Cover Letter
[Date]

Hiring Manager
YiRI
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Dear Hiring Manager,

The opportunity to serve as Project Manager for YiRI immediately resonated with my passion for leveraging cutting-edge technology to preserve and amplify African cultural identity. Your vision of Africa inventing its own digital revolution, where "chaque ligne de code sert à préserver un conte, un chant, une mémoire," is not just inspiring, but perfectly aligns with my career trajectory of building impactful AI/ML solutions while fostering innovation and community growth.

As a Senior Data Scientist and Product Manager with over 6 years of experience, I am confident in my ability to be the "chef d'orchestre" you seek for this historical mission. My recent roles, particularly as Lead Data Scientist & Data Product Manager at Data354 and Project Manager Consultant at Orange Côte d'Ivoire, have provided me with extensive experience in the core competencies required:

Leadership Stratégique et Innovation Technologique: At Orange Côte d'Ivoire, I led the Agile implementation of critical decision-support systems and data-driven solutions, ensuring 97% on-time delivery. My experience includes architecting a Data Mesh for self-service analytics and developing AI-powered systems like "Infoview" for claims data validation. This hands-on expertise in deploying complex digital platforms and building revolutionary AI models (including LLM and RAG implementations for legal analysis and voice-enabled AI assistants for healthcare at Data354) directly translates to YiRI's need to deploy numerical platforms and deliver a revolutionary AI model.

Gestion Budgétaire et Pilotage de Projets d'Envergure: While directly managing a 3.8 billion FCFA budget is a new scale, my experience in leading significant data and AI projects, optimizing processes, and ensuring high-quality outcomes within defined timelines demonstrates a strong foundation in project execution and resource management. My leadership in scaling training programs to over 700 trainees, involving stakeholder management and financial reporting (KPIs), further attests to my capability in overseeing impactful projects with transparency.

Passion pour la Culture Africaine: Beyond technical expertise, my deep connection to African culture is evident in my work. My academic journey began in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and I have dedicated years to driving data science growth as a Volunteer Country Ambassador for Zindi in Senegal, connecting talent with skill-building opportunities across the continent. Building a Wolof NLP Dataset Pipeline in a previous role at Baamtu Datamation further exemplifies my commitment to leveraging technology for local linguistic and cultural preservation.

The prospect of collaborating with esteemed partners like UNESCO, ST Digital, and local universities to build a lasting legacy for Africa's cultural heritage through technology fills me with immense enthusiasm. I am eager to apply my leadership, technical acumen, and passion to YiRI, not just managing a project, but truly building an inheritance for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my application. I have attached my CV for your review and welcome the opportunity to discuss how my skills and vision can contribute to YiRI's groundbreaking mission.

Sincerely,
Esaïe Alain-Emmanuel KOUPOH