

Cover Letter

Dear Hiring Manager,

It is with immense enthusiasm that I apply for the visionary Project Manager role at YiRI, a mission that perfectly resonates with my commitment to leveraging technology for cultural preservation and advancement in Africa. As an AI & Data Leader with over 6 years of experience building solutions, leading teams, and driving innovation, I am deeply inspired by YiRI's unique ethos where "technology meets cultural identity" and Africa "invents its digital revolution." I am confident that my blend of strategic leadership and deep technical expertise makes me the ideal "chef d'orchestre" to pilot this historic endeavor.

My career has been defined by successfully leading complex, multidisciplinary projects from conception to delivery. As a **Project Manager Consultant - Data & AI at Orange Côte d'Ivoire**, I spearheaded the Agile implementation of critical decision-support systems and data-driven solutions, consistently achieving **97% on-time delivery** for mission-critical tools. This experience, coupled with my role as Lead Data Scientist & Data Product Manager at Data354, where I led the Agile implementation of diverse AI/ML products, demonstrates my proven ability to coordinate teams, optimize processes, and ensure high-quality outcomes at scale – precisely the strategic leadership required to oversee YiRI's comprehensive project rollout.

Furthermore, my extensive background in cutting-edge technological innovation directly aligns with YiRI's goal of deploying digital platforms and delivering a revolutionary AI model. I have hands-on expertise in **ML and LLM implementations** for real-world impact, including developing a voice-enabled AI assistant for proactive cardiovascular care (Avia) and leveraging RAG for legal query understanding (Alia). My skills in architecting a domain-oriented data ownership model (Data Mesh) at Orange CI, coupled with my ongoing Master of Artificial Intelligence and experience as a Deep Learning Instructor for NVIDIA, equip me to not only deploy advanced digital solutions but also to lead the development of an impactful and innovative AI framework for YiRI.

I am particularly drawn to YiRI's mission to preserve African heritage through technology. My prior work, such as building a **Wolof NLP Dataset Pipeline** and my involvement as a Zindi Volunteer Country Ambassador for Senegal, reflects my dedication to fostering local tech ecosystems and engaging with the continent's rich linguistic and cultural diversity. I am eager to contribute my skills to a project that builds such a profound legacy.

Thank you for considering my application. I am highly motivated by the prospect of contributing to YiRI's groundbreaking work and am confident that my expertise will be invaluable to this mission. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experience and passion can directly benefit your team.

Sincerely,

Esaïe Alain-Emmanuel KOUPOH