in conserving biodiversity and maintaining the eco-system services; supported with educational material, training evaluation, and gender inclusion		
1.7	Conduct one day training session for women entrepreneurs who has initiated their business selling points; supported with a business plan for each initiative, educational material, and training evaluation		
1.8	Conduct two two days food processing training sessions for women headed households; supported with educational material, and training evaluation.		
1.9	Ten meetings for 5 schools located in Bethlehem District to present the project, the valley, raise environmental awareness, and create school environment clubs; supported with educational materials/modular, cooperation of MEHE, and gender inclusion. T-shirts, caps, bags, etc. will be distributed to students.		
1.10	Finalized 10 modular that are based on project studies and in different project fields		
1.11	Follow up report for the school environmental clubs at the selected schools		
1.12	Disseminate up to 106 social media announcements, 15 newspaper news		
1.13	Conduct 4 TV sessions to discuss on air the different subjects the project is dealing with and supporting. Specialists and decision makers will be invited.		
1.14	Prepare a webpage for the project under the PIBS- BU website to present all project accomplishments, follow up reports, educational material, scientific research and publications		
1.15	Prepare and Print a brochure for the project area; includes a description, management plans, key area for conservation and restoration, touristic plan and potential business opportunities, guiding tour with a map (locating the visitors path, villages in proximity, selling points, etc.), guiding orientations for tourists with recommendations for best practices at the sites, etc.		
1.16	Conduct follow up surveys for sample of local households (20%of total beneficiaries (of which 50% females); to measure impact of the project including environmentally sensitive practice		
1.17	Progress reports every six month summarize the project achievements, on-going activities, success stories and evaluations; all supported with relevant verification means		
3.17	Final technical and financial audit reports. The technical part will describe the accomplishments of the projects, impacts (based on project follow up reports and surveys), facts and main findings, sustainable outputs, opportunities for development and building on, etc.		

23. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project (starting from Q2 July 2018)

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 shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1 Inventory and assessment for biodiversity at both habitat and species level are conducted in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of conservation management and protection within the project area												
1.1 Analyse literature for national and global relevant research documents.	2											
1.2 Initial town-hall style meetings for community members in each targeted locality	1.5											
1.3 Conduct biodiversity inventory for Al-Makhrour valley; including comprehensive surveys for ecosystem, habitats and species	6											
1.4 Prepare baseline evaluation report for ecosystem/biodiversity status at Al-Makhrour Valley and progress towards biodiversity monitoring indicators	1											
1.5 & 1.6 Establish ecology, biodiversity, monitoring databases linked to project webpage (the indicators will be linked to specified area blocks along the valley and specified species population)	30											
1.7 Prepare biodiversity management plan for the Valley	6											
1.8 Identify key sensitive habitats along the valley and set their conservation frameworks and restoration schemes	6											
1.9 Hand the management plan, conservation frameworks, databases and restoration schemes documents to EQA and MoA	1											
1.10 Formulation of one committee for restoration actions from key stakeholders	1											
1.11 Restore up to max. 3 dunums of key habitats based on consultation with committee	3											
1.12 Prepare end line evaluation report for updating ecology/biodiversity status at Al-Makhrour valley	1											
1.13 Publish 3-5 scientific publications of relevant to this project output	5											
1.14 Follow up report at end of the project (year 3); to measure impact of the project on reduction of damaging activities at the valley and villages in	2											

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
proximity												
Output 2 Economic benefits to the local communities; including women and youth, in proximity to Al-Makhrour Valley are secured through sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism enhancement												
2.1 Formulation of one committee for traditional farming program from key stakeholders	1											
2.2 Prepare and distribute announcement invitation to local farmers to apply for the selection process	0.5											
2.3 Revise the applications filed by farmers from targeted villages/towns with the formulated committee based on set of criteria and verification field visits	1											
2.4 Sign MoUs with the selected 80 farmers	1											
2.5 Purchase agricultural inputs for 40 dunums for both agricultural summer/winter seasons 2019 and summer/winter seasons 2020	4											
2.6 Land preparations, weed removal and organic compost additions for selected land-farms	2											
2.7 Distribute agricultural inputs, install the irrigation network and cultivate diverse summer and winter vegetable crops at selected farms 2019/2020	10											
2.8 Conduct 2 follow up field visits per farmer per season	7											
2.9 Conduct two cross village exchange and demonstration visits	2											
2.10 Conduct evaluation for summer /winter vegetables production on yearly basis	2											
2.11 Conduct first /second festival during harvesting period of summer/winter cultivation seasons	4											
2.12 Prepare the follow up report for the success and lessons learnt from the festival events	1											
2.13 Conduct 2 day workshop for cooperatives' partnerships and business enhancement	1.5											
2.14 Prepare the follow up report for marketing progress of the selected cooperatives on yearly basis	2											
2.15 Formulation of one committee for eco-tourism program from key stakeholders	1											

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.16 Study the Valley visitors' path and identify the best places to mark it	0.5											
2.17 Conduct cleaning works and install arrow signs, plant-info signs and maps with some volunteer works along the Valley's visitors' path.	2											
2.18 Prepare follow up report for the level of enhancement in tourism sector in targeted area	1											
2.19 Provide four sub-grants (for 4000 (£) each) for four existing/initiated women business enterprises for establishing selling points for marketing local products	4											
2.20 Prepare follow up and evaluation report for the progress of the initiated SMEs on yearly basis	1											
2.21 Follow up report at end of the year; to measure impact of the project including generation of income, through analyzing the outcomes of the other follow up reports (2.10, 2.12, 2.14, 2.18, and 2.20)	2											
Output 3 Raise awareness of and build capacities of local communities and stakeholders to better manage their natural resources, support conservation measures and benefit from sustainable agricultural and eco-tourism interventions while impacting the national legislation and involving both females and youth												
3.1 Conduct workshop for key stakeholders to present the Valley's biodiversity management plans	1											
3.2 Conduct workshop to enhancing marketing networks, initiation of small business enterprises, and methods of governance and protection of traditional knowledge for farmers and relevant cooperatives	4											
3.3 Conduct two day workshop for alternative tourism operators and of the local targeted communities that works in the tourism sector, build eco-tourism plan	2											
3.4 Conduct four two days training sessions for best sustainable farming practices for benefited farmers	4											
3.5 Conduct four two days training sessions for best practices in conserving biodiversity and maintaining the eco-system services	2											
3.6 Conduct one day training session for women entrepreneurs who has initiated their business selling points	1											
3.7 Conduct two two days food processing training sessions for women headed	4											

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
households												
3.8 Ten meetings for 5 schools located in Bethlehem District to present the project, the valley, raise environmental awareness, and create school environment clubs	6											
3.9 Finalized 10 modular that are based on project studies and in different project fields	6											
3.10 Follow up report for the school environmental clubs at the selected schools	1											
3.11 Media coverage through disseminate up to 106 social media announcements, and 15 newspaper news about the main project accomplishments and key findings	30											
3.12 Conduct 4 TV sessions to discuss on air the different subjects the project is dealing with and supporting. Specialists and decision makers will be invited.	8											
3.13 Prepare a webpage for the project under the PIBS- BU website to present all project accomplishments, follow up reports, educational material, scientific research and publications	30											
3.14 Prepare and print a brochure for the project area	3											
3.15 Conduct follow up surveys for sample of local households (20%of total beneficiaries (of which 50% females); to measure impact of the project including environmentally sensitive practices	3											
3.16 Project progress reports	2.5											
3.17 Final technical and financial audit reports	2											

24. Project based monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, 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.

(Max 500 words)

Two experienced personnel, the project leader and manager, will oversee monitoring and evaluation of the project. Both will monitor the timely and satisfactory achievement of all indicators by agreeing and report on quarterly work plan, semi-annual progress reports and holding monthly update meetings with project staff; all feed into the delivery of the project including its management. They will also develop final technical and financial reports including all findings and key monitoring/evaluation measures.

The project activities will be accomplished in full participatory approach as following:

Four committees of key stakeholders will be formed to support the project in facilitation, consultation and review for the project activities. A Project Steering Committee will meet every 6 months to discuss the progress of the project and provide inputs to ensure an adaptive project management, and ensuring satisfactory achievements of indicators. The other project committees (for restoration works of key habitats, for traditional farming intervention, for eco-tourism intervention) will offer different areas of expertise and provide technical experience and knowledge in relevance to the intervention they support, will be available for consultation and will ensure full participation of relevant stakeholders while conducting the project. The project committees will meet two to three times during the project period but will be available for consultation throughout the project period. In case of any inefficiency or negative impact, immediate meetings will be held to adjust the situation.

Specific M&E activities are outlined below:

Up to 11 follow up/evaluation surveys and reports will be done through the project period

Output1:

- 1.4 and 1.12 Prepare baseline and end line evaluation report for ecosystem/biodiversity status
- 1.14 Measure impact of the project on reducing damaging activities at the valley

Output2:

- 2.10 Conduct evaluation for vegetables production
- 2.12 Measure success and lessons learnt from the festival events
- 2.14 Evaluate the marketing progress of the selected cooperatives
- 2.18 Evaluate level of enhancement in tourism sector in targeted area
- 2.20 Measure the progress of the initiated women SMEs (selling points)
- 2.21 Measure impact of the project concerning generation of income; summaries other follow up surveys and evaluation reports (2.9, 2.11, 2.13, 2.17, and 2.19)

Output3:

- 3.10 Evaluate progress of school environmental clubs at the selected schools
- 3.15 Measure impact of the project concerning environmentally sensitive practices

Capacity building and raising awareness programmes including the educational material will be evaluated by the participants. The success of the educational material will be assessed via the change in community understanding of and desire to implement relevant activities and their contribution to project publications.

Continuous farm field trips (e.g. 1,040 extension visits during four cultivation seasons) will be conducted by the project staff to ensure the best performance of the project activities. For each visit a sheet will be filled to cover the visit and its findings (a field visit report).

Women/youth empowerment will be measured in all project evaluations and follow up reports, all data will by gender/youth disaggregated.

Number of days planned for M&E	240 days
Total project budget for M&E	20,134 GBP
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	6.2%

Funding and Budget

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. You should also ensure you have read the '[Finance for Darwin and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund](#)' document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

NB: The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

25. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(max 300 words)

The project budget was built upon consultation with all project partners. The lead organization and partners (except Byspokes) are all located in Bethlehem Governorate where the project will be implemented; this will save transportation costs for follow up. Byspokes will run its communication with Palestine using free communication tools (like skype) and will visit Palestine twice per project period.

BU opening access to its previous relevant research and studies. Their strong networks with village councils/municipalities, long history dealing with Palestinian farmers will benefit the project by minimizing efforts/time but maximizing impact. Internal control on finance ensured by BU administration.

Project maximized benefits:

- Offer trainings for 324 persons (50% females and at least 972 trained indirectly).
- Enhance food security, and income generation to 80 farmers and their 400 family members during and after the project ends. This is supported with 1,040 extension/demonstration visits (50% women).
- Initiation of women business enterprises empowering them.
- Up to 100 school students become involved
- Achieve longer term landscape impact, through (1) improved biodiversity knowledge base, management plans and restoration that can be replicated/scaled up, (2) effective monitoring databases, transferred to the specialized authorities.
- Up to 9 staff on the project.

The project ensures that a significant percentage of the Darwin funds (59%) goes towards direct intervention and engagement of communities. Field travel will be kept as low as possible while ensuring it is sufficient to enable timely and effective delivery of project activities.

However, there is difference between stage1and2 budgets, this is to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of the project, where number of follow up / M&E assessments were added to the project activities, new partner (PCC) has joined the project to cover key parts of the project, three consultants were allocated to cover certain expertise, more beneficiaries and food processing trainings to women were added.

26. 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.

(max 150 words)

Survey tools and equipment for biodiversity and lab tools will be retained by the lead applicant PIBS-BU.

All irrigation networks, pumps, water tanks etc. will be retained by the benefited farmers

The arrows, sign and maps will remain on the Valley's Visitor Path

Educational material and tools used for food processing and composting will be retained by local communities, stakeholders, decision makers involved with raising awareness and capacity building campaigns.

27. Match funding (co-finance)**a) Secured**

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity.

Confirmed:

Co-funding is secured from National Geographic Society for the amount of XX,XXX GBP, this will support Darwin Initiative project with the intervention related to Biodiversity conservation mainly biodiversity comprehensive surveys at Al-Makhrour valley; including birds' survey, GIS/RS consultant, and related work help with matching funds suggested at stage

Co-funding is also secured from PIBS-BU, the lead applicant, for up to 8.5% of the project total value by securing personnel time, including 2 staff (50% of their time), volunteer time (including university students) (at least 5 full time equivalent), space, research publications (such as pay page for journals), and 10 school modular preparation and distribution to Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The halls that will be used for town hall meetings and others that will take place at the targeted village councils will be used for free as contribution from the targeted village councils and municipalities.

27b) Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments

27c) None

If you are not intending to seek matched funding for this project, please explain why.

(max 100 words)

PIBS – BU are seeking all potential relevant funds at this stage, if a new call opens and could support extended relevant work in the project targeted area, PIBS - BU will apply for this call and consequently inform Darwin Initiative with results.

28) Financial Management Risks

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

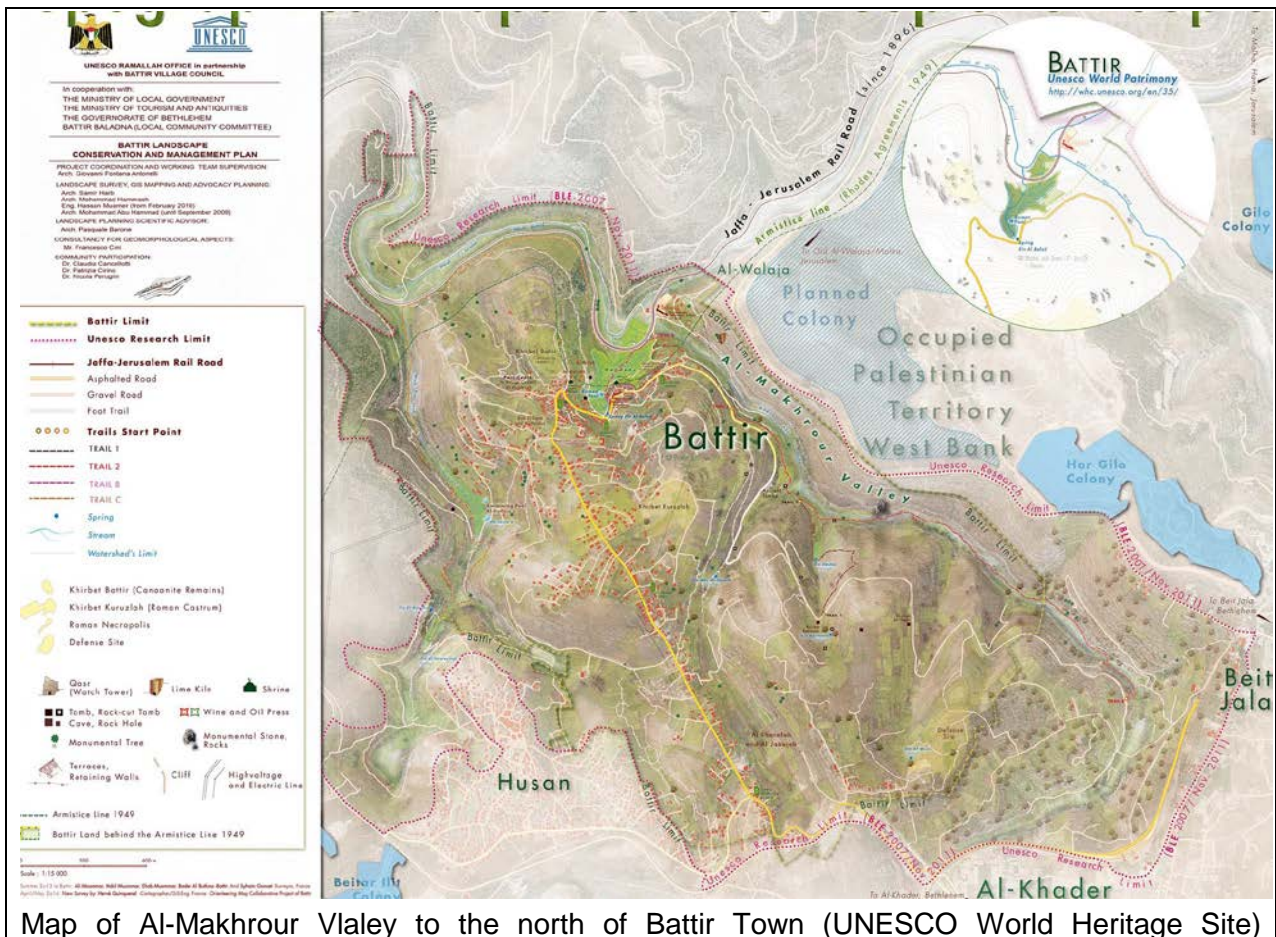
(max 200 words)

The project was designed to secure minimum risks during the implementation the project. However the following could be considered as financial management risks:

1. Risk of government and committees members' continued commitment towards the follow up, facilitation and supervision of the project activities. The project organizations are known and have strong networks and partnerships with GOVs and local authorities. This will reduce the impact of such risk.
2. Weather events are not significant unless we have frost or a heat wave, which are unlikely to happen as we work in areas that enjoy the Mediterranean type of climate.
3. Water scarcity in general in the area, all farmers selected for agriculture program should have a secure water resource.
4. Risk for SMEs initiated for local women to achieve successful business and access to market on the expected level. Continuous follow up and orientation will be secured by the project team.
5. Political conflict escalated. The project staff are all residents in Bethlehem Governorate (project targeted area), which reduces the impact of mobility restriction.

Bethlehem University has several policies/procedures that will support the project as relevant:

- [Internal Research Grants](#)
- [Academic Policies, Procedures, and Regulations](#)
- [Finance Office Policies](#)
- [Child Protection Policy \(CPP\)](#) and many others



FCO Notifications

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice) **Yes, advice attached** **No**

Certification

On behalf of the trustees/company* of PIBS- BU (Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability –Bethlehem University)
(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £287,343 in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 enclose CVs for key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports.

Name (block capitals)	MAZIN QUMSIYEH
Position in the organisation	Professor, Founder, and Director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History (PMNH) and the Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS) of Bethlehem University

Signed**

Date:

25/1/2018

If this section is incomplete or not completed correctly the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

Stage 2 Application – Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance ?	YES
Have you read and can you meet the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	YES
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	YES
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	YES
Have you checked that your budget is complete , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	YES
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	YES
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the key project personnel identified at Question 6 and Question 10?	YES
Have you included a letter of support from your key partner organisations identified at Question 9?	YES
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	YES
Have you included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	YES
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	YES

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Monday 29 January 2018 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the application number (from your Stage 1 feedback letter) and the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). You are not required to send a hard copy.

Data Protection Act 1998 - Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete your application, the grant acceptance and the supplier forms.

Defra will use your personal data primarily for the purpose of processing your application for Darwin Initiative funding. By submitting an application, applicants have agreed to any disclosure of the information supplied (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which Defra considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Funds (as detailed in the paragraphs below).

A completed application form signifies agreement to place certain details of successful applications (i.e. name, title, total grant value, project summary, lead organisation and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative websites listed below. A completed application form also signifies agreement to send data on the project proposals during the application process to British Embassies and High Commissions outside the UK, including those outside the European Economic Area.

<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk>;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative>;

Application form data will also be processed by Defra contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative administration, monitoring and evaluation (working within relevant data protection rules).

Defra may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. The Grantee shall assist and co-operate with the Department (at the Grantee's expense) to enable the Department to comply with its disclosure obligations under these enactments.

We may use information, including personal data, to test computer systems to ensure that they work effectively and efficiently and to develop new systems in order to improve efficiency and the service that we provide to you and other persons. Any use of information for testing or developing computerised systems will be conducted in a secure manner in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to safeguard the privacy of the information that you have supplied.

Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, is on the Defra section of Gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, please telephone the Defra helpline 08459 33 55 77 and ask to speak to the Data Protection Officer for a copy of the Information Charter.