

Applicant: **Fumey, Sarah**
Organisation: **Wildlife Conservation Society, Cambodia Program**
Funding Sought: **£98,343.00**

IWTR8S2\1036

Developing a problem-oriented approach to reduce turtle trafficking in Cambodia.

Illegal hunting and trade continue to impact freshwater turtle species, as current approaches do not address the root causes of illegal trade and have been ineffective in preventing population decline. This project will map turtle trade chains, including individuals involved in exploitation, their motivations, and drivers of demand for two Critically Endangered species. We will use this evidence base to develop a specific, innovative, crime prevention-based strategy to reduce poaching, illegal trade and consumption of these species in the long-term.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Sarah
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Wildlife Conservation Society, Cambodia Program
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
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Section 2 - Objectives, Species & Summary

Q3. Title:

Developing a problem-oriented approach to reduce turtle trafficking in Cambodia.

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTR8S1\1001

IWTR8S1\1122

Q4. Which of the four key IWT Challenge Fund objectives will your project address?

Please tick all that apply. Note that projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

- Reducing demand for IWT products
- Strengthening law enforcement

Q5. Species project is focusing on

Where there are more than four species that will benefit from the project's work, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*)

Southern River Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*)

No Response

No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q6. Summary

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 the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Illegal hunting and trade continue to impact freshwater turtle species, as current approaches do not address the root causes of illegal trade and have been ineffective in preventing population decline. This project will map turtle trade chains, including individuals involved in exploitation, their motivations, and drivers of demand for two Critically Endangered species. We will use this evidence base to develop a specific, innovative, crime prevention-based strategy to reduce poaching, illegal trade and consumption of these species in the long-term.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than four countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1 Cambodia

Country 2 No Response

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:

01 August 2022

End date:

29 January 2024

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

1 year, 6 months

Q9. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£50,720.00	£47,623.00	£0.00	£0.00	£ 98,343.00

Q10. Proportion of IWT Challenge Fund budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %



Q11a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Match funding identified for this project will be provided through a WCS regional project (2019-2023) funded by the European Union (EU) that is being implemented in 7 Asian countries including Cambodia. The Cambodia-specific activities under this project focus on the conservation of freshwater turtles through support to conservation and law enforcement activities along with community engagement and livelihood activities. Regional support and technical inputs will also be provided to this project as part of match funding arrangements. The project is focused on collecting the evidence for the proposed approach and the results will be used to develop a larger project to implement the strategy developed. Match funding will be sought to cover any additional expert inputs but at this stage it is not envisaged that any additional match funding will be needed.

Q11b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



Q11c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No additional match funding is required, and all match funding included has been secured.

Section 4 - Problem statement & Gap in existing approaches

Q12. Project stage

With reference to the application guidance, please select the relevant project stage.

Evidence

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of illegal wildlife trade and its relationship with poverty. Please describe the level of threat to the species concerned. Please also explain which communities are affected by this issue, and how this aspect of the illegal trade in wildlife relates to poverty or efforts of people and/or states to reduce poverty.

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document).

The Critically Endangered Southern River Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*) (SRT) and Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) (CGST) are affected by illegal hunting and trade, despite protection under Cambodian law and by CITES, (SRT: Appendix 1; CGST: Appendix II). Cambodia holds significant global populations of both species and based on current knowledge of population size, presents the best opportunity for their long-term conservation. Existing approaches, focused on patrols and outreach in local communities, while reducing pressure on the species, have not prevented overexploitation and continued population decline. Harvesting of eggs for consumption, accidental capture by fishers, and opportunistic and deliberate capture and trade of adults are key threats to both species. Community-based nest protection programs, head-starting of hatchlings, and community outreach have mitigated these community level threats but have not addressed underlying drivers of illegal harvesting. Since 2015 there have been a minimum of 28 known

incidents of dead or live SRTs captured, and at least a dozen incidents of CGST and SRT trade.

Traditional protection efforts (e.g., patrols, law enforcement operations) can only result in penalizing low-level offenders; they are inadequate to deter criminal entities profiting from turtle trafficking and for preventing commercial exploitation and may exacerbate poverty of vulnerable local communities.

The weak legal framework is a significant challenge to effective law enforcement. The Law on Fisheries penalizes catching, buying, selling, transporting, processing and stocking of these species, only by a fine. Prosecution occurs if the offender refuses to pay the fine and if FiA forwards the case to the court. All evidence, including seized turtles, must be returned, meaning Fisheries Administration (FiA) do not have the power to confiscate these species but rely on voluntary relinquishment. These factors result in very limited enforcement deterrent to individuals profiting from turtle trade.

Education, warnings and transactional fines are the only legislative tools FiA officers can use and are most frequently targeted at low-level offenders in local communities (i.e., the source of the supply chain). FiA officers lack investigation powers and capacities so are unable to effectively investigate illegal supply chains to identify individuals organizing and profiting from trafficking. Resulting unfocused law enforcement efforts at source sites typically provide limited results and do not dismantle trafficking networks.

Targeting low-level offenders can exacerbate poverty issues for vulnerable communities that are reliant on aquatic resources and are not incentivized to stop illegal activities. Community members from some of the 19 villages alongside the Sre Ambel and Mekong River systems have reported impacts on their livelihoods and food security from loss of land to agricultural concessions, loss of access to forest resources, and consequently increasing reliance on aquatic resources. Sand dredging, unsustainable and illegal fishing have reduced the viability of fishing as a livelihood option however, leaving some individuals in a precarious situation.

This project aims to address limited effectiveness of traditional conservation, enforcement and the criminal justice system, by collecting evidence needed and developing an innovative alternative approach to address trafficking, and consumption of these two species, focused on crime prevention.

Q14. Gap in existing approaches

What gap does your project fill in existing approaches? Evidence projects should describe how the improved evidence base will be used to design an intervention and the gap the intervention will fill. Extra projects should also provide evidence of the intervention's success at a smaller scale.

WCS and FiA have implemented conservation activities for SRT since 2002 and CGST since 2017. These efforts, consisting of traditional law enforcement and community-based outreach and engagement, have reduced the severity of threats but have not specifically addressed the underlying drivers of commercial poaching and trade. A detailed understanding of the drivers of poaching, trade, and nature of demand for these two species, is a prerequisite for more targeted and efficient action. For instance, egg collection and consumption might be poverty-driven, or preference-driven, opportunistic, or targeted. Traded adults may be opportunistically caught by local fishers or deliberately captured by specialist traders.

This project will provide a comprehensive understanding of the commission of these crimes and the factors that shape the decisions of consumers, poachers, and traders. This critical knowledge will be outlined in the production of at least two crime scripts, allowing for the identification of points of intervention, addressing the factors of crime commission, to enable prevention. For example, if this process identifies food insecurity as a key driver of turtle poaching, actions supporting alternative sources of food will be proposed. This methodology will lead to the development of an evidence-based strategy that focuses holistically on crime prevention.

Section 5 - Objectives & Commitments

Q15. Which national and international objectives and commitments does this project contribute towards?

Consider national plans such as NBSAPs and commitments such as London Conference Declarations and the Kasane and Hanoi Statements. Please provide the number(s) of the relevant commitments and some brief information on how your project will contribute to them. There is no need to include the text from the relevant commitment.

This project will directly contribute to the implementation of Cambodia's NBSAP (2016), specifically two strategic objectives under Protection of Biodiversity: Threatened Species. The project will result in detailed knowledge on factors driving the threatened status of two Critically Endangered species (one being Cambodia's national reptile) and formulation of measures to address these factors and improve species' status. By introducing an innovative crime-prevention based approach, complementing existing conservation efforts, WCS will strengthen the environment for addressing threatened species, enabling a shift away from traditional enforcement efforts. This alternative approach is likely to be well supported by government and community stakeholders, who will be closely engaged in the preventive strategy's development.

The project will help Cambodia meet the commitments of the 2018 London Conference Declaration, particularly statement 20, highlighting the importance of ensuring interventions to end wildlife trade are built on evidence and best practice, and the importance of research to understand market drivers. By developing an evidence-based strategy to address underlying drivers of illegal turtle trade, the project will allow a more effective response to this problem. The project will work towards contributing to number 17, to combat trafficking in collaboration with local communities in source countries.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was ratified by Cambodia in 1997. Both species are CITES listed, SRT in Appendix I, and CGST in Annex II. By better understanding trade for both species and addressing illegal trade this project will help Cambodia meet its CITES obligations.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q16. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project?
- The need for this work and a justification of your proposed approach.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Impacts of turtle conservation activities are currently monitored through the annual number of nests and hatchling success rate. 66 CGST nests were found during the last breeding season, producing 1,300 hatchlings. Three SRT nests were recorded in 2020, producing 23 hatchlings. Incentives to community members for CGST nest protection and successful hatching, and seasonal employment to individuals to guard SRT nests, have proven effective at increasing nest success and hatching, but do not protect adult turtles from capture.

Since 2015 there have been a minimum of 28 known incidents of dead or live SRTs captured, and at least a dozen incidents of CGST and SRT trade. Such data demonstrates that trade-driven threats are still considerable given the small size of these species' populations. Capture and trade incidents were detected based on information from local communities, social media posts, and occasionally by patrol team members, providing further evidence that patrols are an inadequate response to the problem.

Most approaches to crime reduction, including the current approach to combatting poaching and trade of these species, concentrate on suppression or removal of key perpetrators through increasing enforcement and judicial capability, which are reliant on effective criminal justice systems. Increased enforcement targeting turtle traders (e.g., markets, restaurants) is a focus of an EU-financed WCS grant (2018-2023). Enforcement operations are reported to have had a higher success rate in the project's first year than successive years, as traders adapted tactics to hide contraband and evade detection. These efforts are not preventing trafficking and the threats to species from trafficking remain.

This project reflects this experience and will develop a complementary, crime prevention approach to protect turtles from exploitation. A crime prevention approach is directed at stopping crimes from occurring, effective when the criminal justice system is not. Situational crime prevention seeks to alter individuals' judgements of risk and reward and deter them from engaging in illegal activities. Such approaches have reduced other forms of crime and case studies highlight the value in this approach for wildlife protection.

This work will be initiated with training on the Problem-Oriented Wildlife Protection approach and situational crime prevention. Dr Andrew Lemieux, a leading wildlife criminologist, will lead the training and provide ongoing coaching throughout the project.

Once WCS staff have the necessary capabilities, data collection, assimilation and analysis will begin. Project staff will collect and analyse information to determine drivers and facilitators of poaching, illegal trade and consumption of the two turtle species, focusing on the who/what/where/when/why/how at different stages of the crime.

Records of patrols, turtle captures, voluntarily reported information, and enforcement and judicial action will be compiled and analysed. In-depth discussions will be held with community members near source sites, including former poachers-turned-protectors, fishers, transporters, and traders. FiA personnel and patrol teams will also contribute to gain detailed understanding of the stages of the crime and motivations of individuals involved. Interviews with restaurants and open-source research of online platforms where turtles are illegally traded, including Facebook, Youtube, and TikTok, will provide information on the traders, consumers and demand for turtles and their motivations, or drivers.

We will subsequently produce at least three crime scripts, outlining step-by-step the different stages of crime events from poaching to trade and consumption, identify the context in which they occur, the actors involved (including gender differences) and importantly the drivers and motivations for their involvement in this trade. The crime-script provides a way of organising knowledge along the complete trade chain for a species from source to consumer. It will provide a tool for outlining and understanding the rationale for an offender's behaviour and identifies points along the process for intervention (e.g., poaching, transporting, processing, trading consumption).

Results will be utilized in workshops with government, community and civil society partners, to identify opportunities to prevent crime before turtles are poached. The project will develop tailored strategic interventions that take a preventative, behaviour change approach to target the specific people, places and behaviours involved in turtle poaching, trade and consumption. The project will culminate in a case study or research paper and a strategy for the reduction of specific threats to these critically endangered turtles.

The project will be managed by the Project Lead, with support from the Landscape Manager, through a detailed implementation plan. A project tracker will monitor implementation progress and quarterly and annual status reports will be produced. Risks will be assessed prior to the project and documented in a Risk Register, together with actions to mitigate and manage each risk. The register will be regularly reviewed and maintained.

Q17. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

The project will increase capability and capacity of WCS, other stakeholders, and the Fisheries Administration in Cambodia, with a new, innovative approach to address poaching and trafficking; serious issues that are occurring and impacting wildlife and local communities in all the conservation areas where WCS works nationwide. The project will aim to develop a collaboration with researchers from the Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia, allowing them to build expertise in social and crime science. The project will impart details of the problem-oriented wildlife protection (POWP) approach and situational crime prevention to other WCS projects and conservationists in Cambodia, through presentations, discussions and field visits, to exchange ideas and promote intra- and inter-organizational learning. To our knowledge, this is the first time this approach will be utilized in Cambodia and will thus provide an important opportunity for WCS and partners to increase their organization's capabilities through the addition of new approaches and skills sets, in addressing poaching and trafficking.

The completion of a crime prevention strategy will provide the greatest value to WCS and FiA, through provision of a clear, logical and evidence-based pathway to reduce freshwater turtle and trafficking in Cambodia.

This evidence project provides an opportunity to trial and implement the POWP approach by WCS for the second time in Asia (the first in Sumatra, Indonesia), so outputs, deliverables and lessons learned from the implementation of this project, will be shared regionally to benefit other country programs through our internal knowledge management system.

At the individual level, through expert training provided by the project and subsequent implementation, project staff will become relative experts themselves, greatly enhancing their individual capabilities and capacities.

The publication of a case study or research paper will contribute to the knowledge base of conservation practitioners, allowing others to benefit from utilizing similar approaches.

Q18. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

Men are typically the primary actors in egg collection, turtle capture and trade. Women may accompany men fishing, but are more likely to be involved in processing, marketing and sale, and may also be involved in rescue. A female restaurant owner near the SRT area voluntarily handed over two SRTs to FiA that she had bought from a fisherman. Another woman reported her son had captured an SRT, and another bought two SRTs and publicly handed them over to the government. We also know of one woman who sold a CGST at Kratie market. Men have been primary actors in the remaining known capture and trade incidents (24). The project will ensure data are gender-disaggregated to fully understand the roles and motivations of men and women in freshwater turtle poaching, trade, and consumption; allowing strategic interventions developed to be gender sensitive.

More specifically, the project will seek to answer the following:

- Who is poaching, processing, selling (sex, age, social status)?
- Who is receiving benefits from poaching and trading?
- Who are the decision-makers about poaching, how frequently, how many?
- Is there evidence of coercion, such as sexual or gender shaming, driving poaching, and trading?
- Is poaching linked with other illegal activities such as sex trafficking?
- Are there gendered geographies that warrant attention?
- Would the impacts of stopping poaching be the same for women and men?
- Who is buying and why?

Discussions and interviews will engage women and men. We will use best practice guidance to ensure that community meetings are gender sensitive, for example by developing a demographically diverse (class/ethnicity/age) sample of interviewees, making sure that interviewers and interviewees are same-sex paired, and by ensuring consultations are carried out when both men and women are available. Project staff will all be required to complete the WWF

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit, considering both people and species of focus a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. Demand reduction projects should demonstrate their indirect links to poverty reduction.

The comprehensive understanding and evidence generated by the project in the short-term, will enable WCS and partners to design targeted interventions to prevent illegal poaching, trade, and consumption of SRTs and CGSTs.

This work, in the long-term, is likely to result in benefits to local communities, which typically suffer negative impacts as targets of traditional enforcement efforts. The prioritized interventions are likely to reflect a shift away from traditional law enforcement actions, which tend to focus on interdicting lower-level offenders such as poachers and often exacerbate poverty in local communities. The project will help to clearly identify whether poverty is a priority driver of poaching, trade, and consumption of these species and identify future strategic interventions to support vulnerable communities in alternative livelihood or food security measures. Switching the emphasis towards crime prevention techniques, through targeted interventions that address the underlying drivers of the problem may therefore ultimately support efforts to address poverty within these communities.

The project will benefit FiA through identification of effective implementation of their mandate in “management of fisheries and fishery resources”, and “ensuring the public rights to participate in decision making on sustainable management, use, conservation, and development of fishery resources” (Law on Fisheries, 2006). FiA officers are often aware of the disproportionate impacts of law enforcement interventions on vulnerable community members but lack the capacity and capability to implement an alternative, preventative approach to turtle trafficking. Dr Lemieux will provide a short dedicated introductory session to ten senior or mid-level FiA officials, providing them with increased knowledge of alternative, problem-oriented approaches to CWT, and preparing them for involvement in the development of strategic interventions. FiA staff are not anticipated to join the full training course due to limited availability of senior/mid-level officials (the course is a minimum of 5 days) and language skills limitations of provincial level officials.

As an evidence project, the benefit to at least 14 communities living in the SRT and CGST sites, will be in the use of the information gathered in this project in future efforts to tackle wildlife trafficking in these species. It is hoped that by testing this approach we will be able to identify alternative, effective ways to combat crime in communities living alongside these species. These approaches would reduce the level of wildlife trafficking and also provide alternatives to legal penalties, currently imposed on community members.

Through sharing the lessons learned in this project we are also hopeful that the results will impact approaches taken in CWT projects more broadly, positively impacting a greater number of communities and leading to positive conservation outcomes for many more species.

This project will fill gaps in current conservation programs for two Critically Endangered species, which in the long-term we anticipate will result in behaviour change demonstrated through fewer poaching and trade incidences and contribute to stable or increasing populations of these species and a model for enhanced conservation of other species affected by poaching, trade, and consumption.

Q20. Pathway to change

Please outline your project’s expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

Achieving a detailed understanding of at least two specific turtle trade chains, through comprehensive research and analysis, including the identification of gender roles in the trade chain, and people’s motivations for and the drivers of poaching, trade, and consumption, will facilitate identification of clear opportunities for behaviour change and crime prevention, at different stages in the planning and commission of these crimes (Output 1). This detailed understanding, will allow the development and prioritization of strategic, targeted, interventions to address turtle poaching, trade, and consumption, in partnership with Government, community and civil society stakeholders (Output 2), culminating in an evidence-based gender-sensitive preventative strategy to address turtle poaching, trade, and consumption, agreed by WCS, government partners, communities, and civil society (Outcome).

The implementation of this strategy is anticipated to enhance the conservation of the Southern River Terrapin and Cantor’s Giant Softshell Turtle in Cambodia (Impact), through the reduction of key threats, preventing continued population declines.

The development of a case study or research paper will enable the project to disseminate the knowledge and experience gained within the wider conservation and crime prevention community, potentially informing and benefiting other similar and future initiatives.

Q21. Exit Strategy

How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

This evidence project will provide WCS and our partners with a better understanding of illegal trade chains for the two target species, and a targeted strategy for addressing this problem in Cambodia, focusing on prevention rather than punishment. The knowledge gained and the strategy will inform the design of a “main” project for implementing the strategy developed at this “evidence” stage.

We anticipate the implementation of this novel strategy, through development of a “main project”, will be mainstreamed into WCS’s ongoing work within these two landscapes, which focus on collaborative conservation of the two target species and their habitats. WCS recognises there will be a continued need to raise funding to support conservation of these globally threatened turtles, and we have a successful track record of fundraising in the region. Current donors for complimentary initiatives in the turtle landscapes include Mandai Nature (formerly Wildlife Reserves Singapore), US Forest Service, Turtle Survival Alliance, and EU- Partners Against Wildlife Crime, so the results achieved, and benefits of this project are very likely to be sustained in the long-term.

The knowledge and skills gained by the project will be shared with Cambodian stakeholders through the project meetings and workshops and development of an agreed strategy for implementation and plans for a main project application. As the project moves from evidence to implementation, we will continue to draw on internal (e.g., the Indonesia Programme) and external expertise.

This approach has drawn on the experience of WCS Indonesia and will continue to inform WCS’s counter wildlife trafficking initiatives globally. Knowledge gained and lessons learned from project implementation will be shared more widely within WCS through the organization’s internal knowledge management systems, and with the wider conservation community through publication of a case study or research paper, and other forums as appropriate.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

No Response

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q22. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding Risk, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register, using the [Risk Assessment template](#), and be prepared to submit this when requested if you are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Internal financial procedures are incorrectly applied.	Minor	Unlikely	Moderate	WCS is a global organisation with a proven track history of fiscal accountability and with existing and effective financial systems, and processes and traceability to ensure risk is minimized for all project related transactions.	Minor
Safeguarding Research Lead and Assistant’s safety is compromised as they collect data on a sensitive topic.	Major	Unlikely	Major	WCS has “Counter-Wildlife Trafficking Safety and Security Guidelines” as well as a Code of Conduct which provide clear guidance to ensure the safety and security of personnel. They require staff undertaking research to receive appropriate training, and to submit an Operational Plan to management before starting any field work.	Minor

Delivery Chain Stakeholders (FiA, communities, local NGOs) disagree on what measures to include in the strategy to combat illegal turtle trade.	Major	Possible	Moderate	The role of the project staff will be important in mitigating this risk, by anticipating potential disagreements and ensuring opportunities for informal discussions. We will hire an expert facilitator to support the consultation workshop on the strategy.	Minor
Risk 4 FiA is reluctant to enforce fisheries laws to prevent illegal turtle trade resulting in a limited deterrent to poaching and trafficking.	Minor	Almost certain	Major	Mitigated through project design which aims to gather information and evidence, allowing us to design new interventions which will reduce reliance on enforcement and prevent poaching and trafficking from occurring in the first place. Implementation of this new approach will take place after this evidence project is completed.	Minor
Risk 5 General elections to be held in Cambodia in July 2023 generate instability or difficulties to hold meetings in communities.	Major	Possible	Moderate	The Project Staff will communicate regularly with the FiA and other contacts within the Government to monitor the political situation and ensure that activities can be implemented safely. Work planning will account for this risk, and major events or meetings will not be planned during this time.	Minor
Risk 6 Community members and other local stakeholders are reluctant to share knowledge, experience or information about illegal freshwater turtle poaching and trade.	Major	Unlikely	Moderate	Research team will receive a training in ethics and privacy research techniques. They will have the capacity to address concerns raised by respondents about safety or confidentiality. Community meetings will not have individuals sharing sensitive information in front of a group, and government officials will not be present.	Moderate

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q23. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

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

📎 [04 IWT-R8-St2-Implementation Timetable Cambodia Turtles](#)
📅 18/03/2022
🕒 15:21:33
📄 pdf 101.71 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

IWT Challenge Fund 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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

Monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted by in-country WCS staff, overseen by the Project Lead with support from the regional programme and staff.

At the outcome level, the detailed knowledge of trade chains for the two target species will be verified through the availability of two detailed crime scripts. The preventive strategy to address freshwater turtle poaching and illegal trade will materialize through a strategic document including key actions, and a case study document or a peer reviewed research paper submitted.

At the output level, the impact of problem-oriented capacity building activities for the project staff will be monitored through the successful implementation of the project activities. The surveys will allow us to determine areas where staff may need further support in the implementation of the approach.

The data and information collected during field research will be obtained from local communities, in areas where WCS has already built trusted relationships with local stakeholders through previous or ongoing initiatives. This information will be stored in our internal database and compiled in research reports.

Stakeholders' participation in the development of strategic interventions will be measured through workshop materials and attendance data (disaggregated by gender), and the final strategy document will form the final measure of success for this second output.

We will conduct an annual work planning process to monitor progress in project implementation. We will also conduct semi-annual progress reviews, and weekly project planning and team meetings. We will conduct a semi-annual grant "health check", a system which forms the core of our M&E. The health check is based on gathering of qualitative and quantitative information or evidence directly related to the outputs and activities of the project. It provides an opportunity to confirm relevance to the outcome, impact and assumptions, conducted by in-country WCS staff at least every 6 months. Utilizing this evidence, we evaluate progress of planned activities and outputs, against project indicators. Our six-month assessment is recorded in a colour-coded traffic light system for easy reference (green = on track; yellow = slightly behind schedule; orange = significantly behind schedule; red = no progress/serious challenges). Work plans are then adapted and updated as needed to reflect any changes. An assessment of grant expenditure is also part of the health check to determine whether the project is on track or whether any changes might be needed. These approaches, as well as comprehensive documentation and secure storage of the means of verification and other relevant information, will form the basis for monitoring and evaluation of this project.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)



Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)



Number of days planned for M&E

72

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q25. Logical Framework

IWT Challenge Fund projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. 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.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible**. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

[03 IWT-R8-St2-Logical-Framework Cambodia Turtles](#)

18/03/2022

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pdf 59.74 KB

Impact:

Conservation of the Southern River Terrapin and Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle is enhanced through development of a problem-oriented wildlife protection approach to poaching and illegal trade of these species.

Outcome:

Comprehensive evidence base for development and implementation of a crime prevention-based approach to prevent poaching and trafficking of freshwater turtles.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

A detailed understanding of at least two specific turtle trade chains including identification of drivers and opportunities for crime prevention.

Output 2:

Strategic interventions to prevent turtle poaching, trade, and consumption developed through a multi-stakeholder approach including Government, community, and civil society.

Output 3:

No Response

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1

Activity 1.1: Organise training and ensure ongoing mentoring for project Staff on the problem-oriented wildlife protection approach.

Activity 1.2: Organise meetings with project stakeholders to introduce the project and approach.

Activity 1.3: Collect and analyse information through field surveys and discussion with local community members, online open-source research, compilation of existing records of patrols, captures, voluntary reports and enforcement and judicial action, to determine drivers and facilitators of poaching, illegal trade, and consumption of the two turtle species.

Activity 1.4: Produce at least two crime scripts based on the information collected and analysed.

Output 2

Activity 2.1: Organize a series of local meetings to discuss the results of the crime scripts and identify strategic interventions to prevent these crimes.

Activity 2.2: Utilize the outcomes of the workshops to develop an agreed crime prevention strategy.

Activity 2.3: Complete a case study or research paper.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q26. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.


Note that there are different templates for projects requesting under £100,000 and over £100,000. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.


- [Budget form for projects under £100k](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)


Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.


N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The IWT Challenge Fund cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed IWT Challenge Fund Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 [IWT-R8-under-100K-Oct21-Final](#)

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Q27. Funding

Q27a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

New Initiative

Please provide details:

This work is a new initiative. However, it builds on an ongoing WCS regional project (2019-2022) funded by the European Union (EU) in 7 Asian countries including Cambodia. This project entitled "Partners Against Wildlife Crime" aims to disrupt illicit supply chains from source to market for tiger, Asian elephant, Siamese rosewood and freshwater turtles. In Cambodia, the project supports increased community participation in enforcement, protection and management of CGST and RST through Communities Fisheries support and livelihoods activities. Joint patrols with the FiA and local communities are conducted in both sites, for detecting threats and monitoring the implementation of conservation activities. A nest protection programme has also been established. The project is supporting a wildlife crime hotline and supports law enforcement actions conducted by the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT), a joint CSO-government mobile enforcement unit with a national remit. The EU project will provide some match funding for this project.

Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with IWT funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

The project will not purchase any equipment.

Q29. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

The problem-oriented crime prevention approach has not been widely applied to wildlife trafficking or conservation. Knowledge and experience gained under this project will be shared within the wider conservation and crime prevention community, informing and benefiting future initiatives, leading to more efficient and effective responses to IWT. This experience will directly benefit future applications for main projects and build on existing efforts to potentially support a future application for an Extra project, scaling this approach. The legacy of this evidence project, relative to its cost, demonstrates good value for money. The outputs will lead directly to the development of a main project, which will be mainstreamed into WCS's ongoing work, ensuring implementation of the strategy and project sustainability.

WCS' presence in the target landscapes and relationships with local communities, built over two decades, is a major asset for this project. The project will also benefit from WCS' established and trusted relationship with the FiA, allowing immediate and efficient implementation of activities in the project timeframe, ensuring good value for money.

The project will benefit from WCS's internal expertise on the two target species, and on IWT globally. The problem-oriented approach to wildlife protection is being applied by WCS in Sumatra, Indonesia, and the project lead from Indonesia will be mobilised to share experience and provide support to the Cambodia team in project implementation. This will build capacity of the project team, including project partners, with specialised and complementary expertise.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q30. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

If your project involves data collection and/or analysis which identifies individuals (e.g. biometric data, intelligence data), please explain the measures which are in place and/or will be taken to ensure the proper control and use of the data. Please explain the experience of the organisations involved in managing this information in your project

WCS has a range of safeguarding policies that aim at ensuring compliance with international human rights and social safeguards standards. They will be applied consistently during the project.

WCS will apply an Internal Review of Research with Human Subjects . WCS has signed a Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) under which we agree to adhere to 45 CFR 46. In accordance with this, WCS ensures that all WCS staff involved in collecting data from human subjects must first complete training in human subjects' research , and all human subjects research are approved by the WCS Institutional Review Board (IRB)

WCS will adhere to data protection laws and principles. There is no data protection legislation in Cambodia; however related issues fall under the right to privacy, under the Constitution, the Civil Code of Cambodia and the Criminal Code of the Kingdom of Cambodia. WCS follows clear practices for gathering information to ensure that information gathered is not arbitrary, but is directed, proportionate and accurate at information relevant to wildlife crimes.

WCS does not collect or process sensitive personal information: political opinions, trade union membership, religion or philosophical beliefs, health including mental or physical health, genetics or biometrics, sexuality or private life.

Q31. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance.

WCS is a founding member of the Conservation Initiative for Human Rights and works to ensure ethical approaches to conservation. Efforts are supported by WCS's IRB, in charge of reviewing the level of risk to human subjects in research, assessing the methodology and protections afforded to those subjects, and ensuring they are exposed to no greater risk than they would in everyday life. Our partnerships with local people across the region strive to understand natural resource governance and law enforcement in the context of valuing and applying traditional knowledge to addressing biodiversity and poverty alleviation challenges. For example, in Cambodia we have strongly supported the development of sustainable revenue generating activities that have a direct and positive impact on livelihoods and wildlife conservation. WCS will ensure that staff involved in the design or conduct of research receive appropriate guidance to ensure confidentiality, privacy and safety in the collection and treatment of data shared by individuals surveyed. The Project Lead and management will ensure they maintain independence and integrity of the process, including intellectual detachment from personal convictions relating to the topic. The results of the research will be shared with the communities and other local stakeholders involved in the research.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q32. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No


Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [RE IWT Challenge Fund Stage 2](#)

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q33. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sarah Fumey	Project Leader	30	Checked

Sakda Ouk	Research Assistant	50	Unchecked
Sitha Som	Landscape Manager	25	Checked
To be recruited	Research Lead	100	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Chen Champapao	Sre Ambel Project Coordinator	20	Checked
Gnourn Chanti	Kratie Project Coordinator	20	Checked
Chhunhy Hieng	Finance Officer	13	Checked
Duch Thanirorn	HR Officer	13	Checked
William Marthy	Senior Advisor	8	Checked
Naomi Doak	CWT Regional Coordinator	4	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [CVs JDs](#)
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 pdf 859.56 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q34. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

Lead partner name: Wildlife Conservation Society

Website address: www.wcs.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): WCS Cambodia will be the lead organization on this project, coordinating and implementing and administrating all project activities. WCS will provide project reports (financial and technical) and will also provide financial management for the project.

WCS Cambodia has recognized capacities in leading research projects which involve extensive data collection work in the field. WCS will use its local network and landscape-based staff to ensure successful implementation of the project.

WCS Cambodia has a proven track record of working with the Fisheries Administration (FiA). This builds on a long history of collaboration, in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) signed in 1999. In recent years, the FiA and WCS have been implementing various projects aimed at conserving fisheries and freshwater turtles. Since 2019, FiA and WCS have been implementing a 4-year project entitled "Partners Against Wildlife Crime" in the two landscapes targeted in the proposal, Sre Ambel and the Mekong rivers.

Allocated budget (proportion or value): ██████████

Represented on the Project Board No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Fisheries Administration

Website address: www.fia.gov.kh/english/

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Fisheries Administration (FiA) at the national level and Cantonments at the provincial level will support this project by providing inputs to the research led by WCS, i.e sharing enforcement and judicial records of turtle-related offences and knowledge of turtle exploitation. The FiA will not participate in interviews with community members due to sensitivities discussing illegal activities.

The FiA will co-host the consultation workshop on identifying strategic actions to combat illegal trade of freshwater turtles.

In other projects implemented with WCS, the FiA Cantonments in the target Provinces have demonstrated good collaboration capacities and solid technical skills. FiA at the national level has been showing continuous commitment to freshwater turtle conservation in the past years.

Allocated budget:

██████

Represented on the Project Board

No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address:

No Response

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

Allocated budget:

£0.00

Represented on the Project Board

Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes
 No

3. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address:

No Response

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details *No Response*
(including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details *No Response*
(including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Allocated budget: £0.00


Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response


Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.


 [Letters of Support](#)


 18/03/2022

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 pdf 928.02 KB

 [20220315_01_IWT-R8-St2-Cover letter Cambodia Turtle
es final](#)

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Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded IWT Challenge Fund funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
IWT084	Andrew Dunn	Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Nigeria-Cameroon Green Corridor
IWT080	Robert Wallace	Expanding Local Intelligence Networks to Combat Jaguar IWT in Bolivia
IWT076	Roan Balas McNab	Cross-Border Coordination to Reduce IWT in the Guatemala-Mexico Green Corridor
IWT075	Edgard Herrera	Reducing macaw trafficking in indigenous territories of the Honduran Moskitia
IWT073	Simon Nampindo	Strengthening anti-poaching techniques and countering wildlife trafficking in Uganda
IWT069	Sofi Mardiah	Strengthening intelligence-led enforcement to combat IWT between Indonesia and Malaysia

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q36. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

I apply for a grant of







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 have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, logframe, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence – see [Financial Guidance](#)) are also enclosed.

Checked





Name	Joe Walston
Position in the organisation	Executive Vice President for Global Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Joe W. Signature 2  18/03/2022  16:08:57  jpg 41.3 KB
Date	18 March 2022





Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.





 [Audited Financial Statements 2021 WCS](#)
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 pdf 375.63 KB





 [Audited Financial Statements 2020 WCS \(1\)](#)
 14/03/2022
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 pdf 355.93 KB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [1. WCS Safeguarding Policy FINAL EN 2020 1203](#)
 14/03/2022
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 pdf 517.23 KB

 [2. WCS Harassment Sexual Harassment Policy Revised Feb 2021](#)
 14/03/2022
 20:37:34
 pdf 413.84 KB

 [3. WCS Code of Conduct APPROVED 2019-02-26](#)
 14/03/2022
 20:37:33
 pdf 239.39 KB

 [4. WCS Whistleblower Policy English Approved 2014-05-19 \(2017-12-06\)](#)
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Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "IWT Challenge Fund Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 33, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 34, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or other evidence of financial capacity as set out in the Financial Guidance, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the IWT Challenge Fund website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the IWT Challenge Fund website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly

project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Unchecked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).