

Illegal Wildlife Trade



Application form for Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund 2014

Please read the [guidance notes](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-illegal-wildlife-trade-challenge-fund) (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-illegal-wildlife-trade-challenge-fund>) before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required.

Office use only Date logged: Logged by: Application ID:

1. Name and address of lead organisation

(NB: Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader)

Applicant Organisation Name:	Snow Leopard Trust (SLT)
Address:	
City and Postcode:	
Country:	
Project Leader name:	Dr. Charudutt Mishra
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Project title

Title (max 10 words) Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Program (CRWPP) in Kyrgyzstan
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3. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 April 2015	End date: 31 March, 2018	Duration: 3 yrs 0 mths		
2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total request
£	£ 119,810	£ 81210	£ 51510	£ 252530
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total Project cost: 23				

4. What will be the outcome of the project?

(See Guidance notes 3.1 and 4, and Annex B - guidance on developing a logframe)

This should be an action orientated statement e.g. training provided to the judiciary results in increased successful prosecutions of poaching. (You may copy and paste the same answer as provided in the outcome section of Question 21 here).

(max 75 words)

Park rangers in Kyrgyz Republic will have the resources, training and recognition they need to curb illegal poaching and wildlife trade, and follow through with apprehending and filing cases against poachers. This will raise the profile and income of park rangers and deter illegal hunting of snow leopards and key prey, resulting in their increased abundance and, over the longer term, improve conditions for nature tourism and livelihood options for local communities.

5. Country(ies)

(See Guidance notes 3.3 and 4.3)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

Country 1: Kyrgyz Republic	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

6. Which of the three key IWT Challenge Fund objectives will your project address?

(See Guidance note 3.1)

Tick all that apply.

1. Developing sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by illegal wildlife trade	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Strengthening law enforcement and the role of the criminal justice system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Reducing demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade	<input type="checkbox"/>

6b. Which of the commitments made in the London Conference Declaration does this project support? Please provide the number(s) of the relevant commitments.

(See Guidance note 3.1)

X. Strengthen the legal framework and facilitate law enforcement to combat the illegal wildlife trade and assist prosecution and the imposition of penalties that are an effective deterrent.

XI. Strengthen the ability to achieve successful prosecutions and deterrent sanctions by raising awareness in the judicial sector about the seriousness, impact and potential profits of wildlife crime. Dedicated training and increased capacity building are essential tools to achieve this goal.

XIII. Invest in capacity building to strengthen law enforcement to protect key populations of species threatened by poaching. Effective law enforcement requires an increase in the number of well-equipped and well-trained law enforcement officers at key sites, using appropriate tools and techniques.

7. About the lead organisation:

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	1981
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Government Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> University Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)
How is your organisation currently funded?	(Max 100 words) SLT is funded through a combination of public and foundation grants; donations from private individuals and zoos; events; endowment interest; and product sales.

<p>Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?</p> <p>Note that this is not required from Government Agencies</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

7b. Provide detail of 3 contracts/projects previously undertaken by the lead organisation that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed. These contacts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your IWT Challenge Fund application.

Contract/ Project 1 Title	Grassroots to global: Realizing a conservation vision for snow leopards across their range
Contract Value/ Project budget	
Duration	3 years (2014-2017)
Role of organisation in project	SLT is sole lead and beneficiary in this project and is responsible for all project implementation and outcomes.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	<p>This project aims to make significant advances in on-ground landscape-level conservation of key snow leopard populations through focused applied research, capacity building, community mobilization, and increased political support. Objectives are to develop new conservation leaders; increase government support across all 12 range countries, including government-sanctioned protection of key habitats; improve community-based conservation initiatives; and increase scientific understanding of the ecology of snow leopards and associated biodiversity. Project is current. Major outcomes to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Selection of 2 new PhD students in India; -Establishment of functioning Global Snow Leopard Forum Secretariat towards carrying forth goals of the Bishkek Declaration on Snow Leopards -Successful second meeting of Global Snow Leopard Forum Forty attended by 10 of the 12 snow leopard range

	<p>countries, and the proposal of 20 global snow leopard landscapes to be secured by 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tentative support for a sustainable and 'snow leopard-friendly' cashmere program from cooperative responsible for 60% of cashmere production in India -Piloting of CRWPP in Kyrgyzstan -Expansion of successful community-based conservation and education programs, including eco-camps in Mongolia, handicrafts in India -First-ever snow leopard disease study expanded into a collaborative One Health approach and now a part of One Health Sweden -Publication of 3 manuscripts in international, peer-reviewed journals - Project proposal completed related to developing an understanding of the future of rangelands under changing climate and grazing regimes
Client/Project Manager contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	

Contract/ Project 2 Title	Asia High Mountains Regional Program: Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities
Contract Value/ Project budget	\$
Duration	1 October 2012-31 March 2016
Role of organisation in project	Implementing partner
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	The goal of the program is to begin a transnational alliance that supports conservation and adaptation in Asia's high mountain landscapes and communities utilizing snow leopard conservation as the focal point. This program of work aims to build upon WWF's ongoing efforts in the region. Through a lens of snow leopard conservation we address climate change adaptation and

	<p>high mountain landscape management and begin, ultimately, to tackle the complexities of headwater ecosystem and water security. The project objectives are twofold: 1) Climate-smart management of high mountain landscapes and snow leopard habitat for environmental and economically resilient development. 2) Transnational collaboration on climate change adaptation and snow leopard conservation in Asia's high mountain landscapes.</p> <p>Project is current. Major outcomes to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Successful facilitation of Global Snow Leopard Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October 2012, at behest of President of Kyrgyzstan, with attendance by all 12 snow leopard range countries -Adoption of Bishkek Declaration on Snow Leopards -Adoption of Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Plan -(same outputs re functioning Secretariat and second Global Forum meeting as stated above) -Support of 6 Snow Leopard Network Small Grants for climate change projects
Client/Project Manager contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	

Contract/ Project 3 Title	Protecting India's Endangered Snow Leopards
Contract Value/ Project budget	
Duration	3 years (2011-2014)

Role of organisation in project	SLT is sole lead and beneficiary in this project and is responsible for all project implementation and outcomes.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	<p>Aim of the project was to protect one of India's most important snow leopard populations, located in the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh state, through a comprehensive, community-focused approach that included research, education, and human-wildlife conflict amelioration. Objectives were guided by overarching management plans prepared by the national government making this project one of the most robust and integrated conservation models throughout the cat's 12 country range. Outcomes achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improved understanding of people-wildlife conflicts with the ability to identify vulnerabilities and solutions -Over 600 households engaged in community-based conservation and conservation education -Participatory micro-level management plan completed for 1 community -Conservation resources developed including posters/books/fliers -Robust snow leopard and prey population estimates for the entire landscape, especially in areas designated as priority conservation sites
Client/Project Manager contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	

8. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project, and how local institutions, local communities, and technical specialists are involved as appropriate. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

Lead Organisation name:	Snow Leopard Trust (SLT)
Website address:	www.snowleopard.org

<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p>	<p>SLT will ensure project implementation and completion towards goals. SLT will be engaged in all stages of project including strategy and oversight of CRWPP model and expansion, partner agreements, national and international attention/dissemination, funds management, and design of project monitoring (particularly in regards to ethical and scientific standards).</p> <p>SLT is the largest and oldest organization primarily focused on snow leopard conservation in the world with over 30 years of experience working on an international, national and local scale. SLT supports snow leopard conservation across all 12 range countries and works directly with leading NGOs to implement strategies in China, Mongolia, India, Pakistan, and Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>SLT is key technical partner of Global Snow Leopard Forum, headed by President of Kyrgyz Republic; State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic is the main coordination body and INTERPOL’s Environmental Security Sub-Directorate is a partner.</p> <p>SLT has overseen and managed projects in Kyrgyz Republic since 2002. In 2012 SLT helped establish SLFK. In June 2014, SLT signed a three-way MoU on cooperation in wildlife conservation with Government of Kyrgyz Republic and SLFK that will be active for 10 years. An agreement has been signed with State Agency specifically towards CRWPP</p>
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Partner Name:	Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan (SLFK)
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Website address:	in progress
<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p>	<p>SLFK will be responsible for project implementation, including working directly with Government, Reserve Administration, rangers, communities and other stakeholders towards attaining project goals.</p> <p>SLFK is Kyrgyz Republic's first NGO dedicated to snow leopard conservation. SLFK has attained national recognition and respect from all levels of society and Government.</p> <p>Mr. Kubanychbek Zhumabai uulu, SLFK Director, has built strong working relationships with Government and Universities in Kyrgyz Republic and has been working with SLT since 2008. SLFK was instrumental in helping the Government finalize Kyrgyz Republic's national snow leopard strategy leading up to the Global Forum on Snow Leopards, and worked closely with SLT to liaison with the Kyrgyz government to convene the Forum.</p> <p>SLFK currently manages comprehensive conservation efforts around the Sarychat Ertash Nature Reserve, including research, community-based conservation programs, and wildlife monitoring. SLFK and SLT piloted the Citizen Ranger Wildlife Protection Program jointly in 2014. SLFK is part of the 3-way MoU with SLT and Government of Kyrgyz Republic, and has a program agreement with State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Partner Name:	<p>[Since we are unable to alter this form, TWO partners are listed here; letters are provided for both]</p> <p>1) State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic & 2) INTERPOL</p>
Website address:	<p>INTERPOL Project Predator: http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-Predator</p>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)

State Agency will lend support for activities directly engaging or related to rangers and parks/reserve management. They are responsible for wildlife conservation in Kyrgyz Republic and implementation/enforcement of Kyrgyz laws on wildlife and protected areas. They oversee Reserve Administration and protected area staff. They have signed a program agreement towards implementation of CRWPP and will assist with information dissemination, trainings, case review, monitoring and award ceremonies.

INTERPOL will provide best practices in law-enforcement techniques. INTERPOL has capacity for activities outlined in this proposal under Project PREDATOR. Project Predator was launched in 2011 to enhance governance and law enforcement capacity for the conservation of Asian big cats and develop a global picture of the criminal activity undermining on going conservation efforts. Experience and personnel from Project Predator will be adapted for capacity building of law enforcement in Kyrgyz Republic, with snow leopards as a focal species. Modules and frameworks for ranger trainings already exist and can be further customized to stakeholder needs. Environmental Crimes are a serious and growing international problem. As the only organization with a mandate to share and process criminal information globally, INTERPOL is uniquely qualified to lead efforts for an international strategy to deal with this type of crime. INTERPOL has a dedicated Environmental Crime Programme and numerous working groups within this programme, including Wildlife Crime Working Group. Together with Governments from 12 snow leopard range countries, we have dedicated personnel towards fulfilling the goals of the Bishkek Declaration and are lead on the cross-cutting theme of Illegal Trade.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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9. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV attached?
Dr. Charudutt Mishra	Project Leader	25	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Kubanychbek Jumabay uulu	Project Manager	50	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Charette	Lead Trainer, INTERPOL	10	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

10. Species project is focusing on

(see Guidance note 4.1)

Where there are more than 4 species that will benefit from the project's work, please add more boxes.

1.Snow leopard	2.Ibex
3.Argali	4.

11. Problem the project is trying to address

What specific aspect(s) of the illegal trade in wildlife will your project address? Please describe the level of threat to the species concerned, and which communities are affected, and how?

(Max 300 words)

In the 1980s, Kyrgyz Republic and neighbouring Tajikistan had an estimated 1200-1400 snow leopards, representing >20% of the global population. This population declined by 50-80% in the 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Union (Koshkarev 1994). Today, 4000-6500 snow leopards remain in the wild (IUCN) with c.150-200 mature individuals in Kyrgyz Republic (Thiele 2003). Kyrgyz Republic's snow leopard population continues to rank among the top 5 of the 12 snow leopard range countries.

Poaching is a 'primary threat' to snow leopards and their prey in Kyrgyz Republic, across other former Soviet states, and China (McCarthy & Chapron 2003, Li and Zhi 2014); findings by Li and Zhi (2014) indicate poaching and trade in snow leopards could be growing. Environmental Investigation Agency (2012) estimates as many as 1000 snow leopards may have been illegally traded in 2000-2011.

SLT has worked in Kyrgyz Republic for over a decade developing programs to counter poaching at the community level, and helped establish a Global Snow Leopard Secretariat in Bishkek to address range wide conservation issues (Snow Leopard Working Secretariat 2013). Our interactions with local people and park rangers reveal their inability and frustration in preventing poaching by outsiders. They cite entrenched problems, documented by Farrington (2005) and Mallon (2013), including an under-resourced and underfunded wildlife conservation sector and a lack of trained personnel and equipment, severely limiting anti-poaching efforts. Driven by low salaries, </month (Farrington 2005) to <£30 (SLT unpublished) and a lack of respect (Farrington 2005), there is temptation for rangers to ignore or be complicit in illegal poaching, particularly under pressures from outside poachers—many of whom are wealthy and powerful.

The result: rangers and local people feel socially and economically disenfranchised to control poaching in and around reserves, and this supports a porous system easily exploited by illegal hunters.

12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods)

- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

Please make sure you read the Guidance Notes, particularly Sections 3.1 and 3.2, before answering this question.

(Max 1000 words)

We propose to launch a new anti-poaching program in Kyrgyz Republic called Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Program (CRWPP) to train, inspire and better appreciate the efforts of state rangers, and encourage support and collaboration from local communities, in order to reduce poaching in and around protected areas.

CRWPP publicly recognizes and financially rewards rangers, and ranger-community member combined teams, who successfully apprehend poachers and file cases against them under the criminal justice system. CRWPP strengthens Kyrgyz anti-poaching laws and, through trainings, intends to support best practices in law enforcement.

Since 2002, SLT has been working with local communities in snow leopard habitat to enhance livelihoods through a conservation handicrafts program focused on women (contributing per family annually). Communities contractually agree to not provide lodging or board to poachers, and to prevent poaching in community areas. German organization, NABU, has a team of 4 NGO staff who are accorded police powers and work on anti-poaching activities (www.nabu.de). However, we believe that for making anti-poaching efforts more effective and sustainable, it is critical that the state-system be strengthened from within, and local communities encouraged to support. It is against this background that CRWPP has been designed.

In general, rangers complete a protocol for each case in which they apprehend a poacher. They record data about the infraction, confiscate weapons, and must bring arrested individuals to Reserve Administration headquarters and follow-through with filing for further prosecution to take place.

This system often breaks down due to cost, time and lack of support. CRWPP offers social and financial incentives to overcome these barriers.

Poaching and wildlife trade cases will continue to be maintained by Reserve Administrations. The Administrations will share information on all cases involving poachers with a committee comprised of State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic ('State Agency'), SLT and SLFK; the committee will review and make final decisions towards conferring awards under CRWPP. For all successful apprehension of poachers and cases officially filed under Kyrgyz law, rangers/field teams involved will be recognized as follows:

Social: An annual public event will be held, and shared with national media, to provide a certificate of appreciation. Certificates will be issued jointly by INTERPOL, State Agency, SLT, and SLFK to each individual involved. (Note: INTERPOL will only issue certificates, not financial awards).

Financial: For each case that is successfully filed, the ranger/field team will receive a financial award:

-For cases involving protected species the field team will be awarded total 15000 KGS, irrespective of the number of animals poached.

-For case involving confiscation of illegal guns, the field team will be awarded total KGS.

-The award will be equally shared amongst team members, including local community members.

-Every team member will receive official certificate of appreciation.

Recent changes to Kyrgyz “Law on Hunting” have made it possible for citizens to record cases of poaching or illegal hunting and pass these directly to rangers. State Agency has also approved rangers and local community members to contact SLFK directly and we can alert rangers or Reserve Administration.

CRWPP cash rewards provide incentive to rangers to apprehend poachers and follow-through filing cases; remove costs of making an arrest (driving, time); and are a boost for meagre incomes. National recognition raises social profile and respect for rangers while publicly celebrating and positively reinforcing collaboration and best practices. Arrests and filing cause hassles and costs for poachers as an added deterrent, and placing cases on record is a critical first step towards stronger law enforcement.

We completed a partial CRWPP pilot (excluding training) in two reserves, to generate initial awareness and inspire faith in the program. In June 2014 awards were conferred to a ranger-community member team from Sarychat-Ertash Reserve who arrested a poacher with gun inside the reserve. The program was launched in the presence of Kyrgyz Government, official delegates from 10 snow leopard range countries, UNDP, GEF, USAID, INTERPOL, WWF.

We seek IWT support to build CRWPP into a national model reaching Kyrgyz Republic’s 10 state nature reserves and 9 national parks (inclusive of but regardless of snow leopard presence) by 2018. Steps to accomplish this:

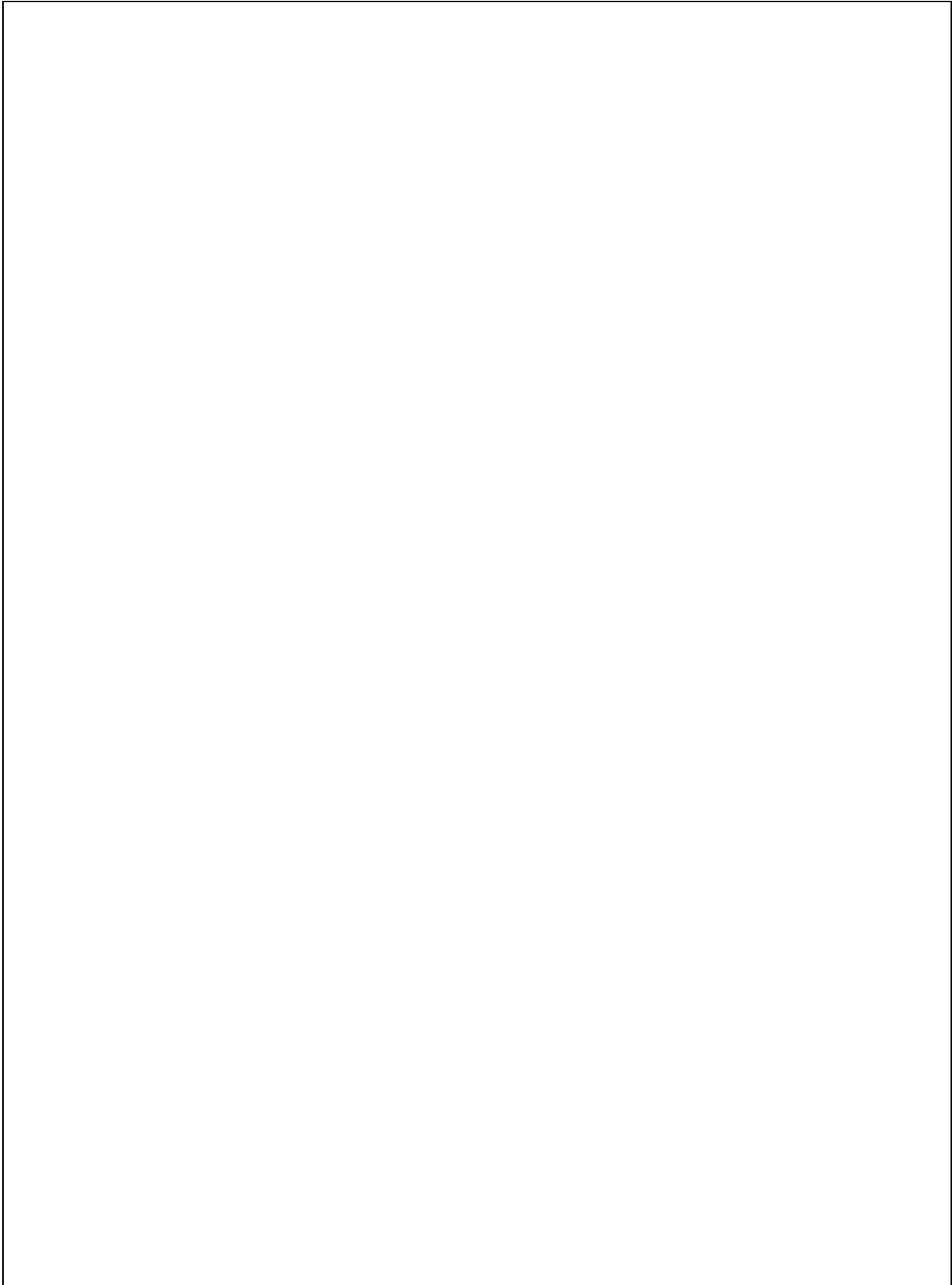
1) Outreach: We will develop publicity material and use media, field visits, and relationships with Reserve Administration and Government to spread awareness about program to all stakeholders.

2) Program capacity: We will improve information-gathering system to get detailed and rapid information on cases. We will develop relationship with local police and justice authorities. We will also establish a CRWPP Trust Fund (akin to Bhutan Fund for Wildlife Conservation www.bhutantrustfund.bt), to help make CRWPP financially sustainable.

3) Training: INTERPOL will provide hands-on training to rangers and senior Government officials in law enforcement issues including i) training for rangers on basic law enforcement policies and procedures, investigative skill, and issues pertaining to wildlife smuggling and concealment; ii) cross-training for rangers and state police on improved collaboration, joint field operations, and building of community partnerships in law enforcement; iii) training for representatives of Reserve Administration and State Agency to support rangers, communities, and CRWPP. Trainings will follow INTERPOL SET (Standardized Enforcement Training for Wildlife Crime). Trainings will take place in/near Bishkek; support will be provided for up to two representatives from each reserve/park to attend. We will also make a one-time ‘equipment boost’ to reserves/parks so that they have essential resources, such as binoculars and digital cameras, for collecting evidence.

4) Impact review: we will perform a thorough program review with interviews of a wide cross-section of stakeholders to assess progress, impacts and issues course correction.

SLT will be in charge of oversight and coordination with INTERPOL; SLFK will be in charge of implementation, community outreach, and coordination with Government. SLFK will arrange training logistics, INTERPOL will be responsible for content and delivery. SLT, SLFK and State Agency will decide on and confer awards. State Agency will oversee Reserve Administration, which will oversee rangers; both will assist SLT and SLFK with program monitoring, improvements, and outreach. SLT will manage CRWPP trust fund and transparent accounting.



13. Beneficiaries

Who will benefit from the work outlined above? How will you monitor the benefits they accrue? If your project is working in an Upper Middle Income Country, please explain how benefits will be delivered to people living in poverty in Low and/or Low Middle

Income countries. Include, where possible, information on whether and how there are ways to support the most vulnerable communities, including women.

(Max 750 words)

CRWPP is aimed to address the acute problem of poaching and wildlife trade in Kyrgyz Republic. It is designed to promote wildlife conservation, including globally endangered or threatened species such as the snow leopard and argali. It would therefore bring benefits to the Kyrgyz society and the larger international community.

Through CRWPP, we expect the attitudes of rangers and local community members towards poaching and conservation to improve, and we expect improved ranger-community collaboration.

As mentioned above, ranger salaries are <£/month, although Farrington (2005) found that some can earn as low as . Since most reserves are remote, the buffer zones are predominantly rural herder/farmer communities. The average annual income in rural Kyrgyz Republic is £ (2013 Kyrgyz Republic National Statistics Committee).

The awards provided through CRWPP can provide successful field teams £, depending on the infraction. This can help offset costs incurred apprehending illegal hunters, and/or provide a small bonus to annual income as a means of poverty alleviation. This is particularly valuable for rangers who feel underpaid for their work.

Over the long-term, we expect that reductions in illegal poaching will increase the abundance of charismatic wildlife, like snow leopards and argali, contributing to improved conditions for nature tourism and sustainable livelihood options for local communities (such as handicraft programs for women) in snow leopard habitat. Parallel to this project, we will continue to expand our livelihood enhancement work with local communities, especially our flagship handicrafts program called Snow Leopard Enterprises, which specifically engages women and helps them increase their income in return for wildlife conservation commitments (however, as our current project is designed specifically to strengthen law enforcement, we will not measure impacts on poverty alleviation in any significant way).

The biggest impact of the program lies in its social recognition for anti-poaching efforts and capacity building.

The program seeks to raise the social regard and skills of largely disenfranchised 'front-line' anti-poaching staff. We anticipate CRWPP to lead to a feeling of empowerment among reserve anti-poaching staff through public attention and praise, clear Government support, and written appreciation from the national Government and internationally recognized institutions. Along with complementary efforts outside of this proposal (e.g. educational outreach, wider positive media about the importance of wildlife, etc) we believe this can make more favourable conditions for protecting wildlife within Kyrgyz Republic over time.

In addition to tracking regular program demographics (e.g. trends in the number of

cases, awards and amounts conferred vs. average annual ranger salaries) on an annual basis, we will use interviews and training feedback, to assess and track ranger attitudes towards the administration, and towards illegal poaching and their abilities to combat it. We will also assess any changes in community attitudes towards reserve administration, and towards illegal poaching. These interviews will be part of our thorough program review in 2017, and follow-up surveys to assess program effectiveness will take place after 5 years. In two important model sites, we will also implement a snow leopard and wild prey population monitoring program using methods we have tried and standardized elsewhere based on camera trapping and double observer counts (Suryawanshi et al. 2012, Sharma et al. 2014). Sampling would be undertaken in one site each year, and alternated between the sites. Though difficult to attribute or relate the population trends to the effectiveness of the CRWPP, this would nonetheless provide a baseline and trends in snow leopard and prey populations in two of the sites which would be valuable. It would also enable direct involvement of the rangers in scientific monitoring alongside trained researchers.

14. Impact on species in focus

How will the species named in Question 10 above benefit from the work outlined above? What do you expect the long-term impact on the species concerned to be?

(Max 200 words)

This project aims to benefit snow leopards and their prey by reducing illegal hunting of both in and around national parks and state nature reserves. We also expect, over the longer term, to see an increase in the local abundance of snow leopards and their prey, assuming that poaching, which is widely recognized to be a serious threat in Kyrgyz Republic, is currently limiting snow leopard and prey populations.

In addition to having a high proportion of endangered wildlife, Kyrgyz parks and reserves are also densely bordered by public and private trophy hunting reserves. The crossover or indulgence from legal hunting within the trophy reserves to illegal hunting within protected areas has been regularly observed, including the one case under CRWPP pilot phase that was awarded this year.

Poaching is a serious threat to snow leopards in the Kyrgyz Republic, and over the long-term, as poaching is decreased, we expect to see a stabilization and/or increase in snow leopard and prey populations.

15. Exit strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

(Max 200 words)

Most of the program's general operations will be incorporated into SLT/SLFK 'business as usual.' Meeting with rangers and/or communities can be combined with trips for research or other (e.g. handicraft) programs. Collaborative work with State Agency and INTERPOL is part of our ongoing work.

Equipment will be 'owned' and managed by SLT/SLFK, who will be responsible for tracking and replacing as necessary and feasible. Equipment will be considered on permanent loan to Reserve Administration.

INTERPOL training will be codified in a materials guidebook that can be used in case of attrition or new hires. Training will also be supported over the long-term through efforts, discussed in section 18 below, towards Kyrgyz Republic's national snow leopard conservation strategy.

To sustain CRWPP financial awards, we will establish a permanently restricted trust fund managed through SLT. SLT has a long history of managing a >\$1 million endowment. We estimate providing 43 financial awards by 2018 worth £ total (see Output Assumption 5). This can be sustained through a £ trust fund, drawing a typical 4% return in interest (current rate). As claims decrease (see section 23), any unused funds will be reinvested in the trust fund to further maintain the corpus in perpetuity.

16. Funding

16 a) Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Please give details

(Max 200 words):

This is a new initiative. Rewards and recognition of this kind have not been in practice before in Kyrgyzstan. We have rewarded one case this June as a pilot.

16. b) Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes No

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

16. c) Are you applying for funding relating to the proposed project from other sources?

Yes No

If yes, please give brief details including when you expect to hear the result. Please ensure you include the figures requested in the Budget Spreadsheet as Unconfirmed funding.

We have a pledge from Whitley Fund for Nature to provide £ (\$ USD) towards this project in 2015 and 2016 (roughly half each year). We will also submit a proposal to Woodland Park Zoo for support in 2015; we anticipate roughly £ (\$ USD) towards this project from the zoo in 2015.

Funding and budget

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet (also available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-illegal-wildlife-trade-challenge-fund>) which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted. Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The IWT Challenge Fund cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

17. Co-financing

17 a) Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

(See Guidance note 4.4)

Confirmed:

A private grant from Whitley Fund for Nature will provide £ towards this project. Snow Leopards Trust commits to provide £ towards this project from our general operating budget..

17 b) Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments
TBD	Woodland Park Zoo		

18. Value for money

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

(Max 250 words)

Investment by IWT will enable CRWPP to scale to reach all national park and state nature reserves in Kyrgyz Republic, covering roughly 7400 sq km of protected areas, and affecting the entire country's wildlife crime and its entire snow leopard population, which ranks 5th in global size.

Initial large investments in bulk training, equipment procurement, and building of the trust fund will quickly ramp-up the program to be largely self-sustaining with minimal input from partners moving forward.

We have piloted the program with positive feedback and signed agreements with Government, thus the project is low risk and ready to move forward (as opposed to needing funding for start-up or testing). CRWPP will help Kyrgyz Republic meet their goals under the recently signed Bishkek Declaration on Snow Leopards.

Beyond Kyrgyz Republic, CRWPP has potential for expansion. The program plans were highly appreciated by other snow leopard range country delegates present during the pilot, and some have already expressed an interest in initiating similar programmes in their countries.

Running parallel, INTERPOL and Kyrgyz Government, with support from the Global Forum, will work towards establishing a National Security Task Forces (NESTs) to bring together law enforcement agencies and their respective areas of expertise around a common mission to fight environmental crime. As a first step, we will seek to hold a National Environmental Security Seminar (NESS). Activities within this project will support and be integrated into NEST.

19. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance notes.

(See Guidance Note 3.11)

(Max 250 words)

SLT and SLFK take a collaborative and inclusive approach to building programs. CRWPP was developed in coordination with State Agency with extensive input from officials, frontline rangers and community members on their needs, program structure, and reward amounts. As the program expands, we will continue to improve and adjust based on input and responses from these key stakeholders. CRWPP activities are aimed to encourage participation from local communities and support improved collaboration between communities and rangers; the program is also aimed to have both financial and social benefits to both. Project monitoring will

be used to ensure communities and rangers are being recognized adequately and are satisfied with program outputs. All personal data will be kept private and confidential for use only by project partners, and only for furthering the aims of the program. All data shared publicly will be general to the program, and will not be used in any way that could harm or otherwise damage the program's beneficiaries. All project partners have and will follow established guidelines to protect the health and safety of staff working in the field. The program is completely aligned with provisions under the Kyrgyz law.

20. Outputs of the project and Open Access

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from the IWT Challenge Fund to cover this.

(See Guidance Note 3.12)

(Max 250 words)

Outputs from our project will be shared freely and openly online through established SLT and Global Forum Secretariat websites (www.snowleopard.org/Kyrgyz Republic; and <http://www.akilbirs.com>). These will be expanded to include specific sections devoted to CRWPP with links (or pages) that provide the following for online reading or download:

- 1) A thorough description of CRWPP program model
- 2) Copy of the INTERPOL training materials guidebook (as mentioned in Section 15)
- 3) Award announcements (to be updated annually) with information about awardees and their accomplishments
- 4) List of project partners with links to their respective websites
- 5) Trust fund financial performance

We have budgeted staff time for a website consultant to expand website frameworks to accommodate this information and make it easily editable by general staff over the long-term. Regular updates beyond that will fall under 'business and usual.' In addition, presentations about this project and its progress/results will be shared at annual Global Forum meetings.

All information and documents will be in English with options for translation into Kyrgyz and Russian. We have budgeted for a translator to complete initial work, which will include the program model and materials guidebook. On a more regular basis, minor translations can be completed by SLFK staff as part of their 'business as usual.'

In addition, any articles or papers generated from this project will be freely available (in English) online on SLT's website and through SLT's sister organization, Snow Leopard Network (www.snowleopardnetwork.org), which maintains a thorough digital bibliography of snow leopard related research.

21. Project monitoring and evaluation

Logical framework

IWT Challenge Fund projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected outputs and outcomes. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcomes of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

This section uses a logical framework (logframe) approach. This approach is a useful way to take a logical approach to tackling complex and ever-changing challenges, such as tackling the illegal wildlife trade. In other words, it is about sensible planning.

Annex B in the Guidance Notes provides helpful guidance on completing a logical framework.

Impact

The Impact is not intended to be achieved solely by the project. This is a higher-level situation that the project will contribute towards achieving. All IWT Challenge Fund projects are expected to contribute to tackling the illegal wildlife trade and supporting poverty alleviation in developing countries.

(Max 30 words)

A reduction in illegal hunting of snow leopards and their prey and indirect contribution to poverty alleviation in Kyrgyz Republic.

Outcome

There can only be one Outcome for the project. The outcome statement is the overarching objective of the project you have outlined. That is, what do you expect to achieve as a result of this project? The Outcome should identify what will change, and who will benefit.

There should be a clear link between the outcome and the impact.

This should be a summary statement derived from the answer given to Questions 13 and 14. (You may copy and paste the same answer as provided in Question 4 here).

(Max 75 words)

Park rangers in Kyrgyz Republic will have the resources, training and recognition they need to curb illegal poaching and wildlife trade, and follow through with apprehending and filing cases against poachers. This will raise the profile and income of park rangers and deter illegal hunting of snow leopards and key prey, resulting in their increased abundance and, over the longer term, improve conditions for nature tourism and livelihood options for local communities.

Measuring outcomes - indicators

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving this outcome. For each indicator, you should be able to state:

- What is the starting point
- What is the expected change
- What the end point will be
- When the change will be achieved

You may require multiple indicators to measure the outcome – if you have more than 3 indicators please insert a row(s).

Indicator 1	By 2018, the number of cases filed against illegal poaching within Kyrgyz Republic state nature reserves and national parks increases 20% from a current rough estimate of 36/yr in 2013 to 43/year by 2018.
Indicator 2	By 2018, attitudes of rangers and community members in sample areas (disaggregated by gender) towards controlling illegal poaching changes from relative 'helpless' to relative empowerment
Indicator 3	By 2015, ranger-community member field teams who successfully apprehend and file cases against illegal poachers receive awards that increase income by at least 13% over current rural average of £440/year.
Indicator 4	By 2018, reduced corruption (increased number of cases filed, improvement of attitudes towards controlling illegal poaching) will increase local people's trust in, and cooperation with, law enforcement agencies (number of community members working with rangers to apprehend poachers, over current baseline of 1), supporting a positive atmosphere for conservation-linked livelihoods.
Indicator 5	By 2018, abundance for snow leopards and their prey in two model CRWPP show 'stable' trends, over current national levels of 'declining' for snow leopards and key species (e.g. argali).

Verifying outcomes

Identify the source material the IWT Challenge Fund (and you) will use to verify the indicators provided, and the progress made towards achieving them. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc. You should submit evidence of these with your annual reports.

Indicator 1	Our primary survey data (disaggregated by gender where appropriate), project notes, and technical reports
Indicator 2	Project notes, reports and publications from INTERPOL
Indicator 3	Case data from Reserve Administration/DFEPA including information (number, gender, names, etc) on ranger and community member teams

Outcome risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the *outcome and impact* of the project. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1	-Stable political climate to support this project (This project relies on a strong partnership with the Government, which requires a stable political climate. Although the Kyrgyz Republic has seen considerable changes in the government, it is one of the few Central Asian countries with a fledging democracy. Our relationship with the Government is very strong, and much larger than the proposed project, especially due to our continuing support to the Global Snow Leopard Secretariat being hosted by the Kyrgyz Government. , We are therefore hopeful of the political support this project requires.)
Assumption 2	Poaching, which is widely recognized to be a serious threat in Kyrgyz Republic, is currently limiting snow leopard and prey populations.
Assumption 3	Increased numbers of apprehensions and filing of cases helps leads to fewer instances of recorded poaching and helps improve attitudes towards corruption and law enforcement among local people
Assumption 4	Reductions in illegal poaching support a more favourable atmosphere for supporting local conservation-based livelihoods
Assumption 5	Laws pertaining to illegal poaching remain relatively constant, or do not alter current state of illegal poaching (more drastic penalties could also deter illegal poachers and reduce number of cases filed)

Outputs

Outputs are the specific, direct deliverables of the project. These will provide the conditions necessary to achieve the Outcome. The logic of the chain from Output to Outcome therefore needs to be clear.

If you have more than 3 outputs, insert a row(s). It is advised to have less than 6 outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the activity level.

Output 1	CRWPP is a national program model covering all national parks and state nature reserves in Kyrgyz Republic
Output 2	Community members collaborating with rangers , and rangers more able to effectively enforce laws, make arrests and file paperwork/evidence against illegal poachers.
Output 3	Awards conferred to recognize and compensate rangers and/or ranger-community field teams for their anti-poaching efforts

Measuring outputs

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving these outputs. You should be able to state:

- What is the starting point
- What is the expected change
- What the end point will be
- When the change will be achieved

You may require multiple indicators to measure each output – if you have more than 3 indicators please just insert a row(s).

Output 1		
Indicator 1	19 reserves have information about CRWPP by 2016	(baseline=2)
Indicator 2	19 reserves have information about CRWPP by 2016	(baseline=2)
Indicator 3		

Output 2	
Indicator 1	1 weeks of INTERPOL training provided to rangers/senior officials in 2015, 2016, 2017 (baseline=0)
Indicator 2	38 rangers trained by 2018 (baseline=0)
Indicator 3	30 senior officials trained by 2018 (baseline=0)
Indicator 4	19 digital cameras, 38 binoculars provided to rangers by 2016 (Around 80% of protected areas are underequipped).
Indicator 5	By 2018, 43 cases against illegal poachers annually filed with the Reserve Administration (available for later prosecution) (Baseline 36-see section 23)

Output 3	
Indicator 1	By 2018, CRWPP award output to rangers and/or ranger-community field teams £4200 annually (baseline = 0)
Indicator 2	By 2018, CRWPP publicly recognizing 43 rangers and/or ranger-community field teams annually for anti-poaching efforts (baseline =0)
Indicator 3	

Verifying outputs

Identify the source material the IWT fund (and you) can use to verify the indicators provided. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc.

Indicator 1	SLT/SLFK project notes, and technical reports
Indicator 2	Reports from Reserve Administration
Indicator 3	Project reports, training feedback and publications/guidebook from INTERPOL
Indicator 4	Shipping/customs declarations for shipping equipment
Indicator 5	SLT bank statements, investment statements
Indicator 6	Press releases, website announcements, photographs of ceremony

Output risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the achievement of your outputs. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions, please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1	There are no other unforeseen major issues prohibiting or standing in the way
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	of rangers filing cases
Assumption 2	All state nature reserves and national parks will be interested in CRWPP model
Assumption 3	Market changes could decrease value of Trust Fund or ability to draw down 4% interest while maintaining corpus
Assumption 4	There are no other extenuating circumstances that disrupt the possibility of positive collaboration between rangers and communities
Assumption 5	Informal review seems to indicate more gun violations than killed animal violations. In calculating amount needed by CRWPP trust fund for financial awards, we assume a two-thirds-one-third split in favour of gun violations. Any funds not used will be reinvested to sustain the corpus.

Activities

Define the tasks to be undertaken by the project to produce the outputs. Activities should be designed in a way that their completion should be sufficient and indicators should not be necessary. Risks and assumptions should also be taken into account during project design.

Output 1	
Activity 1.1	SLT/SLFK create flyers about CRWPP and disseminate to Reserve Administration
Activity 1.2	Mass media used to broadcast CRWPP
Activity 1.3	Community meetings held to announce CRWPP
Activity 1.4	CRWPP section available on SLT/Secretariat websites for public access to program information

Output 2	
Activity 2.1	INTERPOL finalizes training module and guidebook
Activity 2.2	Trainings held and guidebook put online
Activity 2.3	Training feedback collected
Activity 2.4	Equipment disseminated

Output 3	
Activity 3.1	Trust fund established to support awards in perpetuity
Activity 3.2	Cases reviewed by CRWPP committee
Activity 3.3	Award ceremonies held

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

Activity	No of Months	FY 14/15	FY 2015/2016				FY 2016/2017				FY 2017/2018			
		Q4	Q1 A-J	Q2 J-S	Q3 O-D	Q4 J-M	Q1 A-J	Q2 J-S	Q3 O-D	Q4 J-M	Q1 A-J	Q2 J-S	Q3 O-D	Q4 J-M
Output 1														
1.1 SLT/SLFK disseminate flyers to Reserve Administration	1		X											
1.2 Mass media used to broadcast CRWPP	3		X	X										
1.3 Community meetings to announce CRWPP	4			X	X									
1.4 CRWPP available on SLT/Secretariat websites	3						X							
Output 2														
2.1 INTERPOL finalizes training module, guidebook	2		X											
2.2 Trainings held and guidebook online	1.5		X				X				X			
2.3 Training feedback collected	1.5			X				X				X		
2.4 Equipment	1						X							

disseminated														
Output 3														
3.1 Trust fund established to support awards in perpetuity					X									
3.2 Cases reviewed by CRWPP committee	3		X				X				X			
3.3 Award ceremonies held	3				X				X				X	

23. Monitoring and evaluation plan (M&E)

Describe, referring to the indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the projects M&E.

IWT Challenge Fund projects will need 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.

(Max 250 words)

We will design a sampling protocol for assessing and monitoring participant attitudes towards poaching and empowerment. SLFK will collect program data (social and biological). Thorough progress reviews will be completed on a semi-annual basis. Progress reports will be shared with project partners along with technical updates as needed. Course corrections will be made as necessary after review of data and discussion between partners.

Specific feedback and assessments will be completed by INTERPOL post trainings. As necessary, adjustments will be made to future trainings based on feedback and materials guidebook will be updated.

In 2017, we will complete a thorough CRWPP evaluation and impact review. This will be used to make further program improvements. Regarding baselines: in many instances accurate numbers are not readily available; we are still working with Reserve Administration to evaluate baselines. Current baseline of 36 cases provided by State Agency for 2013 may be inflated. Better understanding of baselines will be a key step in our monitoring and evaluation under this project. We intend to more thoroughly review number and details of cases filed and outcomes over the last 5 years. In general, we expect number of cases filed will increase as CRWPP catalyzes arrests and action against poachers, and then over the long-term will decline as project actions begin to deter poaching.

FCO notifications

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the IWT Fund in the host country.

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice) Yes, advice attached No **X**

Certification

On behalf of the Snow Leopard Trust
I apply for a grant of £252,530 in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support.
- Our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at:

<http://www.snowleopard.org/about/annual-reports-and-newsletters>

This link contains our Annual Reports (FY 2000-2013), Accounting Form 990 from the US Government (FY 2008-2012), and Signed Independent Audits (FY 2008-2012).

Please note: our FY 2013 Form 990 and FY 2013 Audit are being finalized and will be posted to this same link by the end of the month.

Name (block capitals)	BRAD RUTHERFORD
Position in the organisation	Executive Director

Signed

Date:

Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	X
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	X
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	X
Have you checked that your budget is complete , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	X
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual ? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable, but not the use of a script font)	X
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the Project Staff identified at Question 9, including the Project Leader?	X
Have you included a letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations identified at Question 8?	X
Have you included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	X
Have you checked the IWT website on GOV.UK immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	X

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on 6 August 2014 to IWT-Fund@LTSI.co.uk using the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). You are not required to send a hard copy.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be shared between the Department and LTS for administration, evaluation and monitoring purposes. Some information, but not personal data, may be used by the Department when publicising the IWT Challenge Fund including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites. Personal data may be used by the Department and/or LTS to maintain and update the IWT Challenge Fund mailing list and to provide information to British Embassies and High Commissions so they are aware of UK Government-funded projects being undertaken in the countries where they are located.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 and the FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: Information (including personal data) relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.