

Cover Letter

Dear Hiring Manager,

The mission of YiRI – to harmonise technology with cultural identity and enable Africa to invent its own digital revolution – resonates deeply with my professional philosophy and career trajectory. As a "Project Manager visionnaire," the opportunity to lead such a historic and impactful project, acting as the "chef d'orchestre" bridging tradition and cutting-edge technology, is incredibly compelling.

My six years of experience leading complex data and AI initiatives, particularly within African contexts, align perfectly with the strategic leadership and innovative spirit you seek. At Orange Côte d'Ivoire, I successfully led the Agile implementation of critical decision-support systems and data-driven solutions, ensuring a **97% on-time delivery** rate for mission-critical tools and effectively mentoring cross-functional teams. This experience, coupled with my role as Head of Data Science Academy at GIBT where I scaled training programs to over 700 trainees across the continent and managed stakeholder reporting, including financial KPIs, demonstrates my proven ability to pilot large-scale projects, coordinate diverse teams, and drive projects from conception to successful deployment.

Furthermore, my expertise in leveraging advanced AI and digital platforms is directly applicable to deploying your revolutionary AI model. As a Lead Data Scientist & Product Manager at Data354, I have been at the forefront of implementing ML and LLM-based decision-support systems, including voice-enabled AI assistants for healthcare and RAG systems for legal queries. My work includes developing digital platforms and AI solutions, such as the **Wolof NLP Dataset Pipeline** at Baamtu Datamation, which directly connects to the preservation of cultural data. My comprehensive mastery of data, cloud, and AI technologies, as well as my track record of delivering tangible, real-world impact through innovative solutions, positions me to effectively supervise the technological and strategic aspects of this ambitious undertaking.

What truly sets this opportunity apart is YiRI's commitment to building an African legacy. My engagement as a Zindi Volunteer Country Ambassador for Senegal, fostering data science growth and community, alongside my extensive work training hundreds of professionals, reflects a deep-seated passion for developing African talent and contributing to the continent's digital sovereignty. I am confident that my blend of strategic project leadership, profound technological expertise, and a genuine commitment to African innovation will be instrumental in translating YiRI's vision into a vibrant reality.

I am eager to discuss how my experience and passion can contribute to this transformative project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Esaïe Alain-Emmanuel KOUPOH