Applicant: **Bennett, Rhett**
Organisation: **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**
Funding Sought: **£1,500,000.00**

IWTR11S2\1045

Empowering East Africa to eliminate illegal shark trade

This project scales IWT116's successful capacity building, data collection and policy reform activities, which equipped the Mozambique and Tanzania governments with human and technical capacity to combat illegal shark and ray trade. Through replication scaling to new countries including Kenya and Madagascar, landscape scaling to build on completed activities in Mozambique and Tanzania, and systems change scaling for stronger management frameworks, the project aims for an environment capable of mitigating illegal trade, benefiting shark and ray populations and coastal communities.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Rhett
Surname	Bennett
Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Website	[redacted]
Tel	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

IWTR11S2\1045

Empowering East Africa to eliminate illegal shark trade

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Rhett
Surname	Bennett
Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Website	
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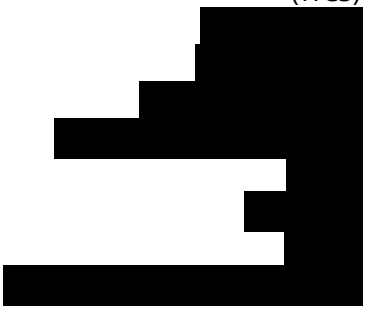
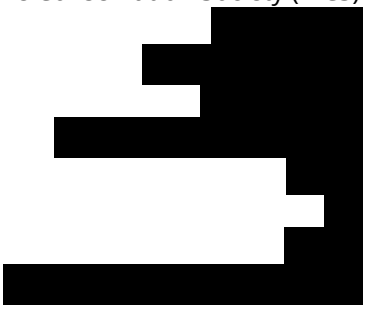
Address	



GMS ORGANISATION

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



Section 2 - Title, Themes and Summary

Please confirm which fund you are applying to:

⦿ Extra

Q3. Title:

Empowering East Africa to eliminate illegal shark trade

Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

Cover letter signed
31/03/2025
20:53:00
pdf 240.44 KB

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTEXR11S1\1001

IWTR11S1\1071

Q4. Response to Stage 1 feedback

You must explicitly set out how and where you have addressed all the comments/feedback in the application form: briefly restating the feedback point, then clearly setting out how you have responded to it in the application.

Provide strategies for job creation and support for economic diversification

Indicator 4.4 was split, with 4.4 focusing on identifying alternative livelihoods (following IWT116 in Mozambique) and developing strategies for alternative livelihood implementation. New indicator 4.5 will evaluate financial incentives to reduce shark and ray mortality, through inter alia income generation schemes (e.g., learning from Darwin grant Ref 30-008), or Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), used widely in African countries, including by WCS (https://wcsbluefuture.com/en/), and often dominated by women.

Could alternative livelihoods be realised earlier?

Indicator 4.4 was amended. Alternative livelihoods will be identified by the end of Year 2 (building on IWT116 activities), and strategies for economic diversification will be developed by end of project.

What if ambitious policy change is not successful?

The outcomes related to regulations are ambitious. However, considering the dire conservation status of sharks and rays across the globe and the Endangered and Critically Endangered status of many shark and ray species captured in WIO fisheries, any conservation goals for sharks and rays must be ambitious, if there is hope of protecting these species. We have engaged relevant government agencies in each country mandated to specific aspects of fisheries management to support activities on regulatory reform. This scales up activities under IWT116 and other projects led by WCS in the WIO. Strengthening policy for sharks and rays is a priority under the National Plans of Action for shark conservation, supported by previous WCS grants in the four project countries, mandating governments to revise legislation and providing an entry point for this work.

How could application of training and data by law enforcement be assured?

We will actively monitor the impact of these activities (for example, through pre- and post-training evaluations) to quantify knowledge uptake and long-term engagement with the relevant agencies involved in each country. Intended outcomes include strengthened enforcement of national measures and measures under multilateral agreements, which both require implementation of built capacity. Specific mechanisms to achieve this include:

- The project will work directly with governments to improve implementation of measures under multilateral

agreements such as CITES and CMS, which would necessitate application at national level of capacity built through this project.
- As governments in all countries are calling for continued species identification training, skills gained by participants during training of trainers on species identification will be applied.
- Communication platforms in each country allow engagement among agencies and implementers, and feedback through those platforms allows us to repeatedly share knowledge to support continued learning.
-All data collected will be provided to relevant government agencies to inform policy revision and improved enforcement.
- Genetic assessments of seized products and increased frequency of seizures would confirm that the skills obtained are being implemented.
- Shark National Plans of Action in each country require improved enforcement and capacity for fisheries and trade, which would apply skills obtained through this project and IWT116.
- Collected data will be used to inform national legislation amendments.
- Collected data will be shared by WCS or governments with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to inform stronger measures for sharks and rays across the IOTC area of competence.

What if pipeline funding does not materialise?

If IWTCF funding was not obtained, some activities would be delayed until other funds are secured. However, subsequent to Stage 1, we secured significant matched funds (from Shark Conservation Fund (SCF)), which could support some proposed activities.

Data collection, policy reform, and other activities were supported until March 2024, under an SCF grant, while IWT116 supported activities on illegal wildlife trade for sharks and rays. WCS has secured another SCF grant (three years, starting January 2025) that will build on previous SCF activities, with a focus on spatial management, not directly illegal trade. This IWTCF Extra grant would thus allow us to continue to build on the IWT-funded work towards eliminating illegal trade, by offering improved resources for supporting meaningful policy reform, which will continue beyond the scope of the SCF and IWTCF projects. With sharks and rays as a key pillar of WCS's global marine conservation strategy, we will continue engaging with stakeholders and sourcing additional funds beyond the proposed IWT grant, to ensure continued financial and technical support further in the future.

The project aims specifically to provide certain deliverables that will build capacity and effect policy change, which will remain in place regardless of future funding, beyond the duration of the project.

Similarly, we are also specifically developing "no-cost" (or minimal-cost) support, such as communication platforms that effectively secure real-time expert support, at no cost, into the future.

Strengthen logframe:

Clarify number and geography of communities managing own resources

- The intention is at least three (if not more) communities overall, with the intention to have at least one per country for three of the countries.

Include interim targets in Outcome indicators

- Interim targets have been added to the 3 outcome indicators

Clarify outcome indicator on % reduction in illegal trade

- The 50% reduction is a target relative to the start of the proposed project. This is an ambitious target but will be achieved in two ways: 1) Actual illegal trade is reduced, through improved capacity for inspections and thus increased seizures of illegal products. 2) Working with governments to implement measures that make sustainable trade legal and compliant with national/global measures, thus turning current trade that is non-compliant but otherwise legal into legal and compliant trade (currently almost all trade in CITES-listed shark and ray products from the WIO is non-compliant). This explanation is captured in Outcome indicator 0.2.

Ensure indicators are SMART and capable of measuring progress

- Indicators have been amended where relevant to be SMART and capable of measuring progress

Logframe indicators to be disaggregated by GESI

- Each indicator, where relevant, has been disaggregated by GESI

Q5. Which of the four key IWT Challenge Fund themes will your project address?

Please tick all that apply.

- ☑ Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- ☑ Strengthening law enforcement
- ☑ Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

Q6. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Conservation Action 1

Species management (harvest, recovery, re-introduction, ex-situ)

Conservation Action 2

Law & policy (legislation, regulations, standards, codes, enforcement)

Conservation Action 3

External Capacity Building (institutional, partnerships and finance)

Threats 1

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threats 2

No Response

Threats 3

No Response

Q7. Contribution towards Climate Change Adaption or Mitigation

The IWT Challenge Fund is partly funded through International Climate Finance **(ICF). This requires the fund to evidence how it is contributing towards climate change adaption and mitigation.**

Please describe how your project may contribute to climate change adaption or mitigation. You should refer to the 'Illegal Wildlife Trade and Climate Change' document, attached to your feedback letter, for further information on some of the ways in which IWT interventions intersect with climate change.

The project links to governance and carbon sequestration. Overfishing of coastal sharks for fins or rays for meat reduces their biomass on coral reefs. Coral reefs provide many ecosystem functions, including support for reef fish populations and fisheries they support, and physical protection against rough seas. However, removal of sharks (predators that control herbivore and corallivore populations and their impacts) and rays (bioturbation and nutrient transport between habitats) impacts the ecological functioning of coral reefs (Roff et al. 2016). This will be compounded by climate change, as scientists forecast more severe storms and increased sea temperatures (Potts et al. 2015) and WIO indigenous knowledge predicts reduced rainfall and altered coastal dynamics (Chambon et al. 2024), further reducing reef resilience. Seagrass beds store significant carbon, however in the absence of sharks, herbivorous species engage in "uncontrolled" seagrass feeding, which reduces seagrass coverage and carbon sequestration capacity (Dedman et al. 2024).

Q8. Species project is focusing on

Please include both the common name and scientific name.

Hammerhead sharks (family Sphyrnidae, 3 species) (Critically Endangered and Vulnerable; CITES Appendix II; CMS Appendix II)	Wedgefishes (family Rhinidae, 3 species) (Critically Endangered; CITES Appendix II; CMS Appendix II)
Oceanic whitetip shark Carcharhinus longimanus (Critically Endangered; Indian Ocean Tuna Commission retention ban; CITES Appendix II; CMS Appendix I)	Mobulid rays (family Mobulidae, 7 species) (Endangered and Vulnerable; Indian Ocean Tuna Commission retention ban; CITES Appendix II; CMS Appendix I)

Do you require more fields?

⦿ Yes

Thresher sharks (family Alopiidae, 3 species) (Endangered and Vulnerable); Indian Ocean Tuna Commission retention ban; CITES Appendix II; CMS Appendix II)	Shortfin mako shark Isurus oxyrinchus (Endangered; CITES Appendix II; CMS Appendix II)
No Response	*No Response*

Q9. 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.

This project scales IWT116's successful capacity building, data collection and policy reform activities, which equipped the Mozambique and Tanzania governments with human and technical capacity to combat illegal shark and ray trade. Through replication scaling to new countries including Kenya and Madagascar, landscape scaling to build on completed activities in Mozambique and Tanzania, and systems change scaling for stronger

management frameworks, the project aims for an environment capable of mitigating illegal trade, benefiting shark and ray populations and coastal communities.

Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary

Q10. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Mozambique	**Country 2**	Tanzania
Country 3	Kenya	**Country 4**	Madagascar

Do you require more fields?

⦿ No

If you are proposing to work in an Upper Middle Income Country (see Table 4 in the Round 11 Guidance for Applicants), please demonstrate your case for support with reference to one or more of the criteria in Section 3.4.

No Response

Q11. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 October 2025	30 September 2028	3 years

Q12. Budget summary

Year:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total funding
Amount:	£275,375.00	£591,623.00	£402,795.00	£230,207.00	*No Response*	1,500,000.00

Q13. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

⦿ Yes

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

Q14. 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?

The matched funding arrangement is clearly defined in the budget. This will amount to approximately £ 455,187, about 30% of the amount requested from BCF, all of which is secured.

Q15. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

⦿ Yes

Please provide details. If you have received, applied for or plan to apply with similar projects, explain how your activities are distinct and complementary. Note that you cannot apply to OCEAN or any of the Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) with the same project.

Our IWT Main project (IWT116) ends March 31, 2025. The project proposed herein aims to scale and build on the successes identified under IWT116, with additional distinct and complementary activities ensuring a broader and more sustained impact in the existing countries while scaling to Kenya and Madagascar as well.

All other proposals submitted to UK Government donors have been uniquely designed to those opportunities with activities that complement one another while avoiding overlap.

Section 4 - Problem statement & Gap in existing approaches

Q16. 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 Western Indian Ocean (WIO) faces a critical challenge: unsustainable exploitation of sharks and rays driven by illegal and excessive trade, exacerbating poverty within coastal communities (Bennett et al. 2022). Shark and ray meat provides low-cost protein, while fins fetch excessive prices on international markets, incentivizing illicit trade (Jabado et al. 2024), with limited evidence of decreasing fishing pressure or trade demand. Among the world's highest shark and ray catches (FAO 2024), WIO populations are plummeting, with 38% of 235 WIO species threatened with extinction (IUCN 2025), leaving sharks and rays as the second-most threatened marine species group in the WIO after turtles (Bullock et al. 2021). Overharvesting and excessive, frequently illegal trade in threatened species are the primary issues, while catch and export volumes are underreported (UN Comtrade, 2025) and legislative frameworks for sharks and rays are inadequate for trade control (CITES Secretariat 2023). Furthermore, enforcement of conservation measures is poor, with limited capacity for identifying traded species (Bennett et al. 2022).

Coastal communities in the WIO, where over 50 million people rely on small-scale fisheries for food and income (FAO 2024), are disproportionately impacted. Declining shark populations reduce catches for artisanal fishers, forcing them to fish farther offshore at greater cost and risk. Industrial and illegal operators often outcompete small-scale fishers, deepening economic inequities (Set et al. 2023). WCS aims to address this illegal and excessive catch and trade in WIO sharks and rays, for healthier ecosystems supporting more sustainable fisheries.

Sharks and rays have slow growth and low reproductive rates, similar to large-bodied mammals, making them vulnerable to even moderate exploitation (Dulvy et al. 2024), yet they remain targets of fisheries normally focused on highly productive bony fishes with higher reproductive rates. 56 WIO species are listed on Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) because of negative impacts of international trade on their populations. Seventeen species are listed on

Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), which requires strict protection in range states and/or have retention bans under Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Resolutions, due to overexploited stocks.

Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar are signatories to CITES, CMS and IOTC, yet none fully implement all their measures. Surveys in these countries (including project IWT116) revealed threatened species dominate shark and ray catches, including species listed on CITES, CMS Appendix I, or prohibited under IOTC. Headless, finless sharks are landed, including thresher, mako and hammerhead sharks, and wedgefishes, all threatened and CITES-listed, indicating illicit fin trade. Trunks and processed fins are not easily identifiable, complicating prosecutions. Illegal trade to Asia originates from unmonitored ports in numerous WIO countries (IOC-SmartFish 2016).

Improved management for sustainable use of sharks and rays is critical and urgent. All four countries have recognized management shortfalls and have requested support to implement key actions, as reflected in their National Plans of Action (NPOAs) for Shark Conservation, offering immediate opportunities to protect WIO sharks and rays.

Q17. Gap in existing approaches

What gap does your project fill in existing approaches? How will you ensure activities are aligned and do not duplicate ongoing work in the region?

Effective shark and ray conservation and management require an environment fully capable of ensuring sustainable levels of capture and trade. However, in the WIO, national policies and legislation are incoherent and inadequate to protect threatened species; management measures are insufficient to maintain sustainable levels of fishing, fishery mortality and trade volumes; enforcement agents have low capacity and resources for enforcement; and often users are not aware of existing regulations.

In IWT Main grant IWT116, WCS equipped government staff in Mozambique and Tanzania with tools and training to mitigate illegal shark and ray catch and trade. We will now scale up successful capacity-building activities (including visual shark and ray species identification training, genetic identification training, awareness raising among members of the judiciary), improve species-level catch and trade information, and continue to support science-based policy reform, whilst expanding to additional countries. We will also engage with communities to empower local management of fishery resources, encourage alternative livelihoods, ensure women's participation, and improve adherence to national measures.

Proposed activities will fill gaps and implement priority activities aligned directly with requests from governments and identified in National Plans of Action for Shark Conservation recently developed in all four countries through support from WCS.

Section 5 - Objectives & Commitments

Q18. 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.

The proposed project contributes to the following:

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

- Target 4: by supporting governments to implement measures to protect species threatened with extinction
- Target 5: by implementing measures that can ensure the harvesting, trade, and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe
- Target 14: using collected data to inform policy change

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and CMS Sharks MOU:

- Article III of the CMS Convention: through legal protection for CMS Appendix I species
- Article IV of CMS Convention: encouraging multilateral management plans for CMS Appendix II species
- Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks (Annex 3 of the Sharks MOU): through training for customs agents, fisheries inspectors, law enforcement officials, and members of the judiciary on species identification and enforcement of shark and ray conservation measures
- CMS Concerted Actions for whale sharks and mobulid rays: through support for improved implementation of CMS measures

Nairobi Convention:

- Revision of Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora: encouraging protection of highly threatened species and catch/trade controls fished species
- Priority area ii of 2022-2024 Programme of Work, “assessment and conservation of critical habitats and endangered species”
- Component 4 of 2025-2028 Programme of Work: contributing to biodiversity conservation
- Outcome 4.1 of 2025-2028 Programme of Work: contributing to community-based management for biodiversity and fisheries management
- Decision CP11/11 of 11th CoP: through strengthened policy reform for protection of highly threatened species including sharks and rays

National Regulatory Frameworks:

- Mozambique general marine fishing regulations 2020
- Madagascar wild species decree, Fisheries and Aquaculture Code 2015
- Kenya Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013
- Tanzania Fishing Regulations 2009

CITES:

- Article IV: by supporting governments to improve implementation of trade controls for CITES Appendix II sharks and rays

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission:

- Resolutions 12/09, 13/05, 13/06 and 19/03, through supporting governments to prohibit capture of thresher sharks, whale sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks and mobulid rays

National Plans of Action for shark conservation:

- Policy reform for strengthened protections of threatened species, strengthened enforcement of conservation measures, reductions of illegal trade in sharks and rays, in shark NPOAs in all four countries.

Please note Q19 is for Extra applicants only, the next question for those applying to the Main scheme will be Q20. Methodology.

Q19. Evidence for Scaling (for Extra applications only)

IWT Challenge Fund Extra projects should utilise and build on evidence from past activities (from IWT Challenge Fund and beyond) to demonstrate why the approach will deliver. Please provide evidence on how your proposed project will do this.

Proposed activities would be scaled and scalable. Grant IWT116 and other WIO projects significantly improved capacity for enforcement of measures by training 120 inspectors/monitors on visual shark and ray identification using the latest guides translated to their primary languages, and a further 10 inspectors/monitors on genetic identification techniques. This capacitation will be replication scaled in Mozambique, Tanzania and Madagascar and landscape scaled to Kenya in the proposed grant. Successful genetic sequencing of seized samples, real-time communication platforms, and trade data analysis will be replication scaled in Mozambique and Tanzania, and landscape scaled to Kenya and Madagascar, responding to government requests to support improved shark and ray management.

National fishery observer program reviews in Mozambique and Tanzania (IWT116) will be landscape scaled to Kenya and Madagascar, and provide systems change scaling through implementation of recommended actions (including from IWT116) in all four countries to strengthen commercial/industrial fishery monitoring and enforcement.

Legislation revision (systems change scaling) in all four countries aligns with current government-level processes, NPOA-Sharks objectives, and recommendations from other WCS shark projects in the WIO.

Alternative livelihoods and income generation schemes follow successful implementation under WCS's "Blue Future Project" in Mozambique (https://wcsbluefuture.com/en/) and Darwin grant Ref 30-008 in Indonesia, respectively.

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

Q20. 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 the main activities will be and where will these take place.**
- **How you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).**
- **How you have engaged with partners or communities involved to design the project; if this has not been done please explain why.**

Specific approach supported by evidence:
WCS intends to scale activities conducted under IWT116 (main grant) at three levels:

1. Replication scaling of successful activities from Mozambique and Tanzania to Kenya and Madagascar, including several capacity-building activities (capacitation scaling), refresher training, and training for new

individuals within Mozambique and Tanzania.
2. Landscape scaling of new activities in all four countries, building on activities previously implemented in Mozambique and Tanzania, including policy reform (systems change scaling).
3. Landscape scaling both to additional countries and through activities undertaken regionally, using global databases to quantify legal and illegal trade volumes and satellite-based sources to quantify potential illegal fishing activities that may be supporting illegal trade.

Government capacity building, policy support, and collection of catch and trade information—all well received in Mozambique and Tanzania—will now be landscape scaled within these countries to increase capacity and replication scaled to Madagascar and Kenya, aligning with requests from these governments.

The project will achieve systems change scaling through national-level regulatory change, including support to governments in all four countries for stronger species protections, stricter trade controls and improved CITES implementation and compliance. To identify the best engagement approaches, communities (including woman's groups) and government authorities were consulted under IWT116 and other grants in each country.

Activities

1.1 – 1.3: Technicians from each country will be trained as trainers for shark and ray species identification (by Dr Jabado, project partner); government inspectors in each country will also receive training. The latest CITES shark/ray identification guides, developed initially through support from DEFRA and CEFAS, will be disseminated to participants.

1.4: Mobile phone-based communication platforms will be expanded to additional users in Mozambique and Tanzania, and implemented in Kenya and Madagascar, to give inspectors real-time access to species identification expertise.

1.5-16: Government technicians from Kenya and Madagascar will be trained at Stellenbosch University (project partner) on genetic barcoding for shark/ray species identification (with refresher training for Mozambique), and on the use of a rapid genetic sequencer for in situ shark/ray species verification.

2.1-2.3: Surveys will be undertaken in Madagascar to better understand the shark/ray product value chain, and in all countries to understand gender roles in trade and to monitor coastal fisher catches.

2.4-2.5: Industrial fisheries will be assessed to better understand threats, through data from governments and global databases and regional-level satellite-based tracking of fishing vessels. These data will also elucidate hotspots of potential illegal fishing or suspicious vessels and their overlap with MPAs and important shark and ray areas (as designated by the IUCN Shark Specialist Group).

2.6: Unidentified sharks and rays (or products) will be genetically sequenced to improve knowledge of species in legal and illegal trade in all four countries, working with Stellenbosch University and, where possible, in-country laboratories.

3.1-3.3: Scoping studies and implementation strategies will be developed on industrial fishery observer programs in Kenya and Madagascar, to identify key issues requiring improvement, building on IWT116. Priority actions will be discussed with governments for implementation in all four countries.

4.1-4.3: The project will raise awareness of the poor conservation status of sharks and rays among five fishing communities in each country to encourage stronger fishery measures on local management plans. Fishers and traders will be trained on species identification to enable compliance, and local governance frameworks will be

assessed to improve communities' self-governance for sharks and rays.

4.4-4.5: Potential alternative livelihoods and community income streams will be assessed in five communities per country, trialling options in at least 10 communities. Options include VSLAs, which are now largely used in African countries to serve communities and in most cases are dominated by women (https://www.care.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/CARE-VSLA-Report-Uganda-Eco-Devel.pdf). VSLAs are being successfully implemented by WCS Mozambique and partners under the Blue Future project with at least 11 coastal communities in Nampula province) and "pay-for-release" schemes (by replication scaling activities from Darwin Initiative Main grant Ref 30-008 in Indonesia) to incentivize live release of Critically Endangered shark or ray species.

5.1-5.4: Government agencies in each country and regional fishery bodies will be engaged to support an improved regulatory framework for sharks and rays, including stronger national fishery measures and trade controls, domestication of regional measures, and improved CITES implementation (e.g. developing non-detriment findings for CITES-listed species and encouraging setting of zero quotas for highly threatened species).

Project management, roles and responsibilities

WCS will manage the project overall. Activities will be delivered by regional and country-level WCS staff and project partners who are experts in their fields, several of whom are already project partners on IWT116. For partner-led activities, such as genetic barcoding, WCS will discuss (or has already done so) the approach with each partner, and each partner will be contractually bound to deliver against agreed upon terms of references. Roles and responsibilities have been defined for most partners (see Q40). The project will start with a WCS internal kick-off meeting followed by several partner- or objective-specific meetings and regular progress meetings thereafter.

Partner engagement

WCS has strengthened partnerships that led to successful outcomes under IWT116, including those with government agencies (many focal points of which are women), academic institutions and museums, the IUCN shark specialist group and several independent experts (many of whom are women). The basic approach and each activity have been discussed with relevant project or implementing partner(s) to ensure outcomes are achievable. Many of the community-level activities respond to requests from communities with whom WCS already engages.

Evidence and lessons learned

Many of the activities build directly on IWT116, whether they entail expansion within Mozambique and Tanzania, or replication to Kenya and Madagascar. The proposed activities are guided by IWT116's successes and lessons learned.

On activities geared towards poverty alleviation, we will apply lessons learned from a successful and ongoing incentive-based approach to biodiversity and well-being under a Darwin Initiative Main grant (Ref 30-008) led by Dr Hollie Booth. Dr Booth, an Oxford University postdoc, will support the proposed project in helping to scale existing poverty-alleviation approaches from Indonesia, implemented under the Darwin grant, to at least two new countries in the WIO.

Q21. 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?

The proposed project will conduct multiple activities to strengthen the capability and capacity of a range of stakeholders.

Species identification is a skill/knowledge (capability) that most participants do not currently have. Indeed, this knowledge gap has been evident in Mozambique, Tanzania and Madagascar, where species identification training workshops have revealed that even fishery inspectors had never previously received this specialized training. Similarly, the genetic barcoding training and use of genetic sequencers for confirming species in trade were new to all participants trained under IWT116. Therefore, training under the proposed project will effectively increase species identification capability. Pre- and post-training evaluations confirm that most participants gained significant new knowledge/skills and understanding during these training workshops, confirming such training does effectively build capacity.

Participants trained on species identification are provided with the latest identification guides in their working language. By using the guides and their new skills, they should retain much of what they have learned, particularly if they are often intercepting sharks and rays in their inspections. Understandably, some knowledge will be forgotten and there will be turnover of staff. The project's "training-of-trainers" component will address these challenges by improving selected local agents' capability to train others on species identification. This will strengthen each country's capability to continue building further capacity without relying on international experts, enhancing the impact of the project long after it ends.

Awareness raising on prohibited species, national regulations, and CITES processes builds capacity among participants to better enforce or implement measures or procedures, thus building national capacity for implementation of conservation and management instruments such as CITES and CMS.

Similarly, training fishers, traders or community/household members in other roles, on species identification and raising their awareness of species that are prohibited, highly threatened, or CITES-listed would develop their capacity to identify sharks and rays at landing sites or onboard the fishing vessels. This in turn builds their capability to make informed decisions as to which species are prohibited and should be released alive, which may be traded legally or not, and which are highly threatened (or juvenile or pregnant) species that the community may have agreed upon in advance to release when caught. Such training would thus facilitate fisher behavioural change, encouraging individuals to release threatened species to avoid prosecution for illegal catch or sale.

Training and awareness-raising activities under the project will be conducted by relevant international experts to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Q22. Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI)

All applicants must consider how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work in.

WCS's institution-wide Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy affirms our commitments to gender equality and social inclusion in the design of our activities, programs and partnerships. The WCS GESI Policy advances this commitment by taking steps to avoid gender-based exploitation, abuse or violence internally and in WCS's programming externally, consistent with the Common Approach to the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (CAPSEAH).

In the context of this project, WCS will ensure women have equal access to all capacity building activities,

understanding that many of the roles that would benefit from training (e.g. fishers and inspectors) are largely male dominated. We will welcome and encourage women to participate, so they may also gain the capacity to undertake relevant roles associated with project training (such as catch monitoring) and become informed of relevant regulations to encourage legal and sustainable fishing and trade activities within their communities. All project reporting will be disaggregated by gender.

We will engage coastal fishing communities to improve our understanding of community needs, local resource management, and gender roles within communities. Specifically, we will undertake consultations to understand women's roles in fishing, processing and trade of sharks and rays. These consultations will take place through discussion groups, including those for women only, which will be held at times and places suited to women's availability. Furthermore, we will respect confidentiality and privacy to ensure respondents are comfortable sharing accurate information. This will improve our understanding of women's dependence on the legal and illegal shark value chains, helping to 1) identify opportunities for women to benefit further from these roles; 2) understand the potential impacts on these women that activities that eliminate illegal shark and ray fishing/trade might have; and 3) identify opportunities for women to encourage responsible fisheries and trade.

We will also engage selected fishing communities, ensuring participation of women and individuals from marginalized groups, to empower them in managing their resources, including support for developing/revising local management measures or assessing governance frameworks for improvement. Efforts will be site-specific and may include activities such as designating specific fish landing sites; training community members to monitor landings and assess the status of and trends in their fishery resources; and providing capacity building to identify threatened and protected species in catches. Communities will be engaged to discuss opportunities for reducing mortality of threatened shark and ray species, such as alternative livelihoods and forms of income and protein, or incentive schemes for behavioural change.

Community engagement activities will encourage participation from all interested individuals. As done during community engagement activities under IWT116, group discussions will be held with different groups of women, youth, and users of specific types of fishing gear, offering a safe space for individuals to express their thoughts, opinions, and concerns without fear of being marginalised. This approach proved very successful in the IWT116 project, where the women's group offered new insights to processes and customs within their community, which informed management recommendations. The same approach will be conducted under the Extra grant.

Q23. 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) and the potential to scale 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.

The expected Impact is "An environment empowered to mitigate illegal and unsustainable shark and ray trade, with strengthened top-down and bottom-up fisheries management, benefiting shark and ray populations and coastal fishers in East Africa." Such an environment would enable maintenance and recovery of shark and ray populations that support healthier ecosystems, which in turn support sustainable fisheries for communities who depend upon such fisheries and who are empowered to manage them sustainably.

Expected changes include:
- Fisher communities less reliant on shark and ray fishing and trade for incomes
- Improved fisher and trader adherence to regulations; improved knowledge of punitive measures, capacity to identify threatened/protected species, and understanding of the need for sustainable fisheries

- Disincentivized illicit fishing and trade among small-scale and artisanal fishers and traders
- Improved government awareness of threats to sharks and rays
- Increased capacity to enforce trade and fishery controls across fishery sectors
- Strengthened top-down and bottom-up governance and policy frameworks
- Reduced opportunities for illicit activities in commercial/industrial fisheries
- Reduced illicit capture of and trade in threatened, protected and CITES-listed shark and ray species

Poverty alleviation will include improved knowledge of shark and ray fisheries, trade and conservation needs; greater community control to manage resources; opportunities for supplementary income and alternative livelihoods for fishing communities; increased security through improved governance and enforcement; and, in the long term, more sustainable coastal fisheries. As the immediate intended impact is reduced mortality of threatened sharks and rays, these impacts on poverty alleviation will be partly indirect, with some benefits realised after the project ends.

In the short term, the income-generating schemes, such as the Village Savings and Loans Associations and payment-for-live-release programs, will directly benefit fishing communities, potentially including fishers and traders and other members of their households, though supplementary incomes that may reduce reliance on shark and ray fishing or trade. The activity to identify alternative livelihoods will also offer fishers and traders, and members of their households, the opportunities to increase their incomes through complementary livelihoods (partial shift from fishing/trading) or alternative livelihoods (total shift away from fishing). Trialling such activities across numerous communities in this project will offer lessons learned to scale successful initiatives in the future.

Human beneficiaries will include coastal fishers—traditional, subsistence and artisanal—particularly those practicing legal and sustainable behaviours. In the short term, they will benefit from reduced pressure on coastal resources through reductions in illicit trade, decreased illegal and unsustainable activities among small-scale fishers, and reduced conflict with commercial/industrial fisheries resulting from improved enforcement. In the long term, coastal fishers will benefit from healthier shark and ray populations, which will support healthier ecosystems and more sustainable fisheries and livelihoods for local fishers.

Effectively implementing CITES measures, which permit only sustainable trade in CITES-listed species, will ensure that shark and ray trade is more sustainable, as 90% of species traded for their fins are now listed on CITES. Shark and ray traders adhering to regulations would also benefit, through activities intended to improve the implementation of CITES. Currently, the four project countries only partially implement CITES trade measures, hence any current exports from these countries would be in breach of CITES measures. Activities aimed at improving CITES implementation, particularly through activity 5.4, would ensure the appropriate traceability systems (CITES permitting) are put in place, evidence is provided for species whose conservation statuses could allow for sustainable trade, and sources of such products could be confirmed as legal. In so doing, this would avail opportunities for revenue through legal and sustainable trade, benefiting those traders abiding by national and international trade measures. Management authorities will also benefit from strengthened capacity and legal frameworks for shark and ray management.

Species that would benefit are those most prevalent in illegal trade, which often include Critically Endangered hammerhead sharks and Critically Endangered wedgefish species, which fetch the highest prices in the global fin trade (as evidenced through previous genetic work under IWT116 and other projects). Other species would be those prohibited at national level, under CMS Appendix I or the IOTC, and the most heavily threatened shark and ray species. Strengthened enforcement, CITES implementation, and regulatory frameworks would disincentivize trade in these species, which would in turn reduce demand for their capture, with a reduced market discouraging illegal capture of such species. The reduced pressure, in conjunction with strengthened policy and broadened spatial protections (which WCS is pursuing under the recently initiated SCF grant), would have positive effects on wild populations of these species, allowing their recovery.

Q24. 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, your expected Impact.

The project aims for a long-term Impact of reversing the current decline of shark and ray populations via an environment that supports population recovery through elimination of illegal catch and trade, while also improving fisher livelihoods through more sustainable fisheries. Five areas require strengthening:

- Enforcement of shark and ray fishery and trade measures is inadequate to effectively enforce existing measures.
- Knowledge on shark and ray catches and trade, product value chains, gender roles, and the poor conservation status of these species is inadequate to inform effective management.
- Industrial fisheries are poorly monitored and enforced, characterized by weak observer programs.
- Coastal fishers are poorly positioned to manage their resources and bound to fishing due to lack of alternative livelihoods.
- Policy for sharks and rays is limited and weakly enforced in WIO countries, with few species protected and few species-level regulations.

The change pathway includes linked activities that directly address the key issues. The project will provide training and identification tools to capacitate enforcement agents. Knowledge will be improved through catch and trade surveys, understanding of gender roles in trade, industrial fishery and trade threat assessments (including remote sensing technology to detect illicit fishing operations), and genetic confirmation of caught and traded species. Additionally, we will also assess observer programs to prioritize actions for improved monitoring and compliance in industrial fisheries; raise awareness within coastal fishing communities, discuss their needs, and identify economic opportunities for improved livelihoods; and engage governments and regional fishery/environmental bodies to strengthen national regulations and incorporate regional and/or international policy into national legislation.

Project Outcomes include strengthened enforcement capacity; improved compliance with a strengthened policy framework that reduces illicit shark and ray catch and trade; and coastal fishing communities empowered to manage their own fisheries and alternative livelihoods, leading to the expected Impact.

Q25. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q25a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained 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 aims to build in-country capacity, rather than rely on external inputs only.

The project will build on species identification training under IWT116, but will train local technicians to become trainers, through training-of-trainers. This will build in-country capacity for frequent and repeated training without relying on external experts to train new entrants on species identification.

The communication platform provides a tool that will remain in place for long-term linkage between inspectors and species identification experts, giving access to new knowledge accrued by external experts over the long term.

Legal changes and new community-level measures would also be permanent and remain in effect beyond project closure.

Benefits from alternative livelihoods and income generating schemes would remain in place, as far as the

communities are interested, beyond the end of the project.

All data will be shared with government partners, and published as open access wherever possible, across multiple media.

Q25b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

The project has considerable potential for scaling. Many of the activities in the proposed project are being scaled from IWT116 and would be equally scalable to future projects (in other areas through replication scaling or in the same countries through landscape scaling to additional individuals and organizations).

Most of the activities are discrete in their implementation and thus can be simply packaged for scaling. Lessons learned from IWT116 have been integrated into the planning of the proposed project. Lessons learned from the proposed project could be included in efforts to scale activities to other future projects. Project details and reports would be available online for interested partners to replicate.

Barriers to scaling would likely be limited to funding opportunities and stakeholder commitment to implementation of these activities.

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

References_TOC
31/03/2025
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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q26. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 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, two Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Inefficient spending, unaccounted funds, spending not aligned with approved budget	Moderate	Rare	Minor	Good financial planning, rigorous procurement and financial reporting processes, multi-tiered approval for spending, strict protocols	Minor

Safeguarding (SEAH) All stakeholders (particularly vulnerable individuals or groups) engaging with other stakeholders through this project face risk of sexual exploitation abuse or harassment, or unintended harm	Major	Unlikely	Major	Social safeguarding training and awareness, Institutional Safeguarding Policy, Institutional GESI Policy	Minor
Safeguarding (HSS) Fishing community beneficiaries taking part in project activities face risk to safety and security through engaging with project staff or partners	Major	Unlikely	Major	Social safeguarding training and awareness, Institutional Safeguarding Policy	Minor
Delivery Chain Effective implementation impeded by multiple stakeholders failing to fulfil their envisaged roles	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Good project planning and regular communication, strong existing working relationships with partners, formal agreements with partners, clearly defined roles and responsibilities	Minor
Risk 5 Political will is limited, leading to poor uptake and implementation of the project's opportunities	Major	Possible	Major	Formal partnerships with government agencies, continual engagement, clearly defined objectives	Minor
Risk 6 Fishers are not willing to support more sustainable fishing practices or stricter regulations, making enforcement more challenging	Moderate	Possible	Major	Early engagement with communities, inclusion of communities in planning and decision making	Minor
Risk 7 Interruptions to travel (cyclones, floods, pandemics) adversely impact timely delivery of tasks, particularly those activities that rely on external expertise to deliver capacity building activities	Moderate	POssible	Major	An adaptive implementation plan, with contingency dates	Minor

Please upload your Risk Register, with Delivery Chain Risk Map, here.

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Section 8 - Project Sensitivities and Workplan

Q27. 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.).

◉ No

Q28. Workplan

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

Workplan IWT_1071
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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q29. 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 will be conducted using the tools established in the application.

The Theory of Change (TOC) will be discussed in the project kick-off meeting and used as the overall framework for project implementation. All WCS and partner implementing staff and project management staff will follow the TOC, particularly when new projects or new opportunities for project synergies arise. The TOC will be assessed at regular intervals and, where necessary, revised.

The workplan will be the primary tool for tracking and monitoring activity progress against the proposed timeline. Activities will be managed through monthly check-ins between the project leads and in-country staff, as well as partner focal points. Any changes or delays would be discussed, and actions taken to prevent, mitigate or minimise impacts, with adaptive management of activity implementation where necessary.

The logframe will be used for tracking actual achievement of the Outputs, and eventually Outcomes of the

objectives, according to the indicators. Progress will be assessed against the logframe indicators and workplan on a monthly basis, and in detail on a quarterly basis, to anticipate any potential changes, impediments or delays to the implementation. Regional and in-country implementing staff and partners will be made accountable for activities and deliverables relevant to their roles and responsibilities on the project and the specifics of each indicator.

Progress against the Outcomes and Impact will be assessed at least annually, to evaluate the project's likelihood of success in achieving or moving towards the desired state, by the end of the project.

The Project Lead will work with WCS programmatic staff to regularly assess WCS's capacity to implement project activities and deliver effectively and in a timely manner and will assess any changes to capacity (such as staffing changes) and the potential impacts that such changes would have on the ability to deliver according to the agreed project deliverables.

Financial management, including the monitoring and forecasting of spending, will be undertaken by the Project Lead in conjunction with WCS's in-country and regional East Africa finance teams. Assessment of the actual rate of spending (burn rate) relative to the budgeted rate will do done using the Budget Follow Up (BFU) tool, a financial tracking tool developed by WCS's finance team, which provides monthly updates on the tracking of actual expenditure per budget line against forecast expenditure, allowing any adaptive management and spending concerns to be rapidly and easily addressed.

Lessons learned from the implementation of IWT116 and several other grants to WCS in the WIO, for sharks, will also guide the project implementation and monitoring approach.

Please note Extra Projects are required to commission an Independent Final Evaluation to report by the time that the project completes. The cost of this should be included in the project budget, and within the total project cost for M&E.

Independent Final Evaluation (£)	[redacted]
Independent Final Evaluation (%)	[redacted]

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	[redacted]

Section 10 - Logical Framework & Standard Indicators

Q30a. Logical Framework (logframe)

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.

Logframe_TOC_WCS_IWT1071
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Impact:

An environment empowered to mitigate illegal and unsustainable shark and ray trade, with strengthened top-down and bottom-up fisheries management, benefiting shark and ray populations and coastal fishers in East Africa

Outcome:

Shark fishery and trade information, regulations, and enforcement are strengthened to reduce illegal shark trade in East Africa, while fishing communities are better equipped to manage their own fishery resources

Project Outputs
Output 1: Customs agents and fisheries inspectors are better equipped for visual and molecular identification of prohibited, trade-regulated and threatened shark and ray species in fisheries and trade, through training, improved knowledge, better information, and a suite of tools
Output 2: Shark and ray catch and trade volume data are improved (including visual and genetic species validation), fishery and trade dynamics are better understood (including information on gender roles), and legal and illegal fishery and trade threats are identified, to support improved management and enforcement
Output 3: Domestic fishery observer programs are critically assessed, implementation strategies are developed for addressing existing shortcomings to improve catch/fishery monitoring of commercial and industrial vessels, and governments are engaged to prioritise actions for improvement
Output 4: Fishing communities are engaged to improve knowledge on fishery measures and prohibited species, and empowered to manage their own resources and to identify opportunities for alternative livelihoods and fishing behaviours, which reduce poverty, disincentivize illegal activities, provide alternative incomes and promote species protection
Output 5: Regulatory frameworks are improved with strengthened fishery and trade regulations for sharks and rays

Do you require more Output fields?

⦿ 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. Customs agents and fisheries inspectors are better equipped for visual and molecular identification of prohibited, trade-regulated and threatened shark and ray species in fisheries and trade, through training,

improved knowledge, better information, and a suite of tools
Activity 1.1: Translate and print ID guides: Latest CITES shark/ray identification guides are translated to local language, printed, and disseminated to technicians and inspection agents
Activity 1.2: Training of trainers for species ID: Training of local trainers from project countries, to build national capacity for species identification training for sharks and rays
Activity 1.3: Species identification training: Government inspectors trained on shark and ray identification and use of latest CITES shark and ray identification guides
Activity 1.4: Communication platform setup and training: Mobile phone-based communication platform is developed and operational in Kenya and Madagascar (and expanded in Mozambique and Tanzania), and inspectors and data collectors are trained to use it, to have real time access to species identification experts
Activity 1.5: Genetic barcoding training: Government technicians from Mozambique, Kenya and Madagascar are trained in genetic barcoding for shark and ray species identification from unidentified samples
Activity 1.6: Genetic sequencer installation and training: A rapid genetic sequencer for in situ CITES listed shark/ray species identification is installed and operational in Kenya and Madagascar, and five in-country technicians in each country are trained to use it, while five technicians will be retrained in Mozambique

Output 2. Shark and ray catch and trade volume data are improved (including visual and genetic species validation), fishery and trade dynamics are better understood (including information on gender roles), and legal and illegal fishery and trade threats are identified, to support improved management and enforcement
Activity 2.1: Gender roles in trade: Observations and surveys are undertaken at landing sites, markets, and points of trade, to understand the roles and contributions of women in shark and ray fisheries and trade in each country
Activity 2.2: Understanding value chain: Trade investigations are undertaken in Madagascar (as a pilot country) to improve knowledge on shark and ray value chain, with a focus on industrial fisheries and illegal trade
Activity 2.3: Artisanal fishery catch: Artisanal fishery catch surveys are conducted in each country to increase information on CITES and threatened shark/ray species caught in coastal fisheries
Activity 2.4: Industrial fishery catch and trade: Threats to shark and ray species are understood and quantified, for selected domestic industrial fisheries in at least two countries, through mining and analysis of national and global catch and trade datasets (e.g. FAO FishStatJ, UN Comtrade, CITES trade database)

Activity 2.5: Satellite data: Analysis of satellite-based information sources to track fishing vessels, potential illegal activity (which might be i) impacting coastal fishers and ii) supporting illegal trade), and potential overlap between fishing activities, important shark and ray areas, threatened species distributions, and MPAs

Activity 2.6: Genetic barcoding: Genetic barcoding of unidentified shark and ray samples is conducted to improve knowledge of shark/ray species in legal and illegal trade (including from seizures of illegal shipments), working with in-country labs where possible

Output 3. Domestic fishery observer programs are critically assessed, implementation strategies are developed for addressing existing shortcomings to improve catch/fishery monitoring of commercial and industrial vessels, and governments are engaged to prioritise actions for improvement
Activity 3.1: Observer program scoping study: A scoping study is conducted with government agencies in Kenya and Madagascar, and commercial/industrial fishing industry, to understand gaps, needs, and risks of existing national observer programs in these countries
Activity 3.2: Observer program implementation strategy: A strategy is developed for implementing commercial/industrial scale data collection in Kenya and Madagascar, through improvements to observer programs, which adhere to regional and global minimum standards
Activity 3.3: Observer program priority actions: Work with governments to prioritize and identify opportunities to improve and implement aspects of the scoping studies in 3.1 and the strategies developed from 3.2 (or previous IWT grant)

Output 4. Fishing communities are empowered to manage their resources and have an improved ability to

access alternative livelihoods which increases their economic resilience, reduces poverty, and drives species protection and regeneration
Activity 4.1: Community engagement: Raise awareness among 5 local fishing communities in each country of the poor conservation status and need for reduced mortality of threatened sharks and rays, encouraging communities to include stronger fishery measures for sharks and rays in local fishery management plans
Activity 4.2: Species identification training for fishers: Fishers and traders trained to identify CITES-listed and nationally prohibited shark and ray species (including development of awareness materials)
Activity 4.3 Assess organizational capacity in at least 5 communities across at least 2 countries, and develop recommendations to improve organizational capacities, for improved resource management
Activity 4.4 Identify potential alternative livelihoods within 5 communities in each country, and develop project strategies for economic diversification for community-chosen livelihoods in at least 10 communities
Activity 4.5 Identify potential income streams within 5 communities in each country, and trial several schemes including inter alia Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and “pay-for-release" schemes to incentivize live release of Critically Endangered shark or ray species

Output 5. Regulatory frameworks are improved with strengthened fishery and trade regulations for sharks and rays
Activity 5.1: Government awareness: Raise awareness with government agencies of the poor conservation status and need for reduced mortality of threatened sharks and rays, encouraging government support for stronger fishery measures and trade controls for sharks and rays
Activity 5.2: Judiciary training: Lawyers, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary in Kenya and Madagascar are trained (with further training in Mozambique) on national and global policy for sharks and rays
Activity 5.3: Policy support: Governments are engaged to develop draft regulations or amendments to existing regulations, to support improved or strengthened fishery and trade regulations
Activity 5.4: Regional fishery management: Engaging with Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) for industrial fisheries (such as IOTC) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs, such as CITES and CMS), to support improved policy/management in all four project focal countries

Q30b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
e.g. IWTCF-A01: Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training	**e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3**	**e.g. 60**	**e.g. Kenya, 30 non-indigenous women; 30 non-indigenous men**
IWTCF-A04: No. of people reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project	Output indicator 4.1	200	Mozambique, 25 IPLC women and 25 IPLC men; Tanzania 25 IPLC women and 25 IPLC men; Kenya 25 IPLC women and 25 IPLC men; Madagascar, 25 IPLC women and 25 IPLC men;

IWTCF-A05: Number of cooperatives, enterprises, and credit and savings groups established	Output indicator 4.5	8	Mozambique, 2 savings groups/organizations of 20 women and 20 men each; Tanzania, 2 savings groups of 20 women and 20 men each; Kenya, 2 savings groups of 20 women and 20 men each; Madagascar, 2 savings group of 20 women and 20 men each
IWTCF-B15: Number of amendments to national laws and regulations in project country(ies)	Output indicator 5.3	4	Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar; Wildlife Act or Fisheries Regulations
IWTCF-B16: No of policies & frameworks developed or formally contributed and being implemented	Output indicator 4.1	4	Mozambique, 1 amended community-level fisheries management plan; Tanzania, 1 amended community-level fisheries management plan; Kenya, 1 amended community-level fisheries management plan; Madagascar, 1 amended community-level fisheries management plan per country
IWTCF-C04: Number of people reached with behaviour change messaging	Output indicator 4.1	4	Mozambique, 50 IPLC women and 50 IPLC men; Tanzania 50 IPLC women and 50 IPLC men; Kenya 50 IPLC women and 50 IPLC men; Madagascar, 50 IPLC women and 50 IPLC men
IWTCF-C05:No of govt institutions with enhanced awareness & understanding of biodiversity & poverty	Output indicator 5.1	20	Mozambique, 5 national fishery/environment departments; Tanzania, 5 national fishery/environment departments; Kenya, 5 national fishery/environment departments; Madagascar, 5 national fishery/environment

IWTCF-D01: No of people from eligible countries who have received structured and relevant training	Output indicators 1.3 and 4.2	500	Indicator 1.3: Mozambique, 5 women and 20 men; Tanzania 5 women and 20 men; Kenya 5 women and 20 men; Madagascar, 5 IPLC women and 20 IPLC men. Indicator 4.2: Mozambique 50 IPCL women and 50 IPCL men; Tanzania 50 IPCL women and 50 IPCL men; Kenya, 50 IPCL women and 50 IPCL men; Madagascar, 50 IPLC women and 50 IPLC men
IWTCF-D02: No of people reporting they are applying new capabilities 6 or more months after training	Output indicator 1.2	8	Mozambique, 1 woman and 1 man; Tanzania, 1 woman and 1 man; Kenya, 1 woman and 1 man; Madagascar, 1 woman and 1 man
IWTCF-D08:Number of decision-makers attending briefing events	Output indicator 5.1	16	Mozambique, 2 women and 2 men; Tanzania, 2 women and 2 men; Kenya, 2 women and 2 men; Madagascar, 2 women and 2 men
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q31. 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.

External - IWT WIO - March 2025 - Stage 2
31/03/2025
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Q32. Alignment with other funding and activities

We expect projects to clearly demonstrate that they are additional and complementary to other activities and funding in the same geographic/thematic area or region.

Are you aware of any other organisations/projects carrying out or planning activities, or applying for funding for similar work in this geography or sector?

◉ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

We request this section to remain confidential, as the projects mentioned are not WCS projects and we have no right to publish this information.

We know of several WIO shark-focused projects, but there is no direct overlap we are aware of with our proposed activities.

CORDIO East Africa, and NGO, is developing a national conservation strategy for sharks in Kenya. To align with WCS objectives, WCS will be represented at these meetings.

WildOceans, an NGO in South Africa, is drafting a new concept on shark and ray conservation in Southern Africa. While the details have not been publicized, the project will likely focus on a shark conservation campaign and scientific data collection to support policy reform for sharks. We are not aware of direct overlap in activities.

The NGO Bahari Hai is working on several shark conservation activities in central Kenya, including community engagement to support management strengthening for threatened sharks and rays, but this does not focus on trade.

TRAFFIC, an NGO focused on counter wildlife trafficking, has undertaken to conduct species identification training for sharks and other marine species, in Madagascar, however, this has not yet taken place, due to funding changes.

WCS is working with the Ministry of Environment (IWT partner), and Resolve Sarl (consultancy) to revise Madagascar's "wild" species decree. Initial work was funded through the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and the Ocean Country Partnership Program. There is no duplication with the IWT proposal.

Several WCS-led projects in the region have activities similar to IWT. Village Savings and Loan Associations to support alternative incomes are being successfully implemented under the Blue Future project in Mozambique (https://wcsbluefuture.com/en/news/blue-future-project-establishes-and-empowers-chicoma-community-savings-and-credit-association-to-promote-local-financial-education/).

We are exploring opportunities to recognize and incorporate sharks as a focal taxon within WCS's sustainable financing program for coral reefs, called Mayamba Yetu.

Q32b. 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.

Please see Q32a.

Q33. 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.

Approximately 80% of the budget will be spent within eligible countries, which will include activity costs, office costs, consultant fees (most proposed consultants are based in eligible countries), and salaries for the majority of the WCS project staff.

The remainder forms overhead cost recovery, which allows WCS to provide the services supporting other aspects of this project, such as the establishment of a safeguarding policy, a whistleblowing policy, running of the Institutional Review Board which evaluates projects with components on human subjects' research, and overall handling of grant funds, among others.

Q34. 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). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?

For the proposed project, WCS has already put in place core staff, operational procedures and equipment, limiting recruitment costs and largely avoiding any capital expenditures or start-up costs. IWT funds will build on previous and existing work and resources, including IWT116, avoiding any duplication of efforts.

We are also aware of the other projects underway in the WIO, including those on sharks or rays led by others, and those led by WCS on marine species in general, and we will pursue options to collaborate or share costs where possible.

WCS's longstanding presence in each of the target countries is a major asset as the project benefits from our established and trusted relationships with government agencies and fishing communities, allowing immediate and efficient implementation of activities in the project timeframe, ensuring good value for money. For other organizations or consultants, the costs (time, travel, incentives) for developing such relationships would be high, even before the actual activities begin.

Salaries are a large proportion of the total budget, as we will use WCS internal expertise to run most activities, thus reducing costs relative to the likely costs of having multiple consultants leading different aspects. This is particularly relevant for in-country WCS implementing teams, where staff are well-experienced, but their time cost is considerably lower than the cost of national consultants.

There is also a significant amount of matched funding for this grant, through the SCF SWIO grant that started in January 2025, at a value exceeding $US1.2 million over three years. The SCF grant will also focus on sharks and rays, including support for policy development, and would provide strong complementary financial support for the proposed IWT project.

WCS recognizes the importance of achieving value for money (VfM) in all projects, and thus incorporates six VfM principles in designing economically sound projects

1. Cost Consciousness: WCS scrutinizes costs to ensure the most cost-effective options are pursued, while producing maximum results.

2. Competition: WCS considers and compares competing methods and approaches, partners, and vendors to select options that offer the optimal balance of costs and benefits.

3. Evidence-Based Decision Making: WCS focuses on learning from previous experiences to avoid adopting methods and approaches that do not achieve an optimal mix of costs and benefits.

4. Performance and Risk Management: WCS's projects and programs are continuously reviewed for quality to ensure that they are meeting their objectives and delivering maximum impact.

5. Results Focus: WCS focuses on effective contract, investment and program design, and robust implementation, which are essential to ensure objectives are met in a timely and cost-effective manner.

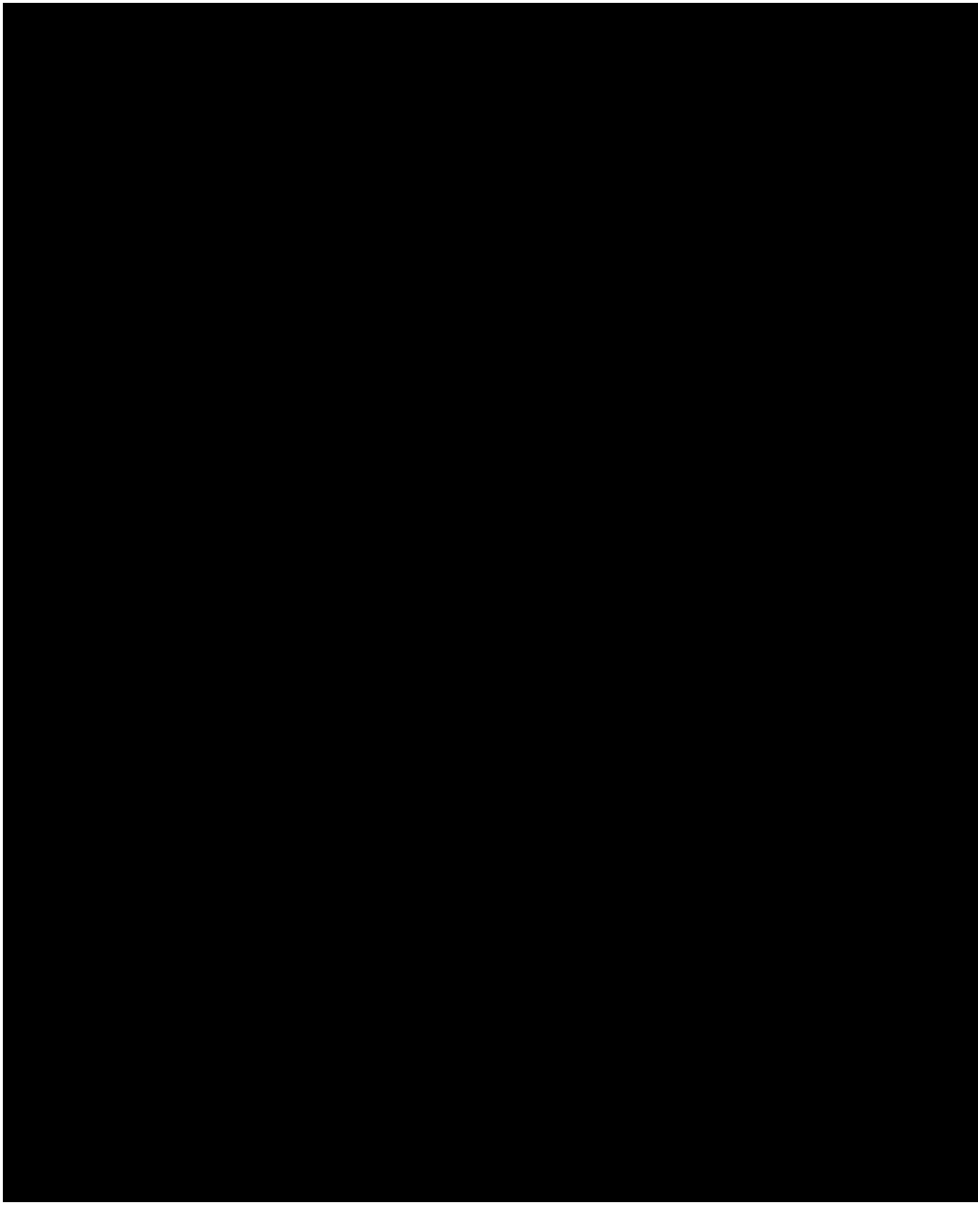
6. Accountability and Transparency: WCS understands accountability and transparency strengthen responsibility for results and can contribute to the continuous improvement of organizational processes that help drive the VfM agenda and aims to have and facilitate honest dialogue.

Q35. 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.

The amount budgeted for capital equipment under this grant is 1% of the total project amount. Capital expenses include mobile phones for data collectors who would be the beneficiaries of species identification training and the users of the mobile-phone communication platform (Activity 1.4). Capital costs also include laptops for two to three WCS project staff.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics



Q37. Ethics

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

WCS is a founding member of the Conservation Initiative for Human Rights and works to ensure ethical approaches to biodiversity conservation. These principles apply to our engagement with community and

government entities globally. These efforts are supported by the WCS Institutional Review Board (IRB), which reviews the level of risk to human subjects in research, assessing the methodology and protections afforded those subjects, and ensuring that they are exposed to no greater risk than they would experience in everyday life.

WCS will ensure that staff involved in the design/conduct of data collection under this project receive appropriate guidance to ensure confidentiality, privacy and safety. All participants will be asked for consent prior to any interviews for data collection. Individuals' identities will not be recorded during surveys, ensuring their rights, privacy, and safety, and safeguarding them from direct or indirect impacts of project activities. All previous WCS WIO shark surveys that involved human subjects have been approved by the WCS IRB, and the same approval will be sought for catch and trade surveys and community engagement proposed under this project. Staff involved in data collection, processing, storage or analysis have received training in human subject research.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q38. 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.

Combined_UK_LettersOfSupport
31/03/2025
21:15:06
pdf 558.63 KB

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q39. 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?
Rhett Bennett	**Project Leader**	38	Checked
Dave van Beuningen	Project technical coordinator	36	Checked
Jean Mensa	Project lead in Tanzania	8	Checked
Abdulrahman Ali Abdalla	Technical lead in Tanzania	18	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⦿ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Abdallah Abdulla	Project technician Tanzania	18	Checked
Hugo Costa	Project lead Mozambique	8	Checked
Naseeba Sidat	Project coordination Mozambique	18	Checked
Jorge Sitoe	Technical implementation Mozambique	18	Checked
Nyawira Muthiga	Policy lead Kenya	8	Checked
Jesse Kosgei	Technical implementer Kenya	18	Checked
Morgane Dierkins	Project lead Madagascar	8	Checked
Christelle Razafindrakoto	Technical coordinator Madagascar	9	Checked

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

CVs-Combined
31/03/2025
21:40:17
pdf 1.7 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

⦿ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Please note, the partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) you should upload alongside your application in Flexi-Grant.

Q40. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project, ideally evidencing meaningful and early engagement in the co-design of your project.

Lead partner name:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Website address:	www.wcs.org

Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	WCS has been leading shark and ray conservation efforts in the WIO since 2012. The proposed project will build directly on a successful IWTCF project (IWT116), led by WCS, that ends March 31, 2025. WCS has also recently secured a grant from the Shark Conservation Fund (SCF, US$1,281,000), which started January 1, 2025, and offers significant match funding, supporting additional policy reform for sharks and rays with a particular focus on spatial protection measures for sharks and rays. The SCF and IWT Extra grants could facilitate parallel activities for shark and ray policy reform, and community-led conservation and management efforts. Roles: WCS will lead this project, and coordinate with all partners to ensure effective implementation of the project. Responsibilities: WCS will manage the finances, reporting, liaising with funder, and the monitoring and evaluation. Capabilities/capacity: WCS staff in the WIO region have extensive experience with small-scale/artisanal fisheries, community fisheries co-management, policy, and sharks and rays. WCS has a broad partner base, with well-developed working relationships with multiple government agencies and other organizations such as NGOs, universities, and CSOs in each country.

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

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⊙ Yes

1. Partner Name:	ElasmoProject
Website address:	https://www.rimajabado.com/elasmo-project.html

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Dr Rima Jabado, founder of ElasmoProject, is a global leader in shark and ray species identification and training thereon and is the author of the latest CITES shark and ray identification guides, published in 2024. These guides were used in IWT116 and will be used during our proposed Extra IWT project to train participants on shark and species identification, covering whole animals, fins, and dried products. Roles: Dr Jabado will lead the species identification training and the training of trainers, sharing guides that she has developed. Responsibilities: Dr Jabado will run species identification training in each country, as well as a regional training workshop to train participants to become trainers on species identification. Dr Jabado will be involved in Activities 1.1-1.3. Capabilities/capacities: Dr Jabado is a global leader in the field of species identification, and an expert trainer on this topic. She is also the global chair of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group and is closely involved in shark and ray conservation around the world.
Explain how you have involved this partner within the development of the project and their expected role during its implementation.	Dr Jabado will conduct the species identification workshops, training participants on how to identify shark and ray species using the ID guides she developed. She will also provide the training of trainers for species identification. The project lead has worked closely with Dr Jabado for several years. Dr Jabado successfully conducted the species identification training under IWT116, and much of the training conducted under previous Shark Conservation Fund grants to WCS in the WIO. She also conducted a workshop in Mozambique in conjunction with WCS, through funding from CEFAS.
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

2. Partner Name:	Stellenbosch University
Website address:	https://genetics.sun.ac.za/shark-and-ray/

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Stellenbosch University (SU) runs a shark and ray genetics program within their Department of Genetics. The program is led by Professor Aletta Bester-van der Merwe, a long-standing partner to WCS in the WIO on genetic work. Roles: SU will take the lead on genetic components of the project through a subgrant. Responsibilities: SU will coordinate the genetic activities and plan analyses in discussion with WCS. SU will host genetic technicians from Mozambique, Kenya and Madagascar; provide training on genetic barcoding/sequencing; and run all laboratory analyses and analyses of outputs. They are also offering guidance to the members of the genetics laboratory of the Natural History Museum in Mozambique, with whom WCS has engaged to start conducting in-country genetic analyses. SU will be involved in Activities 1.5 and 2.6. Capabilities and capacities: The group of scientists and students in Professor van der Merwe's laboratory have broad capabilities on a range of genetic analyses and have conducted several studies and co-authored numerous shark and ray genetics papers with WCS staff in the WIO.
Explain how you have involved this partner within the development of the project and their expected role during its implementation.	Professor Bester-van der Merwe and her team have supported all of the genetic work conducted under IWT116, and other grants to WCS in the WIO, for the past six or seven years. They provided the genetic barcoding training under IWT116 and all genetic laboratory analyses. The SU team was involved in the planning of the genetic components of this project, prior to Stage 1.
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

3. Partner Name:	Dr. Hollie Booth
Website address:	https://www.biology.ox.ac.uk/people/hollie-booth

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Dr Hollie Booth is a postdoctoral researcher at Oxford University, in the Department of Biology. Roles: Dr Booth will lead on the component of the project that assesses incentive-based approaches and income generation. Responsibilities: Dr Booth will coordinate with country implementing partners to design, assess the feasibility of, and implement incentive-based schemes, with a particular focus on pay-for-release schemes, in selected sites in 2 countries. Dr Booth will have a particular focus on implementing Activity 4.4. Capabilities and capacities: Dr Booth has been working on shark conservation issues for almost a decade, in Indonesia and globally, as an applied researcher and conservation practitioner, including with and for WCS. She has more than six years of experience using interdisciplinary applied research to design and test incentive-based approaches to marine conservation. Dr Booth is the project lead on a Darwin Initiative-funded project (30-008).
Explain how you have involved this partner within the development of the project and their expected role during its implementation.	Dr Booth has previously worked for WCS as a shark conservation lead in Indonesia; the WCS project staff on the proposed project have worked closely with Dr Booth in the past. Dr Booth was invited to join the proposed project to share lessons learned from her Darwin grant (30-008) on incentive-based schemes for live release in Indonesia and to help design this component.
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

4. Partner Name:	Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
Website address:	https://www.kws.go.ke/

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Roles: KWS will be the Kenyan government main partner for this project. Responsibilities: KWS will facilitate, coordinate, and handle logistics for meetings and workshops. KWS will also be the beneficiary of certain trainings in the project. KWS will be involved in Activities 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 3.1-3.3, and 5.1-5.4. Capabilities and capacities: KWS is the CITES Management Authority for Kenya, and thus the formal authority for CITES-linked activities. WCS has worked closed with KWS for the past 3 years, to advance shark conservation in Kenya.
Explain how you have involved this partner within the development of the project and their expected role during its implementation.	We have held discussions with representatives of KWS, during a series of CITES workshops in Kenya in 2024, led by WCS, and at other policy workshops. KWS supports this project and will benefit from the activities implemented.
International/ In-country Partner	In-country
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	*No Response*
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	⦿ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

5. Partner Name:	Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), Kenya
Website address:	https://wrti.go.ke/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Roles: WRTI will be the Kenyan government partner for aspects related to research, surveys, and trade. Responsibilities: WRTI will facilitate, coordinate, and handle logistics for meetings and workshops. WRTI will also be the beneficiary of certain trainings in the project, participate in the survey activities and will facilitate permits. WRTI will be involved in Activities 1.2-1.6, 2.1-2.6, 3.1-3.3, 4.1-4.2, and 5.1-5.4. Capabilities and capacities: WRTI is the CITES Scientific Authority (marine) for Kenya, and thus the formal authority for CITES-linked scientific activities. WCS has worked with WRTI in recent CITES workshops in Kenya for sharks and rays.

Explain how you have involved this partner within the development of the project and their expected role during its implementation.	We have held discussions with representatives of WRTI, during a series of CITES workshops in Kenya in 2024, led by WCS, and at other policy workshops. WRTI supports this project and will benefit from the activities implemented.
International/ In-country Partner	In-country
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	*No Response*
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	⦿ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

6. Partner Name:	Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS)
Website address:	https://kefs.go.ke/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	KeFS is Kenya's lead agency for the management of fisheries in Kenya. Roles: KeFS will be the main Kenyan government partner for fishery and trade related components for this project. Responsibilities: KeFS will be the implementing partner for fishery and trade related activities in this project, and will facilitate, coordinate, and handle logistics for meetings and workshops. KeFS will be the beneficiary of some of the training components, and a joint implementer of several of the surveys. KeFS will be involved in Activities 1.2-1.4, 2.1-2.6, 3.1-3.3, 4.1, 4.3 and 5.1-5.4. Capabilities and capacities: KeFS is the formal Kenyan agency mandated for fisheries management and has a team of fisheries experts who can assist with implementation in KeFS. KeFS was also the lead agency in the development of the Shark NPOA in Kenya, in collaboration with WCS and several other Kenyan agencies.
Explain how you have involved this partner within the development of the project and their expected role during its implementation.	WCS has worked closely with KeFS for many years on several fishery projects in Kenya, and specifically to develop and finalise the Shark NPOA in Kenya. WCS worked with KeFS on several CITES activities for sharks in 2024 and expressed their interest in further projects and support for projects on sharks. Many of the activities in this proposal align directly with those identified in the Shark NPOA.
International/ In-country Partner	In-country

Allocated budget (proportion or value):	*No Response*
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	⊙ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

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

Additional partners and letters of support include:

Fisheries Administration Mozambique (ADNAP) - national organization
National Institute for Fish Inspection Mozambique (INIP) - national organization
Natural History Museum Mozambique (MHNM) - national organization
Ministry of Fisheries, Madagascar - national organization
Fisheries Surveillance Center, Madagascar - national organization

Additional letters of support from:
Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support in the order they are presented in the table.

LettersOfSupport_Combined_1071
31/03/2025
21:31:41
pdf 4.95 MB

Section 16 - Lead Org Capability and Capacity

Q41. Lead Organisation 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
IWT116	Rhett Bennett	Equipping southwest Indian Ocean countries to combat illegal shark trade

31-016	William Marthy	Building climate resilient communities and ecosystems in Eastern Indonesia
IWT123	William Marthy	Institutionalizing an evidence-based problem-oriented policing approach in Indonesia
IWT129	Aaron Nicholas	Tanzanian national SMART roll-out to strengthen counter wildlife trafficking
IWT115	Zahangir Alom	Demand reduction for threatened freshwater turtles and tortoises in Bangladesh
IWT073	Simon Nampindo	Strengthening anti-poaching techniques and countering wildlife trafficking in Uganda

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

⦿ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

I apply for a grant of

£1,500,000.00

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, risk register (inclusive of delivery chain risk map), logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan (uploaded at appropriate points in the application).**
- **Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.**

Checked

Name	Joe Walston
Position in the organisation	Executive Vice President, Global Conservation

Signature (please upload e-signature)	Joe w sign 31/03/2025 20:26:02 jpg 4.19 KB
Date	31 March 2025

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

Audited Financial Statements 2023 WCS
31/03/2025
20:27:04
pdf 477.59 KB

5t126hkm4h_Audited_Financial_Statements_2022_WCS
31/03/2025
20:26:53
pdf 439.27 KB

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

CombinedSafeguards-AntiHarrasment-CodeConduct-GESI
31/03/2025
20:27:19
pdf 1.4 MB

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", "Theory of Change Guidance" and "Finance 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 the below documents to my application: • **a cover letter from the Lead Organisation**	Checked
• **my** risk register**, including** delivery chain risk map**, as an Excel file using the template provided (Extra only).**	Checked

• **my** completed logframe **as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".**	Checked
• **my** 1 page Theory of Change **as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance (Extra only)**	Checked
• **my** budget **(which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a signed** copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) **for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.**	Checked
• **my completed** workplan **as a PDF using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a copy of the** Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct **(Question 35).**	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff **identified at Question 38, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.**	Checked
• a letter of support **from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 39, 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.

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

Project Title: **Empowering East Africa to eliminate illegal shark trade**

Project Summary	**SMART Indicators (including disaggregated targets)**	**Means of Verification**	**Important Assumptions**
Impact: An environment empowered to mitigate illegal and unsustainable shark and ray trade, with strengthened top-down and bottom-up fisheries management, benefiting shark and ray populations and coastal fishers in East Africa. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) Shark fishery and trade information, regulations, and enforcement are strengthened to reduce illegal shark trade in East Africa, while fishing communities are better equipped to manage their own fishery resources	0.1 By the end of 2026 at least 50 and by the end of 2028 at least 100 enforcement and monitoring agents (at least 25% of which are women) have better knowledge and resources, thus **doubling enforcement capacity** for shark and ray fisheries and trade compared to pre-project baseline 0.2 By the end of 2026, national compliance with CITES trade controls is improved making sustainable trade compliant and legal, and by the end of 2028 new measures are in place to prevent illegal trade, such that **by the end of 2028 illegal trade in shark/ray products has decreased by 50%** compared to pre-project baseline level 0.3 By the end of 2026, 100 community members (fishers, traders, or others, including 50 women and 50 men) in at least 10 communities have been engaged on alternative livelihoods. By the end of 2028 at least 50% of those engaged (25% women and 25% men) are **involved in managing their own shark and ray resources**	0.1 Number of enforcement agents (disaggregated by gender) that have improved capacity and access to resources for enforcement, and before-after training assessments of capability 0.2 Annual report on shark trade and observer reports, reflecting proportions of prohibited species in trade, and proportions of intercepted shipments that breach regulations 0.3 Community management plans and meeting attendance registers (disaggregated by gender)	0.1 Trained agents take up knowledge gained, and turnover of trained inspectors is not so high as to “lose” them from the system 0.2 Traders do not alter behaviour or trade routes, to avoid strengthened enforcement, and enforcement capacity (numbers of personnel) are adequate for comprehensive cover of points of trade 0.3 Fishers see the long-term fishery value in more sustainable fisheries for sharks and rays
Outputs: **1**. Customs agents and fisheries inspectors are better equipped	1.1 By the end of Year 2, at least 25 additional fishery and customs inspectors in each country (at least 20% of which are women) are equipped with a suite of the latest (2024) **shark and ray identification guides** that have been translated to local languages	1.1 Distribution lists of fishery and customs inspectors who have received translated (sets of) guides (disaggregated by gender)	1.1 Suitable translators are sourced to adequately translate the shark and ray identification guides 1.2 Trainers take up the knowledge shared during

for visual and molecular identification of prohibited, trade-regulated and threatened shark and ray species in fisheries and trade, through training, improved knowledge, better information, and a suite of tools	1.2 By end of Year 2, a "training of trainers" workshop is conducted to train at least 2 marine technicians from each country to become species identification trainers, to ensure **in-country capacity to provide training on shark and ray species identification** to groups of government inspectors. Baseline is zero trained species identification trainers in each country currently 1.3 By end of Year 2, at least 25 government inspectors and technicians from each of Mozambique, Tanzania, and Kenya (at least 20% of which are women) are **trained on CITES-listed and nationally prohibited shark and ray species identification**. Baseline is approximately 25 inspectors previously trained in Mozambique, 60 in Tanzania (through previous CEFAS and IWT funds), 35 in Madagascar (since stage 1), and none in Kenya. 1.4 By the end of Year 2, a **mobile phone-based communication platform** is established in Kenya and Madagascar, and expanded in Mozambique and Tanzania, and at least 25 inspectors and/or data collectors (of which at least 25% are women) are trained and actively using it, in each country. Baseline is no such platform in Kenya or Madagascar currently, and existing platforms in Mozambique and Tanzania used by approximately 20 users in each country 1.5 By the end of Year 2, 3 genetic technicians from each of Mozambique, Kenya, and Madagascar (of which at least 25% are female) are trained on **standard genetic barcoding** to identify shark and ray species from unidentified samples, compared to 5 in Mozambique and none in Kenya or Madagascar, currently 1.6 By the end of Year 2, at least 5 genetic technicians in each of Kenya and Madagascar (of which at least 25% are female) are trained to operate a **rapid genetic sequencer**	1.2 Training workshop terms of reference, workshop report(s), participant list(s) (disaggregated by gender), including before-after assessment of ability 1.3 Training workshop terms of reference, workshop reports, participant list(s) (disaggregated by gender), including before-after assessment of ability 1.4 Established communication platform in each country, as well as project reports on progress with this indicator, and numbers of users in each country (disaggregated by gender) 1.5 Training workshop terms of reference, participant list (disaggregated by gender), training workshop report developed by trainer at genetics laboratory, including before-after assessment of ability 1.6 Training workshop terms of reference, workshop report(s), participant list (disaggregated by gender),	training to a level where they are confident to give species level training to other individuals 1.3 Staff take up the knowledge shared during training to become able to identify to species level 1.4 Shark identification experts are willing to offer expertise and rapid responses to allow communication platform to be effective 1.5 – 1.6 Staff take up the knowledge shared during training to be able to undertake molecular laboratory-based and/or in-field rapid genetic sequencer analysis

	for near real-time species validation of sharks and rays in trade, compared to none currently; 5 technicians to be retrained in Mozambique	including before-after assessment of ability	
2. Shark and ray catch and trade volume data are improved (including visual and genetic species validation), fishery and trade dynamics are better understood (including information on gender roles), and legal and illegal fishery and trade threats are identified, to support improved management and enforcement	2.1 By the end of Year 2, information is available on the **roles and contributions of women** in shark and ray fisheries and trade in 5 communities in each country, compared to minimal quantitative information currently 2.2 By the end of Year 2, information is available on the **trade value chain for shark and ray products, in Madagascar** (as a pilot country, and linked to 2.1). Baseline is limited knowledge of value chain in most sectors 2.3 By the end of Year 3, **artisanal shark and ray catch** datasets are available for at least 3 sites in each country, to supplement existing catch monitoring data. Baseline is 3 to 4 years of catch data at selected sites in Mozambique and Tanzania (partly funded by previous IWT grant), Madagascar and Kenya 2.4 By the end of Year 3, **threats to shark and ray species are understood and quantified, for selected domestic industrial fisheries in at least two countries**, through mining of national and global datasets (e.g. CITES trade database) to assimilate available data and produce quantitative reports on national catch and trade volumes of shark and ray products, to inform improved management. Baseline is no previous risk assessment of industrial fishery impacts on sharks and rays in most WIO countries 2.5 By the end of Year 2, there is improved understanding of industrial and commercial fishing vessel activities, potential illegal fishing/trade activity, and quantification of overlap with threatened species ranges and artisanal fishing operations in each country, **through remote sensing** analysis,	2.1 Field reports; schematic representation of roles in fisheries and trade (disaggregated by gender) 2.2 Schematic representation of shark and ray product value chain, role players and distribution maps 2.3. Artisanal catch datasets with photographs and species-level catch information, data reports to government, and scientific publications 2.4. Reports on the impacts of shark and ray catches and trade, in at least two countries, based on all assimilated available catch and trade data on sharks and rays 2.5 Reports to governments in each country, on spatial and temporal operation of fishing vessel activities, hotspots for industrial fishing (disaggregated by fishing gear where possible) and	2.1 Women in each country are willing to engage with researchers to share their roles and contributions in shark and ray fisheries/trade 2.2 Researchers are able to trace shark products throughout the value chain, particularly illegally traded products 2.3 Fishers agree to share relevant information, some of which is sensitive. Previous such surveys suggest that fishers are generally forthcoming with information 2.4 Governments are willing to share national datasets pertaining to shark and ray catch/trade. Reported data will be easily sourced from open-access databases (i.e., FAO FishStatJ, UN Comtrade and CITES trade database) 2.5 Governments take the time to reflect on report

	compared to no such analyses currently in any of the countries 2.6 By the end of Year 3, there is improved knowledge of shark and ray species that are confirmed (**through genetic and expert visual species validation)** in legal and illegal trade, with feedback to governments, building on growing existing knowledge	areas of concern for possible illegal activities 2.6 Species-level lists per country, photographic confirmation, and genetic reference sequence libraries	findings and incorporate findings/lessons learned into policy/IWT work 2.6 Illegal trade shipments are intercepted, and governments are willing to give access to samples and share information relating to these illegal (and legal) trade shipments
3. Domestic fishery observer programs are critically assessed, implementation strategies are developed for addressing existing shortcomings to improve catch/fishery monitoring of commercial and industrial vessels, and governments are engaged to prioritise actions for improvement	3.1 By the end of Year 1, a scoping study is developed on the **current status of the national fishery observer programs** in Kenya and Madagascar, to understand gaps, needs, and risks. Baseline is limited assessment to date 3.2 By the end of Year 1, an **implementation strategy is developed for improving the status of the national observer programs** in Kenya and Madagascar, compared to no strategy currently 3.3 By the end of Year 2 in Mozambique and Tanzania (building on IWT116) and in Kenya and Madagascar (from activity 3.2), relevant government agencies in each country are engaged to **prioritize aspects of the observer program implementation strategy** for implementation in each country. The baseline is no such prioritization exercise for national observer programs in any of these countries	3.1 Scoping reports for Kenya and Madagascar detailing assessments of risks, engagement with governments and industry, proposed operational plan and proposed budget 3.2 Implementation strategy for improved industrial fishery observer programs in Kenya and Madagascar 3.3. Priority action list or workplan for each country	3.1 Governments and fishing industries are willing to engage. A similar activity conducted in Mozambique and Tanzania in IWT116 suggests relevant stakeholders will be forthcoming 3.2 Adequate and appropriate information are accessed for a robust assessment in 3.1 3.3 Governments are willing to take up and implement recommendations from scoping study

4. Fishing communities are engaged to improve knowledge on fishery measures and prohibited species, and empowered to manage their own resources and to identify opportunities for alternative livelihoods and fishing behaviours, which reduce poverty, disincentivize illegal activities, provide alternative incomes and promote species protection	4.1 By the end of Year 2, **awareness on shark or ray management measures** has been raised with at least 50 community members (25 women and 25 men) per community, in 5 communities in each country, with at least 1 community in each country supporting **stronger local shark and ray management measures by the end of the project**. Baseline is limited understanding of shark conservation needs, and absent, weak, or poorly enforced specific shark or ray management measures in those communities 4.2 By end of Year 2, at least 50 fishers/traders (25 women and 25 men) from each country are **trained to identify CITES-listed and nationally prohibited shark and ray species**, compared to none currently 4.3 By the end of Year 2, organizational capacity (management unit level) has been assessed in at least 5 communities across at least 2 countries, and by the end of Year 4 **recommendations for improved organizational capacities** are being implemented 4.4 By the end of Year 2, potential **alternative or complementary livelihoods have been discussed and identified** with at least 50 community members (25 women and 25 men) per community in 5 coastal fishing communities in each of the four countries. By the end of the project strategies for economic diversification have been developed for community-chosen livelihoods in at least 10 (50%) of these communities, with support provided to implement selected alternative livelihoods where financially feasible. Baseline is limited or no alternative livelihoods in each community 4.5 By the end of Year 2, **income-generating and income-management schemes are identified and discussed** with at least 50 community members (25 women and 25 men) in	4.1 Community engagement workshop reports, participation lists (disaggregated by gender), and local management plans that include specific measures for sharks or rays 4.2 Training workshop terms of reference, workshop report(s), participant list (disaggregated by gender), including before-after assessment of ability 4.3 Community-level reports on recommendations to improve organizational capacity 4.4 Community engagement workshop reports on potential alternative livelihoods, workshop participation lists (disaggregated by gender), and economic diversification strategies. 4.5 Established income schemes in at least 10 communities, such as Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs); questionnaires on perceived benefits before vs after schemes are implemented;	4.1 Community members take up the knowledge shared during awareness meetings and at least one community in each country is willing to support stronger shark and ray management measures 4.2 Fishers/traders take up the knowledge shared during training to become able to identify relevant shark and ray species to species level 4.3 Communities are willing to share their organisational structures and have a basic willingness to shift to sustainable practices/levels of fishing and incorporate recommendations into new management plans 4.4 Alternative livelihood options are identified and feasible for relevant communities, and community fishers are willing to alter or diversify their livelihoods 4.5 Communities understand, value, and

	each of 5 communities per country. By the end of the project various schemes are trialed in at least 10 (50%) of these communities. The baseline is no such income schemes in these communities currently. Schemes to be assessed include *inter alia* establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) which could be used to fund environmentally sustainable small-scale livelihood initiatives, and "pay-for-release" schemes to incentivize live release of Critically Endangered shark or ray species	Monitoring and Evaluation feedback on pay-for-release incentive schemes	adhere to savings schemes; and communities agree on fair compensation and are willing to accept compensation for sharks/rays released in the "pay-for-release" scheme,
5. Regulatory frameworks are improved with strengthened fishery and trade regulations for sharks and rays	5.1 By the end of Year 1, governments (at least 25 more women and 25 more men) in each country have a **better understanding of the poor conservation status of sharks and rays and the need for improved fishery management and trade controls**. Baseline is an estimate of 25 government agent staff per country with this specific knowledge 5.2 By the end of Year 2, at least 5 lawyers/prosecutors and **members of the judiciary** in each of Kenya and Madagascar (at least 25% of which are women) have **improved knowledge and capability on national and global policy specifically pertaining to sharks and rays**. Baseline is no such persons yet trained on these specific aspects in either country 5.3 By the end of the project, **stronger management measures or trade controls** have been developed in each country, which support healthier shark and ray populations 5.4 By the end of Year 2, **Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs, e.g. IOTC) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs, such as CITES and CMS) have been engaged**, with notable increases in the number of measures* domesticated in four countries by the end of the project, relative to the status of implementation at project initiation	5.1 Recognition from governments on the need for strengthened management for sharks and rays 5.2 Training workshop terms of reference, workshop report(s), participant list (disaggregated by gender), including before-after assessment of ability 5.3 Policies relating to shark and ray fishery management or trade controls developed in collaboration with and supported by governments 5.4 Measures domesticated through national policy reform, or fishery/trade permit conditions	5.1 Governments take up the knowledge shared during awareness meetings 5.2 Lawyers, prosecutors and judiciary members take up the knowledge shared during on national and global policies pertaining to sharks and rays 5.3 – 5.4 Government processes are not so slow as to delay the outcomes

	* Such measures may include implementation of trade controls for CITES-listed shark and ray species, national protections for shark and ray species listed on CMS Appendix I, and national protection or catch prohibitions for species with retention bans imposed by the IOTC.		

Activities

Output 1. Customs agents and fisheries inspectors are better equipped for visual and molecular identification of prohibited, trade-regulated and threatened shark and ray species in fisheries and trade, through training, improved knowledge, better information, and a suite of tools

Activity 1.1: Translate and print ID guides: Latest CITES shark/ray identification guides are translated to local language, printed, and disseminated to technicians and inspection agents

Activity 1.2: Training of trainers for species ID: Training of local trainers from project countries, to build national capacity for species identification training for sharks and rays

Activity 1.3: Species identification training: Government inspectors trained on shark and ray identification and use of latest CITES shark and ray identification guides

Activity 1.4: Communication platform setup and training: Mobile phone-based communication platform is developed and operational in Kenya and Madagascar (and expanded in Mozambique and Tanzania), and inspectors and data collectors are trained to use it, to have real time access to species identification experts

Activity 1.5: Genetic barcoding training: Government technicians from Mozambique, Kenya and Madagascar are trained in genetic barcoding for shark and ray species identification from unidentified samples

Activity 1.6: Genetic sequencer installation and training: A rapid genetic sequencer for *in situ* CITES listed shark/ray species identification is installed and operational in Kenya and Madagascar, and five in-country technicians in each country are trained to use it, while five technicians will be retrained in Mozambique

Output 2. Shark and ray catch and trade volume data are improved (including visual and genetic species validation), fishery and trade dynamics are better understood (including information on gender roles), and legal and illegal fishery and trade threats are identified, to support improved management and enforcement

Activity 2.1: Gender roles in trade: Observations and surveys are undertaken at landing sites, markets, and points of trade, to understand the roles and contributions of women in shark and ray fisheries and trade in each country

Activity 2.2: Understanding value chain: Trade investigations are undertaken in Madagascar (as a pilot country) to improve knowledge on shark and ray value chain, with a focus on industrial fisheries and illegal trade

Activity 2.3: Artisanal fishery catch: Artisanal fishery catch surveys are conducted in each country to increase information on CITES and threatened shark/ray species caught in coastal fisheries

Activity 2.4: Industrial fishery catch and trade: Threats to shark and ray species are understood and quantified, for selected domestic industrial fisheries in at least two countries, through mining and analysis of national and global catch and trade datasets (e.g. FAO FishStatJ, UN Comtrade, CITES trade database)

Activity 2.5: Satellite data: Analysis of satellite-based information sources to track fishing vessels, potential illegal activity (which might be i) impacting coastal fishers and ii) supporting illegal trade), and potential overlap between fishing activities, important shark and ray areas, threatened species distributions, and MPAs

Activity 2.6: Genetic barcoding: Genetic barcoding of unidentified shark and ray samples is conducted to improve knowledge of shark/ray species in legal and illegal trade (including from seizures of illegal shipments), working with in-country labs where possible

Output 3. Domestic fishery observer programs are critically assessed, implementation strategies are developed for addressing existing shortcomings to improve catch/fishery monitoring of commercial and industrial vessels, and governments are engaged to prioritise actions for improvement

Activity 3.1: Observer program scoping study: A scoping study is conducted with government agencies in Kenya and Madagascar, and commercial/industrial fishing industry, to understand gaps, needs, and risks of existing national observer programs in these countries

Activity 3.2: Observer program implementation strategy: A strategy is developed for implementing commercial/industrial scale data collection in Kenya and Madagascar, through improvements to observer programs, which adhere to regional and global minimum standards

Activity 3.3: Observer program priority actions: Work with governments to prioritize and identify opportunities to improve and implement aspects of the scoping studies in 3.1 and the strategies developed from 3.2 (or previous IWT grant)

Output 4. Fishing communities are empowered to manage their resources and have an improved ability to access alternative livelihoods which increases their economic resilience, reduces poverty, and drives species protection and regeneration

Activity 4.1: Community engagement: Raise awareness among 5 local fishing communities in each country of the poor conservation status and need for reduced mortality of threatened sharks and rays, encouraging communities to include stronger fishery measures for sharks and rays in local fishery management plans

Activity 4.2: Species identification training for fishers: Fishers and traders trained to identify CITES-listed and nationally prohibited shark and ray species (including development of awareness materials)

Activity 4.3 Assess organizational capacity in at least 5 communities across at least 2 countries, and develop recommendations to improve organizational capacities, for improved resource management

Activity 4.4 Identify potential alternative livelihoods within 5 communities in each country, and develop project strategies for economic diversification for community-chosen livelihoods in at least 10 communities

Activity 4.5 Identify potential income streams within 5 communities in each country, and trial several schemes including *inter alia* Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and “pay-for-release" schemes to incentivize live release of Critically Endangered shark or ray species

Output 5. Regulatory frameworks are improved with strengthened fishery and trade regulations for sharks and rays

Activity 5.1: Government awareness: Raise awareness with government agencies of the poor conservation status and need for reduced mortality of threatened sharks and rays, encouraging government support for stronger fishery measures and trade controls for sharks and rays

Activity 5.2: Judiciary training: Lawyers, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary in Kenya and Madagascar are trained (with further training in Mozambique) on national and global policy for sharks and rays

Activity 5.3: Policy support: Governments are engaged to develop draft regulations or amendments to existing regulations, to support improved or strengthened fishery and trade regulations

Activity 5.4: Regional fishery management: Engaging with Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) for industrial fisheries (such as IOTC) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs, such as CITES and CMS), to support improved policy/management in all four project focal countries