



GLOBAL GRANT APPLICATION TEMPLATE

The following pages outline the questions you will be asked on the online global grant application. You can use this document for planning purposes. Find the actual grant application in the [Grant Center](#).

Step 1: Basic information

What's the name of your project?

Scaling Regenerative Agroforestry: Strengthening Climate Resilience & Economic Security in Coastal Ecuador.

What type of project are you planning? (humanitarian project, vocational training, scholarship)

All global grants support activities within Rotary's areas of focus.

Humanitarian project:

- Training related to economic and community development including but not limited to entrepreneurship, community leadership, vocational, and financial literacy.
- Agricultural development for subsistence and small farmers, including but not limited to the facilitation of access to markets.

Select the primary host and international contacts for this project.

The primary host contact lives in the country where the project, training, or study will take place. The primary international contact lives in another country. Both contacts will be responsible for all grant-related correspondence and reporting to The Rotary Foundation.

Host: Felipe Bucaram Maluk, Rotary Club of Guayaquil Astillero District 4400, Guayaquil, Ecuador

International: Barry Cogbill, Rotary Club of Santa Rosa East/West District 5130, Santa Rosa, California

Step 2: Committee members

The committee will include at least three members from the host sponsor and three members from the international sponsor.

Who will serve on the grant's host committee?

- Andrea Apolo Cedeño
- Juan Sabando Cárdenas
- Karla Morejón Jácome

Who will serve on the grant's international committee?

- Nate Gulbransen
- Julie Montgomery
- Todd Sheffield

Do any of these committee members have potential conflicts of interest? Yes/No

A conflict of interest is a relationship through which an individual involved in a program grant or award causes benefit for such individual or such individual's family, acquaintances, business interests, or an organization in which such individual is a trustee, director, or officer.

No.

For each Rotary member who serves on the grant committee, list all relationships that the member has with any scholarship recipients, cooperating organizations, project vendors, or other individuals or organizations that will benefit from the grant.

No member has any relationship with the grant recipients.

Next, list all relationships that district officers and other members of the sponsor clubs or districts (other than the members of the grant committee) have with any award recipients, cooperating organizations, project vendors, or other individuals or organizations that would benefit from the grant.

There are no relationships to disclose between district officers or other members of the sponsor clubs or districts (excluding members of the grant committee) and the grant recipients.

Step 3: Project overview

Tell us a little about your project. What are the main objectives of the project, and who will benefit from it?

We're only asking for a general idea of the project. Try to be as concise as possible here. We'll ask you for details later in the application.

Since 2017, our team has transformed degraded landscapes into biodiverse agroforestry systems across our 70 acre farm in Chone Manabí, Ecuador. With once fertile soils, abundant sunlight, and strong rainfall patterns, the region holds extraordinary potential for agroforestry production of timber, cacao, fruits and nuts. However, decades of extractive monocultures, deforestation, and agrochemical dependency have degraded this potential, leaving farmers vulnerable to droughts, pest outbreaks, soil erosion, and fluctuating market prices. In response, we are building a scientifically grounded and community-led model that equips farmers to regenerate soils, increase income, and restore biodiversity, while positioning them to thrive in rapidly shifting global markets. The project has four core objectives: (1) improve the income of small-scale farmers, (2) reduce income volatility and climate change vulnerability through crop diversification and ecological stability, (3) provide practical training in agroecological methods that enhance soil, water, and forest systems, and (4) support farmers in adding value to their existing crop production. While smallholder farmers and rural youth are the direct beneficiaries of the program, the indirect benefits extend to local consumers, ecosystems, and the broader rural economy.

Our agroforestry model centers on syntropic agroforestry, an agroecological approach based on ecological succession. These multi-strata systems integrate cacao, fruit trees, timber species, and native plants to mimic the structure and function of natural forests. Designed to enhance soil structure, increase organic matter, improve water retention, and boost microbial diversity, these systems also yield high-value crops. By combining vertical and horizontal crop layering with designs based on the light requirements of different crop species, farmers maximize productivity and ecological resilience. Scientific literature supports the benefits of syntropic systems, including improved drought tolerance, natural pest regulation, and biodiversity restoration (Charry et al., 2025; Jacobi et al., 2025).

Recent evidence from Kettley et al. (2024) underscores the ecological and economic value of syntropic agroforestry. In comparative field trials in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, syntropic systems outperformed conventional agroforestry in multiple key metrics. They demonstrated a 24 percent increase in above-ground biomass accumulation, a 30 percent higher rate of soil carbon sequestration, and more efficient nutrient cycling, particularly in nitrogen and phosphorus uptake. Moreover, syntropic systems supported significantly greater plant diversity, with over 2.5 times more species per hectare than monoculture or conventional plots. These biodiversity gains contribute to long-term resilience against pests, climatic variability, and disease. Importantly, Kettley's research highlights that after three to five

years, yield stabilization and increased net returns become evident, particularly when systems are planned for market-oriented outputs like cacao, fruit, and timber. These findings align directly with our training program design, implementation timeline, and projected income benchmarks, reinforcing the feasibility and impact of scaling syntropic systems in Ecuador.

In 2025, we piloted this model (Global Grant # GG2570132) with 25 farmers across five regional hubs in Chone, Flavio Alfaro, Junin and Bolivar cantons in Manabí province (**Figure 1**). Each farmer implemented a 30x30 meter syntropic plot with cacao, plantain, banana, mango, avocado, jackfruit, balsa, amarillo hardwood, pachaco, and Mombasa grass. These demonstration plots now serve as living laboratories and community learning centers. Our program's technical staff conduct monthly field visits to each site to provide guidance and document progress. As of mid-2025, 96 percent of the pilot plots report healthy development, and over 50 percent meet full implementation standards.

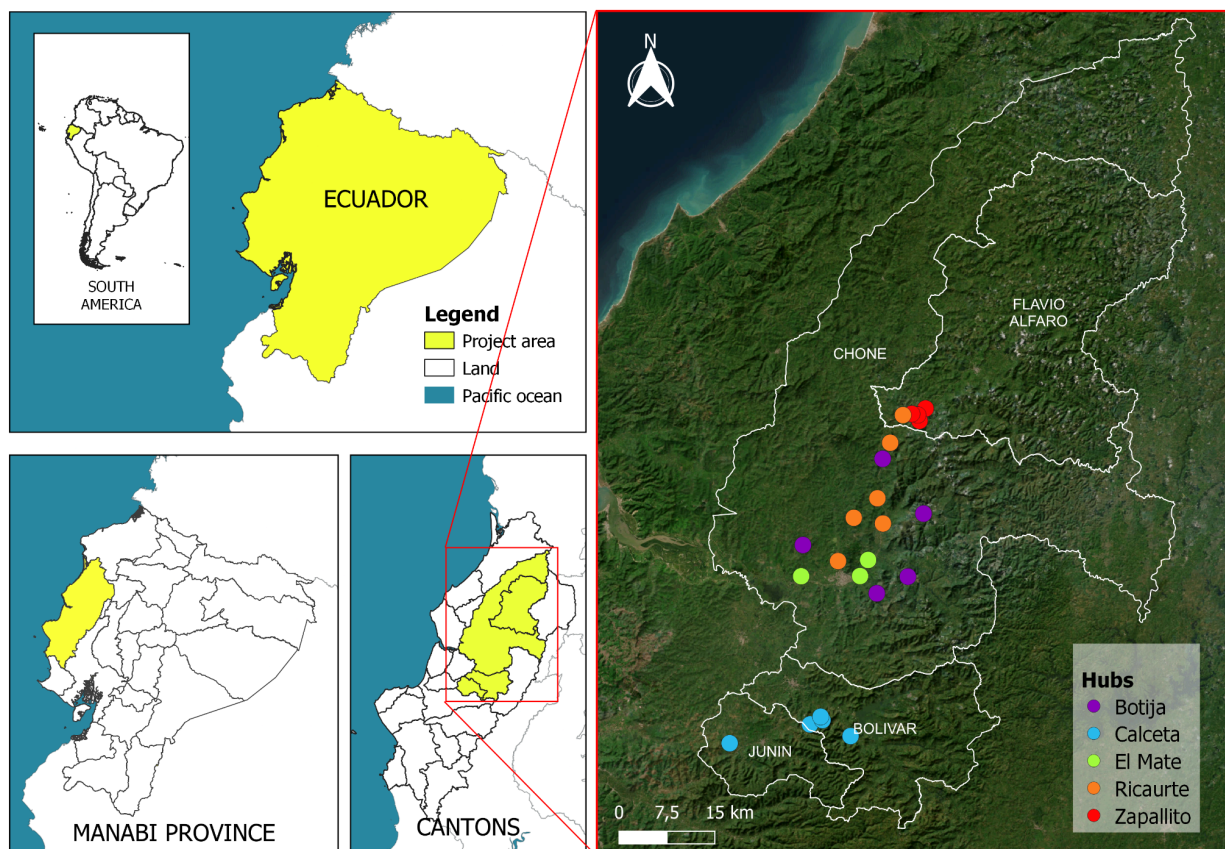


Figure 1. Shows 25 syntropic agroforestry training plots across four cantons in Manabí, Ecuador. Color-coded by training hubs, each point represents a participating farm implementing regenerative cacao systems.

Incomes in these regenerative systems are significantly higher than those from monocultures. Whereas monoculture cacao farms typically (at current market rates for cacao in July 2025) generate \$6,660 US dollars per hectare annually, our syntropic systems project to produce average incomes of \$9,000 - \$10,000 dollars per hectare by year five (Table 1). These estimates include diversified harvests of cacao, bananas, mangos, avocados, and timber crops like teak and amarillo. According to our cost-benefit analysis, farmers are expected to begin generating net positive returns starting in year five, when the cost-benefit ratio surpasses 1. Other plants that we are planning to include are jackfruit, papaya, beans, habas, peanut, corn, and pachaco. While some of these may not generate direct income through sales, they contribute to household food security and help improve soil conditions. In addition to direct income, farmers reduce dependence on expensive chemical inputs through organic practices such as composting, mulching, and biofertilizers, further increasing long-term sustainability.

Table 1. Projected income and cost-benefit analysis for a 1-ha syntropic agroforestry system under conservative yield and price estimates.

Crop/Product	Density (trees/ha)	Yield (Kg or m ³ *)	Price (USD/Kg or USD/m ³ *)	Estimated Profit (USD/year)	Estimated profit over time										
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	...	Year 14	Year 15
Plantain	400	10000	0.15	\$1,500	\$750	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	...	\$1,500	\$1,500
Cacao	1000	900	7.4	\$6,660				\$1,332	\$3,330	\$5,328	\$6,660	\$6,660	...	\$6,660	\$6,660
Avocados	50	1250	0.92	\$1,150				\$575	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$1,150	...	\$1,150	\$1,150
Mangos	50	1250	0.47	\$588					\$294	\$588	\$588	\$588	...	\$588	\$588
Teak*	125	63	250	\$15,625											\$15,625
Amarillo*	125	94	250	\$23,438											\$23,438
Total	1750														
Total Annual Income					\$750	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,407	\$6,274	\$8,566	\$9,898	\$9,898	...	\$9,898	\$48,961
Annual Investment & Maintenance Costs					-\$2,200	-\$2,200	-\$2,200	-\$2,200	-\$1,200	-\$1,200	-\$1,200	-\$1,200	...	-\$1,200	-\$1,200
Net Annual Balance					-\$1,450	-\$700	-\$700	\$1,207	\$5,074	\$7,366	\$8,698	\$8,698	...	\$8,698	\$47,761
Cost/ Benefit ratio					-0.66	-0.32	-0.32	0.55	4.23	6.14	7.25	7.25	...	7.25	39.80

A key barrier to widespread adoption of syntropic systems is the initial transition period. As noted in the literature (Jacobi et al., 2025), these systems often take five to ten years to reach full productivity. During this time, farmers face challenges related to the upfront labor, knowledge, and infrastructure required. To address this, our project provides comprehensive support during the transition, including access to seedlings, agroecological toolkits, and frequent technical assistance. Through hands-on training, group workdays, and one-on-one farm visits, we guide farmers through the implementation of multi-strata systems tailored to their land and our local agricultural markets. This sustained support helps farmers establish productive systems more effectively and ensures that the transition is both successful and economically viable over time.

Chone is particularly well-suited to cacao agroforestry due to its ancestral cacao trees and reputation for producing “Aroma Fino” cacao, a fine-flavor variety endemic to coastal Ecuador and prized by fine chocolate makers the world over. These trees thrive under forest canopy, making syntropic systems ideal for their cultivation. As demand for premium and traceable cacao surges globally (in part spurred by the *EU Deforestation Regulation 2023/1115*), Ecuador's position is becoming increasingly strategic. Between 2022 and 2024, export value of Ecuadorian cacao rose by 137 percent, reaching 1.32 billion dollars. In January 2025 alone, exports totaled 50,000 tons valued at 517.2 million dollars, marking a 300 percent increase over the same month in the prior year.

This growth is driven in part by supply disruptions in West Africa, where climate change is reducing yields by up to 30 percent, with projections of up to 86 percent losses by 2050 in countries like Ghana. While this shift opens opportunities for producers in Ecuador, it also serves as a reminder that climate change is a global challenge. To remain resilient, we must focus not only on seizing market openings, but also on adapting to changing conditions and mitigating future risks. Syntropic systems offer a powerful, nature-based response to extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. Meanwhile, the European Union’s 2023/1115 Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) mandates strict traceability, requiring that cacao entering the European market must not be linked to deforestation post-2020. Syntropic agroforestry, which restores degraded lands without clearing forests, meets these criteria and offers smallholders a compliant, market-ready pathway.

Our approach goes beyond production. The project is designed as an integrated education and empowerment platform. Through the Agroecological Training Program, farmers gain access to technical knowledge, resources, and community networks that enable their ability to implement and sustain regenerative practices. Each training module, including soil fertility, pruning, agroforestry design,

bamboo and ecosystem management, involves both theory and hands-on work. Farmers receive toolkits, seeds, and post-harvest support, while also engaging in cooperative formation and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.

The program also addresses generational renewal. By positioning regenerative farming as a dignified and viable career, the project encourages youth participation and aims to reverse rural flight. Many young people in Manabí are leaving agriculture due to poor income and ecological degradation. This project helps rebuild interest and pride in farming by showcasing innovative systems that produce abundant food, restore nature, and connect to international markets.

In 2026, we will expand this program to train 60 additional farmers across three of our hubs and deepen support for three high-performing plots from the 2025 cohort. Each participating farmer will implement a 40 x 40 meter syntropic plot, allowing for greater impact and increased productivity. To strengthen peer learning and adoption, subregional learning groups will be reinforced, and monitoring frameworks will track ecological recovery, farmer income, and community engagement to guide continuous improvement and future replication. This next phase builds directly on the lessons and successes of the 2025 program. We will select three outstanding farmers, one from each of three different communities, based on the quality of their 30 x 30 meter practice plots and their leadership in communal work. Each of them will become a local trainer and establish a 1-hectare syntropic plot designed as a living classroom to train 20 new farmers on-site.

These new plots will incorporate key refinements, including deeper 40+ cm soil preparation along tree lines, higher species density, increased direct tree seeding, and early application of biofertilizers and inoculants. Each farmer will also receive a tailored irrigation system that includes a water tank, hose, and small pump, allowing them to maintain crop health during dry periods and improve long-term system resilience. By turning top-performing participants into local trainers and transforming their farms into demonstration sites, we aim to embed leadership within communities and strengthen the model's long-term ecological and economic impact. Monitoring and evaluation frameworks will track ecological recovery, farmer income, and community engagement to guide continuous improvement and support future replication.

A key element of the program's success is its follow-up system, which proved essential during the 2025 pilot. Beyond the three-week training, farmers receive ongoing technical support through monthly farm visits by a dedicated technician team. These visits reinforce practical skills, address site-specific challenges, and build farmer networks through communal work sessions (mingas), fostering collaboration and peer learning. This approach ensures long-term adoption and sustainability of syntropic practices.

To support post-harvest processing and market access, a cacao buying center will be established at Regeneration Field Institute (RFI)'s campus where cacao fermentation and drying will take place. Equipped with fermentation boxes, drying racks, and a roofed structure, the facility will enable farmers to improve quality, standardize processing, and access premium markets. Cacao from syntropic plots—starting with the 2025 and 2026 cohorts—will be purchased and processed there, creating added value, traceability, and new economic opportunities for smallholder producers. By combining production, we will be able to begin to offer a traceable and 'regeneratively sourced cacao' that can fetch an above average price in the international market for fine cacao.

This project not only strengthens food security, climate resilience, and biodiversity but also restores dignity to smallholder farming. By pairing ancestral cacao traditions with cutting-edge ecological knowledge, we are creating an economically viable model that regenerates landscapes and livelihoods in one of Ecuador's most vulnerable yet promising rural regions.

This project is designed to deliver long-term impact beyond the grant cycle. Our sustainability strategy incorporates Rotary's six sustainability criteria:

Start with the Community: The project builds directly on farmer-identified needs, with each participant developing a 50x50m syntropic agroforestry plot on their own land. Training is codesigned with farmer feedback and regional context.

Local Ownership: Farmer groups are organized by hubs and encouraged to self-organize into

subregional learning clusters. These groups meet monthly to exchange knowledge and help each other with the maintenance.

Training and Capacity Building: The curriculum includes 4 thematic modules (soil, pruning, agroforestry, bamboo/livestock/ecosystem management), each with theory and practice. All training materials will be shared openly, and we will identify promising farmers to serve as peer trainers for future cohorts.

Buy Local: Tools and seeds are purchased from local providers.

Market access: The project introduces post-training pathways for farmers to engage with local cacao buyers, allowing access to premium markets. Additional support will be sought from local governments and private investment to ensure these market opportunities..

Measure Success: A full M&E plan is in place. Baseline data is collected on income, productivity, soil indicators, and biodiversity. These metrics will be tracked quarterly, and results will be shared transparently with participating communities.

References

Regeneration Field Institute - www.regeneratefieldinstitute.com

Charry, Andrés, et al. "The bittersweet economics of different cacao production systems in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru." *Agricultural Systems* 224 (2025): 104235. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2024.104235>

Jacobi, Johanna, et al. "Syntropic farming systems for reconciling productivity, ecosystem functions, and restoration." *The Lancet Planetary Health* 9.4 (2025): e314-e325. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(25\)00047-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(25)00047-6/fulltext)

Kettley, Aubrey. "What soil is worth: A cost-benefit framework analysis of syntropic farming." (2024). https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/3772

Step 4: Area of focus

Which area of focus will this project support?

Select at least one area. Note that we'll ask you to set goals and answer questions for each area of focus you select.

- ☐ Peacebuilding and conflict prevention
- ☐ Disease prevention and treatment
- ☐ Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- ☐ Maternal and child health
- ☐ Basic education and literacy
- ☒ Community economic development
- ☐ Environment

Step 5: Measuring success

Which goals of this area of focus will your project support?

We'll ask you questions about the goals you choose, and at the end of the project, you'll report on your results for each goal. Each area of focus has its own set of goals. Select only the goals that your project will address.

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How will you measure your project's impact?

Use only measures that are clearly linked to your goals and will demonstrate the project's impact on participants' lives, knowledge, or health. Find tips and information on how to measure results in the [Global Grant Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Supplement](#). You need to include at least one standardized measure from the drop-down menu as part of your application. (Add rows as needed.)

Measure	Collection Method	Frequency	Beneficiaries
Number of trainings complete (q)	Grant records and reports Direct observation	Monthly	60 - 75 Farmers
Household income (\$/hectare)	Surveys/questionnaires	Quarterly	60 - 75 Farmers and their Direct Family
Farm Productivity (ton/hectare)	Surveys/questionnaires Direct observation	Quarterly	60 - 75 Farmers
Crop sales (\$/hectare)	Surveys/questionnaires	Quarterly	60 - 75 Farmers and their Direct Family
Profit per commodity/crop (\$)	Surveys/questionnaires	Quarterly	60 - 75 Farmers and their Direct Family
Tree growth (cm) and survival (q)	Testing Direct observation	Quarterly	60 - 75 Farmers and their Direct Family
Microorganisms Microbial biomass ($\mu\text{g C/g}$) and fungal to bacterial ratio (F:B)	Testing	baseline vs. annual/seasonal	60 - 75 Farmers
Water Infiltration + Moisture content	Testing	baseline vs. annual/seasonal	60 - 75 Farmers
Organic matter Soil organic matter (%)	Testing	baseline vs. annual/seasonal	60 - 75 Farmers
Nutrients availability Major nutrients (NPK, ppm or mg/L) and pH	Testing	baseline vs. annual/seasonal	60 - 75 Farmers
Carbon sequestration Soil organic carbon (ppm or g/Kg) + Aboveground and belowground biomass (tonnes of dry matter per unit area)	Testing Satellite imagery	baseline vs. annual/seasonal	60 - 75 Farmers

Do you know who will collect information for monitoring and evaluation?

If yes, please provide the name and contact information for that person or organization and briefly explain why this person or organization is qualified for this task. If no, please tell us how you plan to find a person or organization to complete this task.

Regeneration Field Institute

Lucas graduated from California Santa Cruz University. He has 17 years of experience working in environmental Restoration, education and Community Leadership Training. Lucas has been working in Manabi, Ecuador since 2010, restoring ecosystems, promoting eco-tourism and building bamboo houses and developing bamboo value chains for local and international companies.

Step 6: Location and dates

HUMANITARIAN PROJECT

Where and when will your project take place?

The project will take place in Ricaurte, Chone, Manabi province, in a farm called Los Arboleros farm. The training program will take place at the participant farms throughout the counties of Chone, Bolivar, Flavio Alfaro and Junín in the province of Manabi.

The project will begin in November 2025 and run through November 2026. During this 12-month period, activities will include community outreach, farmer registration, curriculum refinement, implementation of four training modules, establishment of demonstration plots, peer-to-peer learning, and regular technical follow-up visits. Monitoring and evaluation activities will occur quarterly throughout the project, with a final evaluation and feedback process scheduled for the last month.

Step 7: Participants

COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS (OPTIONAL)

Provide the name, website and location of each cooperating organization.

A cooperating organization can be a nongovernmental organization, community group, or government entity. Please attach Rotary's [memorandum of understanding](#) that's signed by a representative of the organization. (Add rows as needed.)

Name	Website	Location
Regeneration Field Institute	https://www.regenerationfieldinstitute.com	Ricaurte, Chone, Manabi

Do any committee members have a potential conflict of interest related to a cooperating organization?

No. No conflicts exist among committee members.

Why did you choose to partner with this organization and what will its role be?

Our partners are playing or are going to play at least one of the following roles:

Academic Support. - Academics that will assist the project by teaching different courses and managing the curriculum. Agents that will provide available research and technical advice.

Validation. – Provide certification of the course quality and the acquired skills of graduates. Provide institutional support or validation that aligns with local, regional and national stated public policy goals and legal framework.

Monitoring and Evaluation. – Assist in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the program in reaching the desired goals.

Community Engagement. – Communicate, inspire and engage local communities and wider audiences.

PARTNERS (OPTIONAL)

Partners may include other Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs, Rotary Community Corps, or individuals.

List any other partners that will participate in this project.

- RC Guayaquil Astillero 4400 - Guayaquil, Ecuador – **Host Club**
- RC Santa Rosa East/West, Santa Rosa, California, USA / Contact: Barry Cogbill,
barry@pathways4thriving.org – **International Sponsor, Financier and Fundraiser**

VOLUNTEER TRAVELERS (OPTIONAL)

A grant for a humanitarian project can pay for travel for up to two people who will provide training or help implement the project if the necessary skills are not available locally.

Provide name, email of traveler(s).

Describe this person's role in the project.

ROTARIAN PARTICIPANTS

Describe the roles and responsibilities that the host and international sponsors will have in this project. Please be specific. Which sponsor will receive and manage the grant funds?

Primary Host: Rotary Club Guayaquil Astillero

The Primary Host bears the primary responsibility for the execution of the project. The Club will create a committee that will oversee this project. The main tasks of the Primary Host include:

- Preparation of the Grant Application to TRF.
- Securing up-to-date quotes for all purchases and deciding on all acquisitions.
- Ensuring the correct delivery of all purchases to the intended destinations.
- Oversight of the construction and installation of the bamboo curating pools and any other infrastructure.
- Maintaining continuous contact with the communities, farmers and students involved.
- Making periodic visits to the sites.
- Supervising the Monitoring and Evaluation process on a continuous basis.
- Coordinating the project funds, which includes sending detailed requests for funds that will be wire transferred from the Primary Sponsor Club in a timely manner.
- Arranging payments to all vendors and reconciling bank account statements.
- Seeking appropriate channels to publicize the project and its benefits.
- Maintaining continuous contact with the International Rotarians.
- Preparing all reports required by TRF.

Primary Sponsor Club

The Primary Sponsor Club will be in charge of:

- Receiving and managing all grant funds in a dedicated project account.
- Seeking other clubs that might be interested in participating in this project.
- Serving as the primary communications link between the participating Clubs in the United States.
- Participating in the preparation of the project application to TRF.

- Transferring funds via wire transfers upon written requests with detailed supporting documentation.
- Maintaining all bank records and reconciliation of the international bank account.
- Receiving and filing all receipts pertaining to the disbursement of the funds.
- Encouraging visits of USA or Canada based Rotarians to the project site.
- Supporting the execution of the project when possible.
- Keeping all participating US or Canada Rotary Clubs informed of the progress.
- Participating in the preparation and approval of all reports to TRF.
- Publicizing the project and Rotary's involvement in available media.

Grant Funds Management:

The Primary Sponsor Club will receive and manage all grant funds for this project. The Primary Host will submit detailed funding requests to the Primary Sponsor Club for wire transfers as needed for project implementation.

Describe how the partnership between the host and international sponsors was formed. What agreement have the sponsors made toward ensuring that the project will be implemented successfully? How will they manage any challenges that arise throughout the project?

This would be our third Global Grant with the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa East/West. Besides working together successfully in the past they have visited the site personally and have a clear understanding of our work and objectives.

Step 8: Budget

What local currency are you using in your project's budget?

The currency you select should be what you use for a majority of the project's expenses.

USD United States Dollar

What is the U.S. dollar (USD) exchange rate?

Ecuador uses the U.S. dollar as its official currency, so the exchange rate is 1 USD = 1 USD.

What is the budget for this grant?

List each item in your project's budget. Remember that the project's total budget must equal its total funding, which will be calculated in step 9. Project budgets, including the World Fund match, must be at least \$30,000. (Add rows as needed.)

#	Category*	Description	Supplier	Cost in local currency	Cost in USD
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1	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 technicians for 12 months - Train 3 farmers from 2025 cohort to become trainers - Train 60 new farmers across 3 hubs - Year-round technical support for farmers and training plots - Facilitate community work 	Regeneration Field Institute	\$29,200	\$29,200
2	Tools & Supplies	Tool kits which include pitchfork, shovel with straight blade, pruning shears, extendable tree pole pruner, post hold digger and . Tools kits cost \$177,12 each for 60 farmers	Kywi	\$10,627.20	\$10,627.20
3	Seeds & trees	Development of seed banks and plant banks to disburse seed and plant kits to each farmer containing 25+ varieties of plants (about \$20,000 of this overall cost will go towards giving 200 carefully selected genetic, grafted cacao seedlings to each producer)	Regeneration Field Institute	\$43,710.00	\$43,710.00
4	Irrigation Equipment	1 tank, a length of hose and a small pump, specific to each farmer's need. \$240 average price.	Kywi Ferretería JJ	\$13,800.00	\$13,800.00

5	Transportation & logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation support for the farmer training group to visit each model farm site to work on implementation of hands-on practicum training over the course of 12 months - Local farmer gatherings and events to coordinate training, and also delivery of plants and other supplies to farms 	Regeneration Field Institute	\$7,000.08	\$7,000.08
6	Food, Lodging and facility access	First weekend of training: 2 nights for 60 people at \$50/person/night	Regeneration Field Institute	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
7	Cacao Processing Pilot Facility	<p>Fermentation/drying unit to be located at Los Arboleros Farm. Includes fermentation boxes, drying racks, roof structure. Building Carbon or affiliated future commercial entity led by RFI/ Building Carbon leadership will commit to purchasing the Syntropic grown cacao produced by graduates from the 2025, 2026 and future training group.</p>	BambuTec Constructores	\$10,000	\$10,000

8	Monitoring & evaluation	- 1 field scientist - Visits to 60 farms every 3 months for data collection - Soil sampling and testing - M&E visits	Regeneration Field Institute	\$13,900.02	\$13,900.02
9	Administrative costs	Management and coordination expenses	Outside Accountant	\$7,600.00	\$7,600.00
11	Contingency	Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses		\$8,351.00	\$8,351.00
Total budget:				\$150,188.30	\$150,188.30

*Possible categories: Accommodations, Equipment, Monitoring/evaluation, Operations, Personnel, Project management, Publicity, Signage, Supplies, Training, Travel, Tuition

Supporting documents

Upload any documents, such as price bids or pro forma invoices, to substantiate the listed expenses.

Step 9: Funding

Tell us about the funding you've secured for your project.

We'll use the information you enter here to calculate your maximum possible funding match from the World Fund. List all of your funding, including cash contributions and District Designated Funds (DDF). (Add rows as needed.)

#	Source	Details	Amount (USD)	Support*	Total
1	Cash from Club	Santa Rosa East/West [Rotary Club]	\$30,000	\$1,500	\$31,500
2	District Designated Fund (DDF)	5130	\$60,000	\$0.00	\$60,000
3	Cash from Club	Guayaquil Astillero [Rotary Club]	\$1,000	\$50	\$1,050
4	Cash from Club	Other Partner Clubs (combined)	\$17,000.00	\$850.00	\$17,850
Total					\$110,400

*Whenever cash is contributed to the Foundation to help fund a global grant project, an additional 5 percent is applied to help cover the cost of processing these funds. Clubs and districts can receive Paul Harris Fellow recognition points for the additional expense.

How much World Fund money would you like to use on this project?

You may request up to \$44,458.28 USD from the World Fund. \$39,788.30

Funding Summary

DDF contributions: \$60,000.00

Cash contributions: \$50,400.00

Financing subtotal (matched contributions + World Fund): \$150,188.30

Total funding: \$150,188.30

Total budget: \$150,188.30

Step 10: Sustainability

Sustainable projects provide long-term solutions to community problems — solutions that community members themselves can support after grant funding ends. Your answers to the questions below will help us understand the components of your project that will make it sustainable.

HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS – PROJECT PLANNING

Describe the community needs that your project will address.

Our partner organization, Regeneration Field Institute (RFI), has lived and worked in the Manabí region for over 12 years. Their work began with building bamboo houses for vulnerable families and later expanded into environmental education and regenerative land restoration. This long-term presence, combined with daily interaction with farmers and families, provided the foundation for understanding the region's environmental and economic challenges.

To formalize this understanding, we conducted a Community Needs Assessment in 2025 following Rotary's guidelines. The process included a main session at Los Arboleros Farm with representatives from 12 rural communities, followed by individual interviews with farmers, youth, teachers, and elders. In total, 32 participants took part in the assessment.

The most commonly identified needs were:

- Low and unstable income, often tied to monoculture, degraded soils, and weak market access
- Lack of technical training in sustainable agriculture and limited guidance on alternatives to agrochemical dependency
- Soil erosion, compaction, and nutrient depletion, caused by deforestation and extractive farming
- Limited irrigation infrastructure and vulnerability during the dry season
- Loss of biodiversity and declining water quality, especially in streams and small rivers
- Youth disengagement from agriculture, due to lack of opportunities and low profitability
- Poor post-harvest capacity, which prevents farmers from accessing better markets

In addition, the 2025 Global Grant pilot program (GG2570132) provided key insights. Twenty-five farmers implemented 30x30 meter regenerative plots across five hubs and received monthly follow-up visits. Their feedback helped refine the technical content, identify gaps in support (such as irrigation), and confirm the importance of hands-on, locally adapted training.

These combined experiences shaped the priorities of this proposal and helped ensure that its goals, strategies, and methods respond directly to the realities on the ground.

How did your project team identify these needs?

Our partner organization, Regeneration Field Institute (RFI), has been living and working in the region for over 12 years, originally providing pro-bono housing and infrastructure support for vulnerable families. Over time, the focus expanded to environmental restoration and regenerative farming. This close and long-term connection gave the team a strong understanding of local challenges and priorities.

In 2025, we formalized that knowledge through a **Community Needs Assessment**, following Rotary guidelines. We held a main session at Los Arboleros Farm and conducted follow-up interviews across 11 communities. The process included 32 community members from different backgrounds (farmers, youth, elders, and educators). Their input revealed widespread concern about declining soil fertility, unstable incomes, limited technical support, and reduced access to water and markets. These conversations confirmed what the team had seen on the ground for years, and helped us identify key areas where targeted support could make a lasting difference.

The Global Grant Community Assessment Results Form has been completed and is included as a supporting document.

How were members of the benefiting community involved in finding solutions?

This project emerged directly from years of dialogue with local families, many of whom we have worked with since before the pilot in 2025. The idea to expand training and provide resources for regenerative farming did not come from a single request. It developed from a shared recognition that current agricultural systems were no longer working due to rising input costs, climate stress, and degraded soils.

Rather than imposing external solutions, we worked with farmers to shape a practical, community-based approach. One key decision was to hold trainings directly in local hubs instead of centralizing them at the Institute. This makes learning more accessible, allows participants to apply practices on their own land, and strengthens local collaboration. Regular follow-up visits and mingas create space for real-time problem solving and help the project adjust to the specific conditions of each community. The presence of youth in support roles and the selection of farmer-trainers from the 2025 pilot also reflect solutions that came from within the community, not from outside consultants.

How were community members involved in planning the project?

Community involvement has been at the heart of planning from the beginning. The structure of this new phase builds directly on feedback received during the 2025 pilot, in which 25 farmers implemented 30x30 meter syntropic plots and met regularly with our technical team. Their experiences, including what worked, what needed improvement, and what required more support, helped us understand how to improve the model for 2026.

In this next phase, five farmers from the 2025 cohort will serve as peer trainers and hosts of new 1-hectare demonstration plots. Their leadership and input shaped important planning decisions such as irrigation strategy, training structure, and species selection. In addition, youth, teachers, and community leaders who participated in the community assessment helped refine topics, infrastructure priorities, and engagement strategies for future participants.

The planning process is designed to remain flexible. The curriculum and support systems will continue to evolve based on monthly feedback, field evaluations, and regular interaction with participating farmers.

HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS – PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Summarize each step of your project's implementation.

Do not include steps related to fundraising, applying, or reporting. (Add rows as needed.)

#	Activity	Duration
1	Project planning and curriculum development.	4 weeks
2	Community outreach to publicize the commencement of the courses. Offering two 1-day workshops on pruning to network with farmers and farming groups.	4 weeks
3	Register participants for courses.	1 weeks
4	Assessing farmer cooperative creation or local farmer group creation.	1 weeks
5	Register all students. Reconfirm farm business data with all registered students.	1 weeks
6	Create a specific evaluation of the selected students in order to refine the curriculum according to their needs.	1 weeks
7	Beginning of Training - Module 1: Fundamentals of Syntropic Agroforestry and Soil Restoration	1 weeks
8	Module 2: Practical Agroforestry System Installation and Early Maintenance	1 weeks
9	Feedback and Evaluation of applied skills of graduates	1 weeks
10	Community outreach and follow-up with previous graduates, troubleshooting problems, addressing questions and supporting the subregional group formation.	4 weeks
11	Community Outreach for registration of Course 3	2 weeks
12	Module 3: Multi-Year Syntropic System Management & Community Network Building	1 weeks
13	Plot Implementation: Demonstration Parcel Expansion and Livelihood Integration	2 weeks
14	Follow-up and feedback from course graduates. Evaluation of subregional groups and implementation of practices on model farms.	4 weeks
15	Routine follow-up at each farm (1 time/month) and regular facilitated group sessions of work (1 time/month).	Ongoing (1 year)

Will you work in coordination with any related initiatives in the community? If yes, briefly describe the other initiatives and how they relate to this project. If no, please explain. Are local initiatives not addressing these needs? Or, if they are, why did you decide not to work with them?

There can be value in working with other groups including governments, nonprofit organizations, and private companies.

No, we will not be working in coordination with other initiatives in the community because there are currently no local initiatives addressing these specific needs in our impact area. This project aims to fill that gap by providing support and education that is not being offered through existing efforts.

Please describe the training, community outreach, or educational programs this project will include.

The project includes four structured training modules developed specifically for smallholder farmers in the region:

Module 1 – Fundamentals of Syntropic Agroforestry and Soil Restoration: Covers ecological succession, soil structure, planting techniques, and seed collection.

Module 2 – Practical Installation and Early Maintenance: Focuses on deep digging, planting, mulching, pruning, and tree spacing through guided fieldwork.

Module 3 – Multi-Year System Management & Community Network Building: Trains farmers in pruning strategies, canopy management, composting, and organizing cooperative networks.

Module 4 – Demonstration Parcel Expansion and Livelihood Integration: Supports lead farmers in implementing 1-ha model plots, integrating bamboo, fruit, and timber systems with irrigation.

Community outreach is woven into the entire process through mingas, demonstration days, youth engagement, and monthly technical visits. Education is reinforced through peer learning, ongoing feedback, and subregional group coordination.

Please find attached the [Training Plan](#) for Global Grants form.

How were these needs identified?

The curriculum was designed in direct response to the pressing challenges faced by farmers in the region. Years of intensive agriculture and cattle ranching have severely degraded soils, leaving them depleted of nutrients and organic matter. Local farmers consistently report struggling with low crop yields, vulnerable plants, and decreasing land productivity.

The courses address these issues by focusing on practical, regenerative techniques—teaching farmers how to rebuild soil health through composting and mulching, diversify production with agroforestry, and integrate sustainable livestock management. By focusing on these specific needs, the training equips farmers with the knowledge to restore their land while improving productivity and resilience.

What incentives (for example, monetary compensation, awards, certification, or publicity), will you use, if any, to encourage community members to participate in the project?

The primary incentive for participants is the opportunity to improve income stability, reduce costs, and break cycles of poverty through long-term changes to their production systems. Farmers will receive:

- Free technical training from agroforestry experts
- Access to high-quality seeds and tools
- Ongoing mentorship and follow-up for one year
- Participation in farmer networks and cooperatives
- Certification of course completion

This is complemented by a proven strategy of “showing, not telling.” Demonstration plots and the results of the 2025 cohort serve as living examples of what is possible. The project builds trust by producing visible, tangible outcomes rather than offering abstract promises.

List any community members or community groups that will oversee the continuation of the project after grant-funded activities conclude.

These may or may not be Rotary members or clubs.

The Regeneration Field Institute team will continue coordinating efforts on the ground and supporting participating farmers. In addition, five trained farmer-leaders from the 2025 cohort will manage expanded plots and act as local mentors and trainers for their peers. These individuals will anchor each hub’s ongoing activities and guide the development of subregional farmer networks. Their leadership, combined with RFI’s long-term presence, ensures continuity beyond the grant period.

BUDGET

Will you purchase budget items from local vendors? Explain the process you used to select vendors.

We will purchase items from local vendors by getting quotes from multiple providers and by surveying people who are already acquiring the products and services we need. Additionally, we now have experience from the last awarded grant, which has helped us identify suppliers that offer the best price-quality ratio.

Did you use competitive bidding to select vendors? If no, please explain.

No, we did not use competitive bidding to select vendors. Based on our previous experience, we have found that competitive bidding does not always result in the best prices, as vendors may coordinate prices in advance, limiting our ability to negotiate effectively. Instead, we interview individuals and organizations who have previously acquired the same products or services to understand market rates and quality. We then approach each vendor separately to request quotes, which gives us better leverage and has proven to be a more reliable method in securing the best price-quality ratio.

Please provide an operating and maintenance plan for the equipment or materials you purchased for this project. This plan should include who will operate and maintain the equipment and how they will be trained.

There is not much equipment that needs long-term maintenance work.

Describe how community members will maintain the equipment after grant-funded activities conclude. Will replacement parts be available?

The equipment being provided to the farmers is basic trimming and pruning equipment. It is durable. The elements which typically break are the handles, they can craft new handles out of wood from the area.

The tools will be culturally appropriate, people are not accustomed to 'tree care' besides weeding and occasional pruning. Our intention is to help teach about why pruning and de-limbing trees with machetes is not ideal. It damages the trees too much and is not as precise as pruning saws and loppers.

If the grant will be used to purchase any equipment, will the equipment be culturally appropriate and conform to the community's technology standards? If yes, please explain. If no, describe how the project team will help community members adopt the technology.

The grant will not be used to purchase any equipment.

After the project is completed, who will own the items purchased by grant funds? No items may be owned by a Rotary district, club, or member.

N/A

FUNDING

Have you found a local funding source to sustain project outcomes for the long term? If yes, please describe this funding source.

The outcome is the result of economic gains and economic resilience of our farmers, as well as the new knowledge and practices acquired by them. The ongoing funding source is the business of the farmers itself which will help sustain their families in the long term after the project is completed

Will any part of the project generate income for ongoing project funding? If yes, please explain.

No, this project will end after the training. The ongoing activities are monitoring and evaluation.

Is your economic and community development activity a microcredit project? If yes, upload your [microcredit supplement](#) file.

N/A