

Applicant: **Gomez, Nicole**
Organisation: **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**
Funding Sought: **£99,889.00**

IWTEVR10S2\1010

Combating Illegal Fishing: Designing Evidence-based Interventions in Gulf of Honduras

The Gulf of Honduras (GoH) harbors diverse marine biodiversity crucial for the economies, livelihoods, and sustenance of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Illegal trade of species like conch, lobster, groupers, snappers, and sharks is a growing concern due to declining populations and increasing reports of illegal activities(1,2). Addressing this issue is challenging due to lack of comprehensive data on illegal fishing and subsequent trafficking. This project will investigate drivers and networks of illegal fishing in Belizean waters and propose evidence-based interventions.

IWTEVR10S2\1010

Combating Illegal Fishing: Designing Evidence-based Interventions in Gulf of Honduras

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Nicole
Surname	Gomez
Organisation	
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Phone	+
Email (Work)	
Website	
Address	

Section 2 - Title, Themes, Species & Summary

Q3. Title:

Combating Illegal Fishing: Designing Evidence-based Interventions in Gulf of Honduras

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTEVR10S1\1001

IWTEVR10S1\1016

Please provide a cover letter as a **PDF** document, responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable.

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

Please tick all that apply. Note that projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score, and ticking themes that your project does not address may negatively affect project scores.

- ☒ Strengthening law enforcement
- ☒ Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

Q5. Species project is focusing on

Please include both the common name and scientific name.

Queen Conch (<i>Lobatus gigas</i>)	Caribbean Spiny Lobster (<i>Panulirus argus</i>)
Nassau Grouper (<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>)	Cubera Snapper (<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>)

Do you require more fields?

- ☒ Yes

Sharks (Requiem family)	Hammerheads (<i>Sphyrnidae</i>)
Mutton Snapper (<i>Lutjanus analis</i>)	Thresher shark (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>)

Q6. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

The Gulf of Honduras (GoH) harbors diverse marine biodiversity crucial for the economies, livelihoods, and sustenance of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Illegal trade of species like conch, lobster, groupers, snappers, and sharks is a growing concern due to declining populations and increasing reports of illegal activities(1,2). Addressing this issue is challenging due to lack of comprehensive data on illegal fishing and subsequent trafficking. This project will investigate drivers and networks of illegal fishing in Belizean waters and propose evidence-based interventions.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Belize	Country 2	Honduras
Country 3	Guatemala	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 May 2024	31 October 2025	1 year, 6 months

Q9. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	Total Request
Amount:	£77,693.00	£22,196.00	99,889.00

Q10. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q11. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Not applicable.

Q12. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

☒ No

Section 4 - Problem statement & Gap in existing approaches

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. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

Please describe the level of threat to the species concerned. You should 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.

The GoH is a large Caribbean inlet, indenting the coasts of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Management of this area is challenging and despite the formation of collaborative bodies such as the Trinational Alliance for the Conservation of the Gulf of Honduras (TRIGO), enforcement and GoH management is done mostly in isolation on an individual country basis. Belize has invested in a well-established network of marine protected areas (MPAs), fisheries regulations, intelligence-based enforcement, and rights-based programs giving access to traditional fishers to fishing grounds. High levels of transboundary illegal fishing continue, reducing fisheries stocks, and threatening the livelihoods of around two million people who depend on healthy marine biodiversity. Recently, Guatemala declared an MPA and Honduras has a complete ban on fisheries for sharks. Despite these efforts, the GoH still suffers from illegal fishing within countries and across boundaries.

Illegal fishing drivers are typically associated with poverty and lack of sustainable livelihoods, which has led to greater reliance on reef-derived income and increased pressures on the Mesoamerican Reef ecosystem. The increased cost in fuel and ice has played a significant role in fishers relying on illegal catches and fishing within protected areas closer to their communities to meet their operational costs. Studies show steady population declines of commercially traded species: queen conch (CITES listed)(3), Caribbean spiny lobster(4), Nassau groupers (IUCN Critically Endangered(5); SPAW Protocol Appendix III), goliath groupers(6) (IUCN Vulnerable), mutton(7) and cubera snappers(8) (IUCN Near Threatened and Vulnerable respectively) and CITES listed sharks. These species have historically been of paramount importance to GoH country economies, and their food security and livelihoods(9). Of note, *Lutjanus cyanopterus*, *Lutjanus analis* and *Epinephelus itajara* experience fishing mortality of breeding individuals at their spawning aggregations, where they are extremely vulnerable due to their high density during spawning events(10). Additionally, decreasing health of over-exploited populations results in low catch value due to undersized fishery products and an increase in fishers' level of effort required to make a profitable catch(11).

Declining stocks and/or extirpation of several project target species in Guatemala and Honduras has resulted in increased illegal fishing in Belizean waters(12). Recently, CITES declared the whole Carcharhinidae family as Appendix II, which gives some protection against moving shark product through borders. However, the porous maritime GoH border enables the unlawful trade of fishery products captured in Belize to be swiftly transported to Honduras and Guatemala. In 2021, four fishing sailboats in Belize were robbed of their entire catch and outboard engines. Subsequently, Belizean and Honduran fishers including members of organized crime involved in the theft of engines in Belize were apprehended. It is suspected that the decline in fish catches has forced fishers to diversify their incomes by turning to piracy and other criminal activities.

Fully addressing this issue requires a novel approach, inclusive of trinational collaboration. This project will take a crime science approach to inform the design of measures to combat illegal fishing and support poverty reduction of the most affected communities involved.

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.

Traditional strategies and interventions (enforcement, protected area management) that address illegal fishing and trade have been implemented in the GoH with varying success. Most of the strategies implemented in Belize are based on inadequate understanding of the drivers leading fishers to illegally fish across borders and are primarily focused on the apprehension of fishers conducting illegal fishing at sea. This results in the arrest of

fishers and imposition of high fines and penalties, making the socio-economic position of these fishers direr.

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) publications in the GoH are limited and there is a paucity of information on understanding poachers' motivations and behaviours. This project will allow us to understand the drivers of IWT in marine products in the GoH, focusing on key economic and threatened species found within the Mesoamerican barrier reef. Our research will include learning from local communities, particularly fishing and coastal communities in southern Belize, the Atlantic coast of Guatemala, and western Honduras, about their knowledge of illegal fishing and opinion on strategic approaches to tackling trade.

Project evidence will be used to co-design future programming to address factors influencing IWT and reduce the anthropogenic threat to marine biodiversity within this unique system.

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 contributes to the following objectives and commitments:

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The project supports efforts to ensure regulated trade of target species and the reduction and prevention of illegal fishing and trade across the three countries within the GoH by understanding drivers and later developing interventions using current knowledge of drivers.

Convention of Biological Diversity. The project fulfils CBD commitments by addressing aspects of Belize's NBSAP, and Horizon 2030 - Long Term National Development Framework for Belize and by supporting the sustainability and protection of project listed target species.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. This trilateral initiative is using a collaborative approach involving communities, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government stakeholders in development of a threat assessment and combatting wildlife trafficking (CWT) strategy that are supporting biodiversity.

Sustainable Development Goal. This project contributes to protecting SDG 14 by understanding the drivers of illegal fishing and using an evidence-based approach to develop interventions. The project will further contribute to SDG 1 by inclusion of communities and individuals directly affected by the illegal trade and fishing who will inform the development of interventions that will support community livelihoods.

This project's focus also supports maintaining the outstanding universal value of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (BBRRS), a UNESCO World Heritage Site designated for its outstanding universal value and economic value.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, GESI & Post Project Sustainability

Q16. Methodology

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

- How you have reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project.
- The specific approach you are using, supported by evidence that it will be effective and justifying why you expect it will be successful in this context.
- How you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- What will be the main activities and where will these take place?
- How you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Since 2018, the WCS Mesoamerica Program has been combatting wildlife trafficking focusing on illegal fishing wildlife trade across the land and seascape. We use research and anecdotal evidence(13,14,15) to design and implement CWT strategies focused on capacity building, trinational collaboration, and evidence gathering. In 2021, WCS shared intelligence with Belize law enforcement of a criminal network stealing fish products, fuel, and engines from Belizean fishers for sale in Honduras. A coordinated effort with Interpol and law enforcement from both countries resulted in the arrest of two Hondurans and six Belizeans. Although these operations with Interpol are effective, they are few and far between.

Prior to WCS's efforts, the TRIGOH attempted to address marine management issues, inclusive of wildlife trafficking. Insufficient evidence and funding affected the efficacy of their interventions. The alliance had a period of dormancy, rekindling in the last couple years.

Considering these past interventions and WCS's global CWT experience with behaviour science and situational crime prevention techniques, this project will focus on increasing understanding of drivers of human behaviour (specifically poachers), strengthening stakeholder partnerships (inclusive of communities) and enabling data-driven, problem-oriented planning which will result in evidence-based and stakeholder approved CWT interventions(16) and resource documents (threat assessment report, CWT strategy, brief).

WCS will gather evidence with strategic NGOs in Guatemala and Honduras, including TRIGOH members, to build interventions that disrupt the illegal fishing supply chain and build collective initiatives to improve food security, livelihoods, and reduce poverty in the future.

Our project team is comprised of WCS community fisheries and research experts from Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. The WCS Belize Country Director will oversee the project, with the Belize and Regional CWT Coordinators managing implementation. WCS technical leads in Guatemala and Honduras will coordinate with local partners in each country, Fundación Mundo Azul and Centro de Estudios Marinos respectively, through sub-grants. Our Regional Marine Coordinator and Belize Assistant Country Director will lead MEL while our global Director for Rights and Communities will ensure community interactions and survey development adhere to WCS safeguards standards. Fiduciary and administrative management will be supported by finance managers in the three countries.

These activities will support the evidence gathering process:

Understanding illegal fishing in the GoH: We will conduct a thorough literature review on illegal fishing in the GoH. New data will be collected through structured and unstructured interviews with local stakeholders (communities, academia, government and NGOs) with knowledge and experience of illegal fishing. Data collected will assist in identifying key actors involved in illegal fishing and improve our understanding of the illegal fishing supply chain including the drivers of illegal activities.

Understanding diverse drivers of poachers: WCS with partners will co-design and implement community surveys across 18 communities in the three countries to understand the capabilities, opportunities and motivations for

community members to engage or not engage in illegal fishing and/or protection of fisheries. Survey findings, including an understanding of the behavior pathways or a 'journey map' that illegal fishers take, will be summarized in a report and presented back to stakeholders.

Threat Assessment Report: Based on the findings from the above activities, a comprehensive report will be prepared highlighting the current state of illegal fishing in the GoH. The research will involve the participation of 100 community members and 30 experts from relevant sectors.

National Stakeholder Workshops: Conducted in each country to share and discuss research findings. Stakeholders focused on wildlife trade, fisheries, conservation, and enforcement will also have the opportunity to collectively design effective CWT interventions that address the behavior motivators/enablers for illegal fishing and barriers to engaging in sustainable practices.

Marine focused CWT Strategy for GoH: Results from the threat assessment and stakeholder perspectives will be integrated into the design of evidence-based CWT interventions, presented in a CWT strategy for the GoH. The proposed interventions will consider the beneficiaries' priorities and how to enhance/improve the capability and access to resources required to efficiently address illegal fishing in the regions. The strategy will serve as a guide to implement best practices to support successful CWT interventions.

Peer-Reviewed Paper: This project will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on combating illegal poaching and trafficking of fisheries products. A journal article of our research will be developed and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Brief: Produce a brief that summarizes research results and provides evidence-based advice to government decision-makers and regional bodies including Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, and TRIGOH. This brief will serve as a reference for decision-making.

Q17. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

Our initiative will engage various local partners in Guatemala and Honduras to execute the project. This strategic approach aims to enhance the application of information in each country and establish a network of local partners capable of effectively implementing potential solutions in the region.

All local partners will be provided with comprehensive Social Safeguards guidelines to ensure responsible engagement with the communities. With partners, we will develop a gender engagement and social inclusion plan for the project, guided by WCS safeguards. Additionally, we will seek input from all stakeholders within the fisheries value chain, encompassing processing and product sales. This inclusive approach is critical as it broadens our perspective beyond the fishers' viewpoint and considers the diverse stakeholders involved. Notably, processing and selling of the product are predominantly handled by women. This will help to include women in the decision-making process now and later within the communities' day-to-day life.

Furthermore, we will leverage advanced tools such as KoboToolbox and the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) - two open-source applications used for data collection, management and visualization - for enhanced data analysis and seamless sharing of research findings during the project's duration. Post-project, the continued utilization of these tools by the local organizations will further add value to their operations.

Q18. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

Women's contributions and roles in Belize's fisheries are for the most part undocumented, invisible, and overlooked, despite them holding wide and pervasive roles, which leads to them being marginalized in fisheries discussions and decision-making. For the most part, nationally small-scale fisheries are perceived as male-dominated resulting in management engagement and policy interventions focussed on men and their needs with little to no inclusion of women.

Using WCS's social safeguards and the FAO(17) gender handbook, this project will recognize and engage women, men, and youth along the fisheries value chain, including those who fish, process seafood, support family members in fishing activities, sell seafood, and manage fisheries. Our engagement plan will ensure that women especially, regardless of the role they play, are included in the community surveys and in expert interviews and workshops. Special provisions to ensure women from local communities, academia and government and non-governmental organizations can share their experiences, perspectives, motives, and opinions on illegal fishing in the GoH will include women-only focus groups, prepared meals, and/or childcare provided to facilitate their active participation. Women will have the opportunity to discuss and collaborate on adapting activities and interventions in this and subsequent projects to ensure it is gender-responsive and meets the unique needs of women and men.

Engaging women in the fishing sector and involving men in that process will promote gender equality, unlocking the potential of women in sustaining fisheries and their communities, therefore, ensuring women are included in the research and decision-making process.

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction this work will deliver. You should identify what evidence will be gathered and how it might be used to inform future interventions. Please include who will benefit from these interventions, 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) and the potential scalability of the approach.

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.

Traditional CWT strategies implemented to date (establishment of protected areas, enforcement patrols and fisheries management) have not been fully effective at combatting illegal fishing and trade in the GoH. A constraint to success and innovation has been the lack of national or regional strategies that are based on rigorous data using a crime science approach.

This project aims to change this by building evidence to increase our understanding of illegal fishing and trade in the GoH, especially poacher motivations, community interests and priorities. Such evidence will help improve and design new CWT interventions to curb marine biodiversity loss, prevent further extirpations, and address food insecurity and unsustainable livelihoods in the long-term.

In the short-term, this project will provide robust data on illegal fishing in the GoH and promote the design of CWT interventions to be evidence-based, and gender and community inclusive. It will result in the creation of important resource documents that can support stakeholder decision making. The information obtained through this project will be crucial for future CWT interventions. Research results will be presented in a threat assessment report, a peer reviewed paper, and will be shared through national workshops. The evidence-based interventions created will be presented in a CWT strategy for the GoH and shared with government and non-government partners. We believe that proposed project interventions, based on historical data, research, and stakeholder input, will have a higher chance at decreasing pressure on illegally traded target species in the short-term as well as reducing poverty in the long-term.

Additionally, a brief will be crafted specifically for high-ranking decision-makers. This will equip the governments of Belize, Guatemala and Honduras with pertinent information required to make decisions, such as resource allocation, to address illegal fishing in the GoH. Considering the power each country government holds, it is important to ensure they have access to evidence.

In subsequent projects, we plan to implement evidence-based interventions that will consider the vulnerabilities of communities and women. This evidence will not only support our strategy but will also help other partners and stakeholders address IWT challenges in the GoH. Project information will be shared with regional bodies, specifically OSPESCA, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and TRIGOH, therefore, contributing to the overall goal of reducing IWT in the region.

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 why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, in the longer term, impacts on IWT and poverty reduction.

This project offers a comprehensive pathway to bring about transformative change in the region. Our multifaceted approach is rooted in evidence and aims to address the complex challenges posed by illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, a substantial component of IWT. Our key objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by providing evidence to design effective strategies and approaches. The strategies would be geared towards creating sustainable income sources for communities involved in the fishing sector. Interventions will be evidence-based to implement strategies for change, by supporting communities and investing in their needs, supporting better site management approaches, and encouraging coordination among authorities in the region. In the long-term, we expect to see higher biomass of commercial fish, invertebrate, and shark species within the GoH project area. Success will be achieved as local communities living with sustainable economies, reducing dependence on illegal activities. As a direct consequence of our efforts, we expect substantial reduction in IWT of seafood products and other marine species, benefiting marine life and the conservation of endangered species.

Q21. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q21a. How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

The project shall build regional understanding of the threat of IWT in the marine sector to reduce the demand for illegal marine products. It is designed to include partner organizations across three countries in the GoH to develop survey design, data collection, and report preparation and dissemination. The process will help to increase WCS Mesoamerica staff in Belize, Honduras and Guatemala, and our partner organizations' knowledge and capacity to implement surveys, and build relationships between communities, authorities, and civil society

organizations. Implementation will include capacity building and social safeguards training. Additionally, the products or outputs from this project will be shared across the three countries via local and regional bodies, and accessible via partner websites. The peer reviewed publication will provide an international outlet for the work to be disseminated.


Q21b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?


This project serves as an essential foundational step in our comprehensive strategy to tackle the multifaceted challenge of illegal marine species supply, trade, transport, and consumption. Our vision is to extend community involvement across the three countries, enabling a deeper understanding of the root drivers and motivations behind illegal fishing. This localized knowledge will facilitate more effective and targeted interventions.


Successes achieved in the GoH can be a blueprint for regions facing these issues. While existing fisheries legislation, largely coordinated through OSPESCA, has established a degree of uniformity, we acknowledge that adjustments might be needed to effectively combat illicit trade. Collaboration with governments and regional bodies is vital.


One notable challenge is ensuring law enforcement agencies share a common information platform, especially given the presence of unrelated illegal activities in the project area. This will require improved coordination and information sharing mechanisms to create a more cohesive and effective response.

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

 [Optional-Evidence-IWTCF-R10-St2-WCS-Belize](#)

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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, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
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Fiduciary	<p>In the Gulf of Honduras project, a fiduciary risk exists due to the involvement of local partners in Guatemala and Honduras. This risk involves potential challenges related to financial accountability and efficient fund utilization.</p>	Moderate	Rare	Minor	<p>WCS will require detailed budgets from local partners which will be monitored closely. Financial reports will be requested periodically throughout the year. Further, WCS will assess partner capabilities, and maintain on-the-ground supervision. Capacity building and continuous monitoring will ensure transparent and effective fund utilization for the project's intended purposes.</p>	Minor
Safeguarding	<p>This project faces safeguarding risks, particularly for implementing partners and WCS field staff exposed to fishing communities involved in illegal activities. Concerns include unintended harm due to travel and the well-being of project implementers.</p>	Moderate	Rare	Minor	<p>To address this, WCS will work with known communities in Belize, deploy experienced staff, collaborate closely with local partners in Honduras and Guatemala, and provide training to surveyors in social safeguards, ensuring they are well-prepared to prevent risks.</p>	Minor
Delivery Chain	<p>The delivery chain risk stems from implementing the same project model across three different countries with three distinct organizations. This increases the potential for divergent outcomes in each country, from problem conception to data collection, processing, and result delivery, possibly deviating from project objectives.</p>	Minor	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>To address this, we will implement an auditable communication and result delivery strategy from project inception. Jointly developing community engagement strategies, this plan will encompass survey development, approach strategies, data collection, analysis, and result delivery. In the event of substantial changes, we will promote adaptive management throughout project duration.</p>	Minor

Risk 4					
The risk of incomplete or inaccurate data arises from the possibility of fishing communities refusing to share information due to regional social dynamics, country-specific situations, institutional relationships, and trust levels.	Minor	Possible	Moderate	To mitigate this risk, we have opted to work in multiple communities within each country. By doing so, we reduce the risk of insufficient data per country, thereby improving the project's chances of success.	Minor
Risk 5					
Changes in government policies and political stability can impact project execution. While the project's continuity may not be at risk, proposed timelines could be jeopardized, particularly in politically unstable regions.	Minor	Possible	Moderate	WCS will closely monitor political developments in project countries, particularly Honduras and Guatemala. This will enable us to adapt project activities and timelines as needed to navigate political instability effectively. WCS will provide guidance to partners on strategies for safeguarding personnel and organizational interests should the political climate become unfavorable.	Moderate
Risk 6					
The Mesoamerican Caribbean coast has experienced the impact of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes, extreme tropical storms, and other climatic factors in recent years. These events pose risks to the local population and can make on-site work impossible. This is a persistent risk in the area.	Major	Possible	Moderate	To mitigate this risk, we will employ WCS's early warning systems to alert partners of potential implementation risks. Fieldwork will be scheduled to avoid peak hurricane and storm season. Ensuring the safety of our personnel will be a top priority, with contingency plans in place for adverse weather conditions.	Minor

Section 8 - Project Sensitivities and Workplan

Q23. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).


☒ Yes


Please provide details.


Our team will gather crucial data on illegal fishing, focusing on its geographical occurrences and seasonal patterns. It's important to note that this research won't request or record personal information, including names of individuals involved. Questions will ensure that interviewers do not self-incriminate; if such instances arise, the data will be disassociated from the interviewee's responses. After data collection, each participant will be assigned a unique identification code, and any details that could potentially connect an interviewee to their responses will be meticulously removed before dissemination. This rigorous anonymization process safeguards both the privacy and integrity of the collected data.


Q24. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

 [Workplan-IWTCF-R10-St2-WCS-Belize](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. 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.

WCS, as project lead, will oversee the execution of activities, project monitoring and evaluation, and general performance of partners. Currently, northern Mesoamerica faces challenges due to barriers including a lack of cross-landscape and cross-sector learning, limited data synthesis and analysis, and documentation for learning. Therefore, the M&E System will be designed as a core part of the project and is intended to function both as an active and interactive learning tool, and as a basis for decision-making and collective action. We are proposing a detailed M&E system that covers all the aspects of our project in a cost-effective way, using human and material resources available.

We will create a dedicated M&E system for tracking project activities, outputs and impacts. A project implementation committee will be established by WCS and will include WCS and partners from Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. The committee will assess the project's progress guided by the established workplan. Quarterly meetings will be held to assess the progress of activities against the proposed timelines, and modify activities or timelines given any setbacks. This will include preparing alternative options for activities as necessary. Learning cycles will be incorporated into the M&E process.

This project will introduce data-driven processes for understanding the drivers and networks of illegal fishing in Belizean waters and propose evidence-based interventions. The project integrates monitoring into its activities through data collection for assessing catch data from fishers from two MPAs in Belize in the GoH. Our research lead will coordinate in situ data collection using standard protocols, integrating data into SMART for efficient report development and analysis.

WCS's Assistant Country Director for the Belize Program will monitor the overall project and WCS's Regional

Marine Coordinator will be the liaison for M&E to Guatemala and Honduras. Political and financial contexts will be also monitored, to minimize any potential risks.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	24

Section 10 - Indicators of success

Q26. Indicators of success

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.

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
Outcome Increased understanding of illegal fishing in the GoH is used to design holistic interventions to reduce poverty and protect threatened target species to inform future interventions to combat illegal fishing.	Utilizing the research generated from this project, three key documents are created by the end of the project to inform evidence-based decision-making to address illegal fishing in the GoH: one threat assessment report that highlights the current state of illegal fishing in the GoH, one CWT strategy which highlights evidence-based strategies (crafted based on the results from the threat assessment and stakeholder input), and one brief that provides evidence-based advice to decision-makers.	Project documents: 1. threat assessment report; 2. Counter Wildlife Trafficking Strategy; 3. Brief.

Output 1 Threat assessment created to understand the nature and extent of illegal fishing in the GoH	At least 100 community members and 30 experts (government, NGO and academia) have been consulted and have contributed to the threat assessment by December 2024.	Workshop/consultation agenda, copies of survey, participants lists (disaggregated by sex) and workshop report.
	Implementation of community surveys across GoH 18 target coastal communities to gather drivers and motivation of communities' participation or non-participation in illegal fishing is completed by January 2025.	Summary survey report from completed implementation within 18 coastal communities in GoH.
	One report on the current state of illegal fishing in Belizean waters is developed by March 2025. [IWTCF-D13]	Threat assessment report
	At least 10 experts are engaged through national workshops to access the project's research findings and to collectively design CWT interventions by March 2025. [IWTCF-B24]	Workshop agenda, participant list (disaggregated by sex) and workshop report.
Output 2 Evidence-based strategies to reduce illegal fishing in the GoH created and validated by Belizean, Honduran and Guatemalan governments	One journal article on poacher motivations, methods, and networks in the GoH is submitted to an open access journal by August 2025. [IWTCF-D11]	Draft manuscript, submittal email, journal confirmation email
	At least three evidence-based interventions are designed, all informed by the research results and expert input, by August 2025 [IWTCF-D26]	Copies of intervention design, results of surveys, CWT strategy
	One strategy highlighting evidence-based CWT interventions/solutions is developed by August 2025.	

Output 3 A brief created to influence policy changes to counter wildlife trafficking in the GoH.	One brief highlighting policy strengthening required to support CWT interventions in the GoH is produced by September 2025. [IWTCF-B05]	Copy of brief
	At least five institutional stakeholders (per country) are engaged through stakeholder briefing events to discuss the policy brief by June 2025. [IWTCF-D21]	Event agenda, infographic and summary and participant list (disaggregated by sex)
Output 4 <i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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.

- 1.1 Conduct a literature review of academic publications, grey literature, and reports on illegal fishing in the GoH.
- 1.2 Interview local experts (government, academia, NGOs and local communities) in Belize, Guatemala and Honduras who have knowledge and/or experience on illegal fishing in the region.
- 1.3 Design and standardize community survey instrument across the GoH countries using WCS and FAO social safeguards.
- 1.4 Implement community survey across the GoH countries to collect data on illegal fishing motivation and drivers.
- 1.5 Analysis of data collected as well as available information (including literature) to produce threat assessment reports highlighting threats, patterns and trends in poacher behaviours, key actors, and motivations.
- 1.6 Organize and implement three national stakeholder workshops to discuss the research findings and develop evidence-based interventions/approach to address illegal fishing in the GoH.
- 1.7 Write and submit one journal article on illegal fishing to open access journal.
- 2.1 Consultation workshops with stakeholders to design evidence-based CWT intervention/ approach delivered.
- 2.2 Information gathered during consultation process analysed.
- 2.3 Evidence-based CWT intervention/approach strategy designed in consultation with stakeholders.
- 3.1 Produce and disseminate a brief that provides evidence-based advice to decision makers.

Important Assumptions

Please describe up to 6 key assumptions that, if held true, will enable you to deliver you Outputs and Outcome.

Key stakeholders from Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala will actively participate and collaborate throughout the project. Their input and expertise will be crucial in developing effective interventions.

Sufficient and accurate data on the nature and extent of illegal fishing in the GoH will be available.

The governments of Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala will actively support, participate in, and endorse the project.


There is a recognition among stakeholders and governments that illegal fishing contributes to poverty in the GoH.


The brief produced will be well received by policymakers and other stakeholders.


Section 11 - Budget and Funding


Q27. Budget

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

 [Budget-IWTCTF-R10-St2-WCS-Belize](#)

 29/10/2023

 01:54:20

 xlsx 38 KB

Q28. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q28a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)? Please give details.

The project builds on past IWT activities. The Belize Fisheries Department (BFD), Belize Coast Guard, MPA managers (civil society and government), and WCS, have developed processes, strategies and policies that aim to curb illegal harvesting, sale, and exportation of marine resources across the reef system. This includes the Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Act (2023) and the Fisheries Resources Act (2020); MPA expansions; development of a SMART linked digital fisherfolk database system used by enforcement officers and surveillance technology trials with drones and radar. WCS has provided SMART training for Belize, Guatemala and Honduras Law Enforcement Agencies and NGOs for the documentation of patrols and in so doing supported the streamlining of patrol preparation and data management. WCS has worked on coordination among marine enforcement agencies in the Gulf of Honduras, including holding a regional IWT workshop for enforcement agencies of Belize (BFD), Guatemala (DIPESCA and CONAP) and Honduras (DIGEPESCA). A coordinated simultaneous patrol operation was subsequently carried out in 2022. These policy and enforcement examples should be strengthened with better understanding of the drivers leading to illegal trade in marine resources in the region. Civil society organizations do implement social projects that support livelihoods of coastal communities in Belize.

Q28b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

☒ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

Our goal with this project is to scale it and effectively reduce the pressure of illegal fishing in Belize, while simultaneously supporting the communities in Guatemala and Honduras in achieving livelihoods that do not depend on this criminal activity. The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment has very recently signed the co-management agreement for the southernmost MPA in Belize, which abuts Guatemala's MPA in the GoH. Efforts have been underway to reduce illegal fishing in this area. Their strategy is based on establishing presence in the area to reduce illegal fishing and trade of marine species. TRIGOH has recently been reactivated and had its first meeting in September 2023 in Belize. The objective of the meeting was to establish strategic alliances and partnerships with Guatemalan and Honduran counterparts to address transboundary issues affecting this MPA. Additionally, discussions were held on the implementation of two other regional projects: Gulf of Honduras/IUCN Landscape Linking Project and GIZ Circular Caribbean Project, although we are not privy to the details of those projects.

Q29. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much IWT Challenge Fund funding as possible directly benefiting communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in-country.

Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where IWT Challenge Fund funds will be spent. What benefits will the country/ies see from your budget? What level of the award do you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any IWT Challenge Fund funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.

This project takes a regional approach to the IWT of marine products in the GoH. WCS is uniquely positioned to undertake this project as we have national programs in each targeted country. The project budget accounts for expenses across the three countries. Specifically, it includes expenses for WCS Belize staff and activities to be carried out in Belize (██████). WCS Guatemala, Honduras, and regional staff will receive ██████ of the budget. Regional positions provide direct support to, and immediate oversight of, the financial and administrative operations of country programs, as well as technical guidance and M&E. Guatemala and Honduras NGO partners will receive £██████ each (██████) for their roles in project implementation.

_____ is applied to a project's direct costs and covers common or joint expenses that cannot be readily associated with a particular project. The ICR, formally approved by the U.S. Government and audited by KPMG, is calculated based on WCS's annual audited financial statements. Many functions included in the indirect cost pool provide critical support for WCS country and field programs, contributing to the quality of our technical work, efficiency of operations and sound financial management of donor funds.

Q30. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity).

Our project's cost-effectiveness is rooted in its regional context, leveraging the expertise of national specialists from the three countries. Our three-decade involvement in Belize's small-scale fishing sector equips us with comprehensive insights and well-established relationships with local authorities and community groups. These historical efforts serve as a valuable foundation for this project. Furthermore, our extensive track record and reputation in Guatemala and Honduras have facilitated vital partnerships with key organizations in those

countries.

A crucial aspect of our approach is the efficient allocation of regional staff resources, particularly the Regional CWT Coordinator and Marine Coordinator. Their roles are bolstered by equitable funding from other sources. Additionally, WCS's Director for Rights and Communities will play a pivotal role in ensuring compliance with WCS safeguard standards, GESI measures, and the suitability of survey instruments for community engagement. Our team's composition, which includes in-house specialists, enables efficient project operation, while local partners in the field enhance the rapid collection of data across communities in the three countries.

As an evidence-driven initiative, we are confident that our inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to understanding the drivers of IWT in the marine sector will yield robust outcomes. These results will not only benefit WCS, but also extend support to our direct partners and stakeholders, helping them make compelling cases for future funding. This, in turn, will enable the implementation of effective behavior change and nature-positive, poverty alleviation interventions. The scalability of such interventions within the region and beyond holds the promise of significantly reducing threats to wildlife.

Q31. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with IWT Challenge Fund 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.

No capital items will be purchased under this grant.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q32. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy**: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy**: which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct**: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

WCS implements a comprehensive set of social safeguarding policies through investing in social safeguards staff or identification of focal points in each region, building capacity for safeguards implementation using tools from the conservation social sciences, and providing specialized training for staff working with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Responding to allegations and complaints of improper conduct is addressed in several specific WCS policies including WCS's Code of Conduct and Global Grievance Redress Mechanism (<https://grievance.wcs.org/en-us/>). In the event a complaint is made, WCS will, as appropriate (1) conduct a timely investigation, (2) document and report on the results of the investigation, and (3) take appropriate action based on the facts and circumstances, including corrective action to prevent future acts, discipline of employees up to termination of employment, and referral to law enforcement. WCS's policies and procedures provide that investigations of complaints are treated as confidential to the extent possible, using a survivor-centered approach.

WCS conducts due diligence to assess whether a third party is an eligible subrecipient and can effectively manage its subaward consistent with WCS guidelines and procedures, including our Safeguarding procedures.

Q33. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance

WCS's social safeguards aim to ensure that conservation actions protect the rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. In Belize, a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol has been developed to guide consultation and engagement of Indigenous People. WCS intends to use this protocol during project implementation, ensuring that the rights of the Garifuna People living in the coastal communities are respected and fulfilled, particularly considering their dependence on blue foods for nutrition and livelihoods, and cultural links to the sea.

We will continue to implement operating processes that meet the highest international human rights standards for engagement, including FPIC, in planning and decision-making, as well as respecting the ownership and value of Indigenous cultural property, knowledge, and skills, and recognising the principles of fair and equitable sharing of benefits. WCS has robust Human Rights & Safeguarding policies and mechanisms in place, including a Social Safeguarding Policy, a Grievance Redress Mechanism, and an Institutional Review Board (IRB), as well as Code of Conduct, Harassment, and Whistle-blower Policies, which provide additional protection against retaliatory action. Our Rights and Communities team will provide close oversight for effective implementation of these policies.





Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q34. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies. Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British 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.

 [Communication-British-High-Commission-IWTCE
-R10-St2-WCS-Belize](#)
 29/10/2023
 01:57:30
 pdf 59.17 KB

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q35. 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?
Nicole Auil Gomez	Project Leader	7	Checked
Ralna Lewis	Belize Assistant Country Director, MEL co-lead	5	Checked
Myles Phillips	Belize Technical Coordinator, Marine Research	11	Checked
Julio Maaz	Belize Technical Coordinator, Community Fisheries	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?


☒ Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Yamira Novelo	Belize CWT Coordinator, Project co-manager	10	Checked
Kurt Duchez	Regional CWT Coordinator, Project co-manager	6	Checked
Christian Barrientos	Regional Marine Coordinator, co-MEL lead	2	Checked
Francis Lean	Honduras Marine Coordinator	4	Checked
Jose Moriera	Guatemala Marine Coordinator	4	Checked


No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	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.

 [CVs-IWTCF-R10-St2-WCS-Belize](#)

 29/10/2023

 02:02:45

 pdf 3.91 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

☒ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q36. 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 (WCS)

Website address: www.wcs.org

WCS will manage the project and build a project board among partners and other key parties. We offer a distinctive approach by seamlessly integrating strong national programs and a regional perspective, facilitating both a broad landscape-scale understanding and an on-the-ground view. We have offices and staff in the three countries of this project, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. The Belize Program staff will lead this project implementation. Our role will be overall project management, coordination among partners, and overseeing monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

WCS will be the point organization to submit outputs to regional bodies. WCS's rigorous fiduciary and administrative processes will ensure compliance with DEFRA's requirements. Additionally, we will exercise our experience in integrating social safeguards, including gender representation, into our mission of saving wildlife.

WCS has long been at the forefront of conservation in Belize with a history of providing technical and scientific support for over 30 years. WCS Belize Program develops and implements science, conservation and management programs that aim to conserve Belize's marine and terrestrial ecosystems over the long term through sustainable natural resource management; improved protected area management; reduced wildlife trafficking; strengthened ridge-to-reef management approaches; and improved regional alignment.

International/ In-country Partner

International

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

☒ Yes

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: Centro de Estudios Marinos (CEM)

Website address: <https://estudiosmarinos.org/es/>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	CEM is a Honduran NGO founded in 2006. Its lines of work range from scientific research, marine governance, community development, sustainable fisheries, and marine reserves. Their area of influence covers both coasts of Honduras and for more than 10 years they have been working with the communities and fishing cooperatives of Puerto Cortes, Omoa and surrounding areas. Their strong work and presence in the area, as well as their experience of more than 17 years, has led them to have a close relationship with fishermen, generating a bond of trust that makes them the ideal organization for collecting information that will help us know what are the drivers that lead them to carry out illegal fishing activities in Belize. CEM will also be responsible for compiling the existing literature on the problem of IUU fishing in this area of the GoH and, with the support of WCS, carrying out the analysis of the data to share the results with interested parties and write a scientific article with the most relevant information.
International/ In-country Partner	In-country
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£ [REDACTED]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

2. Partner Name:	Fundación Mundo Azul (FMA)
Website address:	https://fundacionmundoazul.com/home-english/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	FMA is an NGO focused on contributing to the sustainability of marine and coastal resources and artisanal fisheries in Guatemala through the generation of relevant knowledge, policy and advocacy, and the improvement of the quality of life of coastal communities. Its actions focus on community work, biological research, environmental education, promoting economic alternatives, and sustainable fishing. With more than five years of experience, they work closely with communities in the Caribbean such as San Juan, Quetzalito, Sarstún, and Santa María, in the department of Izabal. FMA will be in charge of surveying experts, academics, authorities, and fishing communities on IUU fishing in the Gulf of Honduras; collecting literature on the problem of IUU fishing; implementing community surveys; organizing a national workshop in Guatemala to present the results; and supporting WCS in analysing the data and writing a scientific paper.
International/ In-country Partner	In-country
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£ [REDACTED]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

☒ Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

☒ Yes

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

International/ In-country Partner

No Response

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

International/ In-country Partner

No Response

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

☐ Yes
☐ No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

☐ Yes
☐ No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

International/ In-country Partner

No Response

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

☐ Yes
☐ No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

☐ Yes
☐ No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

International/ In-country Partner

No Response

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

- ☐ 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 combined PDF of all letters of support in the order they are presented in the table.

 [Letters-of-Support-IWTCTF-R10-St2-WCS-Belize](#)

 29/10/2023

 02:06:27

 pdf 1.2 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q37. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade 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
IWT123	William Marthy	Scaling reform: Institutionalizing an evidence-based problem-oriented policing approach in Indonesia
IWT115	Zahangir Alom	Demand reduction for threatened freshwater turtles and tortoises in Bangladesh
DARCC034	Lilian Painter	Vicuña management for biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods in Bolivia
DARNV015	Emily Denstedt	Risk reduction of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Cambodia's wetlands
IWT129	Aaron Nicholas	Tanzanian national SMART roll-out to strengthen counter wildlife trafficking
30-022	Nev Broadis	Ecosystem restoration of watering holes in Cambodia's Northern Plains

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

☒ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Wildlife Conservation Society

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 key project personnel, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, Safeguarding and associated policies and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years), or other evidence of financial capacity as set out in the Financial Guidance, are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Joe Walston
Position in the organisation	Executive Vice President for Global Conservation
Signature (please upload e-signature)	<div> Joe Signature</div> <div> 29/10/2023</div> <div> 02:10:06</div> <div> png 41.3 KB</div>
Date	28 October 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

<div> Audited-Financial-Statements-2021-WCS</div> <div> 29/10/2023</div> <div> 02:10:39</div> <div> pdf 375.63 KB</div>	<div> Audited-Financial-Statements-2022-WCS</div> <div> 29/10/2023</div> <div> 02:10:35</div> <div> pdf 439.27 KB</div>
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "IWT Challenge Fund Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator 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 <u>actual start and end dates</u> for the project.	Checked
I have provided my <u>budget based on UK government financial years</u> i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our <u>budget is complete</u> , correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been <u>signed by a suitably authorised individual</u> (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application:	
• a <u>cover letter</u> from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
• my <u>budget</u> (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed <u>copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years)</u> for the Lead Partner, or other evidence of financial capacity as set out in the Financial Guidance, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• my completed <u>workplan</u> as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the <u>Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 32)</u> .	Checked
• <u>1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff</u> identified at Question 35, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a <u>letter of support</u> from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 36, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	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
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	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 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 IWT Challenge Fund and our sister grant scheme, the Darwin Initiative. 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.

Checked

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 IWT Challenges Fund including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).