

Illegal Wildlife Trade



Application form for Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund 2015

Please read the [guidance notes](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/illegal-wildlife-trade-iwt-challenge-fund) (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/illegal-wildlife-trade-iwt-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:196

1. Name and address of lead organisation

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

Applicant Organisation Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Address:	[REDACTED]
City and Postcode:	[REDACTED]
Country:	[REDACTED]
Project Leader name:	Alex McWilliam
Email:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]

2. Project title

Title (max 10 words) IWT033: Leveraging Action to Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Networks in Laos

3. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 Apr 2016		End date: 31 Mar 2018		Duration: 2 yrs 0 mths	
2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total request		
£	£ 128,955	£ 159,073	£ 288,028		
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total Project cost: 25					

4. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

(max 80 words)

This project will generate political support, leverage greater accountability of government and provide actionable intelligence to law enforcement agencies to put Asia's most prolific wildlife trafficking companies out of business. We will generate incentives, through an informed and active constituency within influential agencies in government; pressure the media and international organisations, by guiding external attention from influential countries; and provide actionable intelligence to enable an effective policy and law enforcement response.

5. 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 24 here).

(max 50 words)

Wildlife trafficking is recognized as a political and developmental threat by the Government of Laos, and a broad coalition of government agencies are participating in domestic and international efforts to dismantle trans-boundary wildlife trafficking syndicates operating within Laos

6. Country(ies)

(See Guidance notes 3.3 and 4.3)

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

Country 1: Laos	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:
Additional Countries	

7. 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"/>

7b. Which of the commitments made in the London Conference Declaration and / or the Kasane Statement does this project support? Please provide the number(s) of the relevant commitments: there is no need to include the text from the relevant commitment.

(See Guidance note 3.1)

<p>The London Declaration: IX, X, XIV, XV, XVII</p> <p>The Kasane Statement: 5, 7</p>

8. About the lead organisation:

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	1895
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<p>NGO Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Government Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>University Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other (explain)</p>
How is your organisation currently funded?	<p>(Max 100 words)</p> <p>WCS receives support from a diverse group of government and private sources. Our top government and agency partners include the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the British government, the Norwegian government, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Foundation</p>

	<p>supporters include the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and The Rockefeller Foundation.</p>
<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>

8b. 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	Ground Enforcement and Patrols in Three Provinces of Laos (in support of the National Gibbon Action Plan)
Contract Value/ Project budget	\$ [REDACTED] provided by the ARCUS Foundation)
Duration	42 months (1 July 2012 – 31 December 2015)
Role of organisation in project	Lead, Project Implementer
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	The overall aim of this project was to build sustainable links between Lao Government enforcement agencies to improve the protection of gibbons in key landscapes. The specific objectives were to create a multi agency enforcement program, and bring wildlife protection into the mainstream of planning and operations of key government agencies. The outcomes of the project were; development of wildlife enforcement strategies (2), the creation of multi agency patrol teams with a significant increase in patrol effort, monthly multi agency meetings at the provincial level, the establishment of the first Provincial Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) with 6

	agencies represented (2 meetings conducted), improved planning and operational capacity within the Division of Wildlife Inspection, increased awareness of Lao wildlife laws and the mandate of the Department of Forest Inspection.
Client/Project Manager contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	The ARCUS Foundation, Adam Phillipson, Program Officer, Great Apes Program, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Contract/ Project 2 Title	Leveraging political support to combat Illegal Cross-Border Trade of Wildlife From Vietnam to China
Contract Value/ Project budget	\$ [REDACTED] from World Bank/GEF \$ [REDACTED] from CEPF
Duration	GEF component: 1st January 2009 to 30th June 2011 CEPF component: 1st September 2009 to 31st August 2012
Role of organisation in project	Project Lead
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	The project worked with government and media agencies in Quang Ninh province to strengthen law enforcement and build political support, with the aim of leveraging actions and longer-term commitments to address the rampant smuggling of wildlife occurring at this major trade nexus on the China-Vietnam border. Specific objectives included facilitating central and provincial-level inter-agency communication and coordination; enhancing communications and coordination between relevant agencies in Guangxi (China) and Quang Ninh (Vietnam); increasing attention and response from the government of Viet Nam on Mong Cai by coordinating and partnering with organizations and agencies working on the other forms of crime in Viet Nam; and generating domestic and international media coverage that supports prevention and suppression of transnational wildlife crimes. The project provided the most accurate and comprehensive analysis of cross-border trade in the region to date that revealed massive trans-shipment of CITES-listed species of wild origin from other countries through Mong Cai; Weak law enforcement with on average, only 3% of vehicular cross-border traffic passes

	<p>through the legal route, the remaining 97% passing through illegal and informal crossings in broad daylight; the identities of major criminal brokers and syndicates coordinating smuggling activities (including ‘Steel-faced’ Dung); and significant loss of revenue (through tax and customs fees) to state budget as a result of money flowing to corrupt border officials. Through significant high-level WCS contacts within Vietnamese law enforcement agencies, intergovernmental organizations and the local and international media we leveraged these results to catalyze:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Prime Minister’s Directive tightening management and regulation on trans-shipments through Viet Nam to China, prohibiting a range of products, restricting the use of ‘semi-legal’ customs clearance points for trans-shipments, and calling for stronger enforcement and more thorough checks by customs, police and the border army; • ‘Spin-off’ operation – motivated by the Financial Times reportage of our results in China – organized by Chinese authorities in Guangxi province in the Chinese border town adjacent to Mong Cai as part of the Shield Anti-Smuggling Campaign; • Ministry of Public Security (MPS)-led enforcement operation leading to the arrest of 20 members of Steel-face Dung’s gang, and prosecuted under Article 154 of the Penal Code (illegal cross-border transportation of goods and currencies). Involvement of MPS (rather than police) is significant as our information indicated significant collusion between Dung and the local police force; • MPS-issued INTERPOL Red Notice and arrest warrant for Steel-face Dung (who fled) to get assistance from China and other countries to apprehend him.
<p>Client/Project Manager contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).</p>	<p>Jack Tordoff, Grant Director, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>

Contract/ Project 3 Title	Strengthening and enlarging the Protected Area System of Eastern Bolikhamxay Province of Laos
Contract Value/ Project budget	EUR [REDACTED]
Duration	33 months (1 June 2013 – 28 February 2016)
Role of organisation in project	Lead, Project Implementer
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	<p>The aim of the project was to strengthen the capacity of government agencies responsible for management, build local community awareness and participation in management processes, and develop models for measuring the effectiveness of management interventions. The objectives were; 1) reduce levels of illegal hunting and habitat conversions in 4 Protected Areas (PA), 2) local communities aware of and benefiting from implementation of PA management activities, and 3) PA management effectiveness monitored through indicator species population levels and assessments of deforestation in PA's. The outcomes included; continuation and expansion enforcement programs leading to a reduction in threats to wildlife and habitat in 3 PA's, Forestry and Wildlife Enforcement Training curriculum developed and delivered to 100 rangers, development of site specific outreach strategies, implementation of awareness campaigns in 3 PA's, Participatory Resource Use Assessments completed in 2 PA's, Participatory Land Use Planning completed in 5 communities around 1 PA securing land rights, Land Use Zoning completed in a further 9 villages around 1 PA, implementation of a village community development fund leveraging compliance with conservation agreements in 5 communities around 1 PA, baseline land cover change analysis completed, and development and implementation of a landscape scale indicator species monitoring protocol.</p>
Client/Project Manager contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Martin Gauss, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

9. 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:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Website address:	www.wcs.org

<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p>	<p>The WCS Laos program was established in 1993 and currently has 50 staff. During the last 22 years WCS has successfully implemented 23 projects with the Government of Laos (GoL) supported by more than 30 donors.</p> <p>A core thematic intervention to support the vision is protection of biodiversity values through strengthening law enforcement. For 8 years WCS Laos has supported forestry and wildlife enforcement efforts in and around national protected areas in 3 provinces. These 'boots on the ground' enforcement programs are recognized as the most advanced in the country.</p> <p>WCS has assisted the GoL at provincial and central levels to combat illegal wildlife trafficking since 2002 when WCS and the Vientiane Forestry Department developed a program to reduce the illegal wildlife trade in markets, restaurants, and private establishments. Currently WCS Laos program supports the Department of Forest Inspection (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) to uphold the mandate of reducing and eliminating illegal wildlife trade in Bolikhamxay Province both domestically and internationally between Thailand and Vietnam. In this project WCS will coordinate a set of activities with our government partners to catalyse action on wildlife trafficking networks operating with immunity in Laos.</p>
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<p>Partner Name:</p>	<p>Department of Forest Inspection (DoFI), Laos Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</p>
<p>Website address:</p>	<p>www.maf.gov.la</p>

<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p>	<p>The Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI) was created in 2008 to inspect and investigate suspected violations of the Forestry Law, the Wildlife and Aquatic Law, the National Penal Code and other subsidiary laws. DOFI's mandate was defined in Ministry of Agriculture Agreement No.340/MAF, 5 March 2008.</p> <p>The formation of DOFI is a major commitment by the Government of Laos to tackle the threats from illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, forestry related corruption, and illegal land encroachment. Provincial Offices of Forest Inspection (POFI) are established in all 17 provinces with 277 staff nationwide.</p> <p>To meet its mandate, DOFI must work cooperatively with other departments that have a responsibility for forest and wildlife management, environmental conservation and governance processes, for example, Economic Police, Customs, Army, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Ministry of Justice. DOFI has developed a Strategy Action Plan to 2020, and has shown improvement in results. Recently the DOFI action catalysed the issuance of Government Office Declaration No. 1364 which instructs multiple agencies to take action to ensure compliance with CITES, monitor and report on companies engaged in illegal wildlife trafficking, and inspect and ensure compliance of farms that rear and transit wildlife.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Partner Name:	
Website address:	
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)	
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

10. 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?
Alex McWilliam	Project Leader	9	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Thanvar Phouththamangxay	Program Coordinator	73	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Anoudeth Phonxaysavath	Program Officer	73	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
To be hired	Wildlife Trafficking Technical Advisor	70	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scott Robertson	Regional Advisor	20	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

11. Species project is focusing on

(see Guidance note 4.2)

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

1.African elephant	2.Rhinoceros sp. (Both African and Asian)
3.Pangolin sp. (Both Asian and African sp.)	4. Hard-shell turtle species (particularly, Cuora sp., Heosemys sp., Platysternon megacephalum)
Other species	

12. 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. Please also explain which communities are affected by this issue, and how this aspect of the illegal trade in wildlife relates to poverty or efforts of people and/or states to alleviate poverty

(Max 300 words)

Weak governance and a perception of wildlife trafficking as a low-level violation have led to corruption at the highest levels within Lao, preventing traffickers of high-value wildlife from being brought to justice. This has a strongly negative impact on governance and security, through encouraging corruption, proliferation of other crimes and reducing overall rule of law.

Immunity from enforcement has led to some of Asia's most prolific wildlife trafficking companies building global supply networks, two of which in 2014 reported massive trade volumes of protected wildlife on official documents, including 22,000kg elephant ivory, 7,000kg tiger and lion bones, 130,000kg freshwater tortoise and turtle, and 4,000kg of Rhino horn.

Lao's lack of action in responding to this massive scale of illegal activity has seen increasing attention from Governments. With WSC support, VietNam CITES MA led a mission to Lao to discuss the issue of tiger farming and ivory trafficking. The US issued a TOCTA award for information leading to the arrest of the heads of one of Lao's wildlife trading companies. International organisations have also increased support and attention to Lao. UNODC initiated a program of capacity building for police. Earlier this year the CITES Standing Committee recommended Laos be suspended from CITES trade by all Parties following late submission of an action plan to combat ivory trafficking.

However, there are encouraging signs that the Government is starting to respond. In August 2015, the Prime Minister issued an Instruction to all key Ministries on strengthening CITES compliance, specifically including directions to investigate and ensure major wildlife trafficking companies are compliant with national laws and CITES.

There is an unprecedented opportunity to engage key agencies in Lao to build upon this nascent government action, build its momentum and activate effective enforcement that deters major wildlife trafficking businesses from operating in Lao.

13. 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 750 words)

Current approaches to addressing wildlife trafficking in Lao have invested heavily into capacity building (particularly directed to the Department of Forest Inspection, Environmental Police, and soon will include Customs officers); development of action plans and strategies, development of systems, inter-agency networks, and awareness-raising campaigns. Furthermore, these investments have largely focussed on addressing the domestic trade of wildlife and timber. With the exception of some advocacy-style campaigns, very little work has been done to develop solutions that address corruption that protects a number of companies trading massive volumes of elephant ivory, rhino horn, freshwater turtles, pangolins and tiger bone sourced from Lao and other countries.

Our proposed approach will build upon the recent positive actions from the Government of Lao (e.g. Prime Ministers Instruction No. 1364) to generate further political support and leverage greater accountability of government agencies to implement effective enforcement actions targeting major wildlife trafficking syndicates in Laos.

Our work will be implemented in close partnership with the Department of Forest Inspection (DoFI), who were the driving force behind the PM's instruction and the finalisation of the National Ivory Action Plan and have been internally lobbying for action against these major trafficking syndicates. Together we will implement three components of work that will provide the incentives, pressure and actionable information to enable an effective policy and enforcement response that will disrupt wildlife trafficking networks in Lao and reduce pressure on wild populations of key species:

1) In compliance with articles of PM Instruction No. 1364, information-gathering surveys will be carried out into the business of wildlife trading companies in Lao. These will be led by WCS, DoFI and partners e.g. a UK-based NGO with extensive experience in investigations will be sub-contracted to carry out independent surveys. Information will be structured and inputted into WCS's global intelligence management and analysis system (Powered by IBM's i2 software) and analysed to produce a series of compelling actionable intelligence products (including nominal information, business details, corrupt relationships, and crime modus operandi) on at least three major wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Laos. These will be shared with key agencies within

the government.

2) The project will sustain, grow and guide external attention from influential countries, the media and international organisations to advocate and hold key agencies accountable to addressing wildlife trafficking. Through regular bi-lateral meetings and the establishment of a regular IWT coordination forum WCS will inform and activate bilateral donor agencies and diplomatic missions to key issues, responses and opportunities, expanding upon the current 'like-minded' group recently formed with UK, EU, US leading. This will include support for a tri-lateral dialogue meeting on IWT enforcement collaboration between Laos, Viet Nam and China, arguably the two most politically influential nations. The project will also host briefings and field trips to develop an informed and active media network of domestic and foreign journalists. Finally, to ensure key agencies are exposed to the global policy movement, technical and fiscal support will be provided to the participation of key Lao government agencies at global IWT events e.g. CITES Standing Committee, The 2016 Hanoi Conference.

3) In other countries (e.g. Viet Nam and China) progress on counter-wildlife trafficking has been made when the agencies informed and engaged on this issue expands from the traditional forestry/environment sector and includes security, parliament, and finance. In this project, WCS will provide technical support to DoFI to build an informed, supportive and active constituency within the National Assembly, Government Inspectorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, and Ministry of Finance. This will be achieved through a series of briefings (e.g. a side event during the National Assembly session), reports (e.g. Intelligence products and analyses on major wildlife trafficking companies that not only present the crime, but that outline the impact in terms of corruption, rule of law, and public image), and multi-agency workshops (e.g. sustaining the Lao-Wildlife Enforcement Network as a platform for holding enforcement agencies accountable) led by DoFI.

14. Beneficiaries

Who will benefit from the work outlined above, and in what ways? How will this contribute to sustainable development for the reduction of poverty? Is it possible to quantify how many people are likely to benefit from this intervention e.g. number of households, and how do you intend to 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)

Laos is a major source, transit and market (for Chinese customers primarily) for protected wildlife both sourced domestically and internationally. Closing down the major wildlife trading companies will disrupt illegal supply chains for wildlife, reducing pressure on wild populations in Laos and across Asian and African range states for our key species.

High-value wildlife products are traded transnationally by well-capitalized criminal syndicate groups. The involvement of transnational criminal networks in wildlife trade exacerbates socio-economic inequalities by disproportionately affecting low-income communities that depend on functioning ecosystem services for their livelihoods, provoking social conflict, and posing grave threats to the wellbeing of people living in areas where poaching of commercially valuable species occurs. Wildlife trafficking has a strongly negative impact on the overall governance and security of communities through encouraging corruption, the proliferation of other crimes and reducing overall rule of law. This project will deliver a set of outputs that strengthens governance and law enforcement accountability that will benefit local people in Laos. Our work will improve their security, through more responsive, informed and capable law enforcement agencies that are held accountable to effective actions, and that remove criminal elements from their communities and root out cronyism protecting criminals.

The most direct beneficiaries of activities such as training, mentoring, and participation in international meeting and multi-lateral dialogues will be government officers from the respective law enforcement agencies. We expect that at least 40 officers from a combination of three agencies (DOFI, Customs, and Environment Police) will benefit from improved knowledge, skills, and coordination mechanisms. Additionally, 10 members of the media will benefit through improved awareness of wildlife trafficking issues thus creating a more informed general public and political body.

A further beneficiary of this work will be resource-dependent communities in Laos and other low-income, source countries in Africa and Asia. Elephants and rhinos in particular are economically important to African source countries. They provide a direct source of GDP through tourism and support subsistence livelihoods through maintaining a healthy resource base. The massive declines in African Elephants has

the potential to impact on wildlife tourism, which is a principal revenue-earner for many of these countries and as such a key contributor to the African continent's socio-economic development. For example, in 2011, tourism in Tanzania accounted for 13% of GDP, with a total contribution of \$3.1bn, supporting more than 1 million jobs. Effective action against African ivory trafficking in Asia, that includes dismantling major wildlife trafficking syndicates such as those operating in Laos, will contribute towards overall efforts to maintain populations of African Elephants and the tourism industry that is dependent on them.

Poaching and illegal trafficking of ivory, rhinoceros horn, tigers, and other biodiversity affects not only wildlife but entire ecosystems, effectively depriving local communities of their livelihoods. Removal of criminal networks driving illegal wildlife trade will have concomitant benefits, including a reduction in other criminal activities (illegal logging, land-grabbing), which are driven by the same criminal networks and have significant impacts on local people. Locally, a reduction in commercial wildlife off-take driven by these companies, will also increase the amount of bush meat available for local communities still dependant on bush meat for subsistence.

Due to the dispersed nature of wildlife trafficking syndicates, and the communities and wildlife they affect, it is difficult to anticipate and determine the exact number of indirect beneficiaries. Nonetheless, it is reasonable to estimate that more than 3,000 households will benefit from reduced wildlife trafficking and improved law enforcement.

15. Gender

Under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, all applicants must consider whether their project is likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

(Max 300 words)

Gender equality forms a core value for WCS globally and measures will be built into project implementation through participation of women in key activities such as intelligence collection, meetings, and workshops for which we will, wherever possible, produce gender disaggregated statistics. Project reports will also, wherever possible, disaggregate statistics by gender.

Our primary project partner, DOFI, is an equal opportunity employer and is actively encouraging the participation of women in technical work related to the department's mandate. Previous programs undertaken by DOFI and WCS have demonstrated the important role women have in conducting community liaison, inspections of illegal wildlife trade hotspots, offender management, as well as administration roles and we will continue to promote these roles throughout this work.

Women are also important beneficiaries due to their major provisioning role in households in source countries producing food, collecting water, firewood, and often running small businesses. A reduction in illegal hunting and trafficking of wildlife, and thus healthier ecosystems, support this provisioning through maintenance of ecosystem services and access to natural resources critical to local livelihoods.

16. Impact on species in focus

How will the species named in Question 11 above benefit from the work outlined above? What do you expect the long-term impact on the species concerned to be?

(Max 200 words)

Commercially driven poaching for the international trade to Asian consumer markets is the greatest threat to wild populations of elephants, rhinos, pangolins, and freshwater turtles and tortoises across their range in Africa and Asia. The project will benefit all these species across their range by activating the political will necessary to catalyse a broad coalition of government agencies in domestic and international efforts to dismantle major trans-boundary wildlife trafficking syndicates operating within Laos, removing many of the key illegal actors in the trade, and deterring potential future actors from becoming involved in the illegal trade. This will reduce the volume of trade passing through Laos and contribute to the recovery of wild populations. The long-term impact of these efforts on elephants, rhinos, pangolins, and freshwater turtles and tortoises will be a reduction in the numbers taken from the wild, leading to a quicker recovery of these species populations in key protected areas.

17. 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)

This project will establish stonger working relationships between government agencies responsible for combatting major trans-national wildlife trafficking networks whilst also enhancing existing inter-government collaboration with neighbouring countries. Given the lack of previous success by the government to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, this project will provide a model which will give Lao government agencies, particularly DOFI, confidence and the political support needed to further degrade illegal wildlife trafficking networks into the future. The successful implementation of this project will build political commitments and catalyze additional state-budget resources to the government agencies responsible for combating illegal wildlife trafficking.

There are several long term financing resources available for the DOFI to scale up the work completed in this project. One example is the Environment Protection Fund (EPF) which was recently capitalised by the World Bank with US \$ [REDACTED] of which US\$ [REDACTED] is earmarked for wildlife and protected areas. DOFI and Lao Customs are already accessing this fund for capacity development. Other programs of support from governments of Finland, Germany and Japan are providing long term financial and technical assistance to DOFI.

18. Funding

18a) Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Please give details

(Max 200 words):

Currently the focus of many development partners is to provide capacity, planning, and operational support to DOFI. This has been complimented with limited support to other agencies also with a role in combatting illegal wildlife trafficking. However, translating this support into success has been hindered by limited knowledge of the complex and organised manner in which wildlife is trafficked in Laos. Further to this there is a lack of senior level recognition and support from a broad coalition of government agencies.

WCS began working with the GoL on wildlife trafficking and trade issues in 2002 and provided assistance with training, market surveys, targeted patrolling, outreach campaigns and establishing sub-national networks. This project is a progressive evolution of our experience to combat illegal wildlife trafficking and builds on our existing relationships with the GoL.

Output 1 of this project builds on the existing work of WCS and government partners and is aimed at addressing this lack of specific knowledge of wildlife trafficking and managing that information. Output 2 and 3 are new initiatives that compliment Output 1 and will catalyse multi agency actions to eliminate key wildlife trafficking networks.

18b) 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:

WCS was one of the first organisations to engage the Government of Laos (GoL) to address issues of conservation and wildlife trafficking. As such we are often invited by the government and development partners to assist in the development of strategies, plans and programs related to natural resource management, protected areas, and wildlife trafficking.

Recently the GoL has received increased support from several NGOs to implement awareness campaigns, for example via radio programs and National Wildlife Day. Other agencies (UNODC and the World Bank) and governments (Finland and Germany) also have programs that focus on supporting the development of strategies and plans as well as improving the technical capacity of key agencies such as DOFI.

This project will not replicate these efforts but rather compliment them. It is clear that to maximise the effectiveness of these other partner programs to combat IWT it is critical to have access to accurate information, multi-agency action, increased communication between agencies, strong political commitment and greater engagement in regional and international forums and dialogues.

18c) 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.

Funding and budget

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

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.

19. Co-financing

19a) 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:

The majority of co-financing for this project will be contributed to support project personnel, travel, operating costs, and overheads. Funds will be from a recent grant to WCS, from the US Department of State - Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

19b) 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

19c) Justification

If you are not proposing co-financing, please explain why.

(max 150 words)

20. Capital items

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

(max 150 words)

All capital items purchased with IWT funding will, at the close of the project, become the sole property and responsibility of the Department of Forest Inspection. This is consistent with our current, and any future, Memorandum of Understanding with the DOFI.

21. 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)

WCS makes long-term, on-the-ground commitments. We thus provide value for money by building upon established partnerships in-country and applying the contextual knowledge and lessons learned to plan culturally-appropriate and feasible projects. In all the places where we work, WCS is an established partner of the host government and an integral leader in the conservation community—this positions us to deliver results and make significant impact. WCS has been working together with the Government of Laos for more than 20 years and has built the local knowledge, trust and relationships that enable us to deliver cost-efficient, effective outcomes.

This project also offers value for money as it compliments existing investments largely focussed on capacity-building to combat wildlife trafficking with an approach that will build overall government support and action, which will in turn make other investments more successful.

The approach outlined in this proposal, involves a small, locally-based team, with specific skills and experience relevant to Laos, directly support existing wildlife enforcement agencies across the Government. It will build on existing government structures and by increasing the capacity and building political and civil society support for increased action, we will, with a comparatively small investment, mobilise and leverage significant investment of resources towards these issues from the Government of Lao.

22. Ethics

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

(See Guidance Note 5.4)

(Max 250 words)

WCS is committed to building credible and independent science-based understanding of biological diversity and ecosystem integrity and their centrality to the quality of human life. WCS is a leading sponsor of scientific research, and our staff are among the world's most prolific from international conservation organizations in generating peer-reviewed publications. Our partnerships with local people strive to understand, value, and apply traditional knowledge to addressing biodiversity, resource management, and poverty alleviation challenges. This contributes to local efforts to improve human wellbeing by affirming cultural identity in the face of rapid change, while

making explicit our shared interest in finding alternatives to dominant approaches to economic development. These principles apply to our engagement with community and government entities in Laos.

WCS management systems ensure adherence to labour, finance, banking and registration regulations specific to each of the nearly 60 countries where we work, alongside US government regulations and donor compliance requirements. Our Duty of Care policy that details obligations of employees and the institution to create an environment of safety and concern in the fulfilment our mission, including access to medical care; insurance policies; and crisis management procedures.

WCS participates in the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights, and WCS has also initiated a review of human rights issues in the places where we work. Our Internal Review Board ensures that research carried out by our programs protects the rights of human subject.

23. 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 fund this.

(See Guidance Note 5.5)

(Max 250 words)

WCS is a science-based organization that is committed to an evidence-based approach to conservation. The project will produce a series of intelligence dossiers and products on wildlife trafficking networks in Laos. Given the sensitive nature of these, WCS will share this information only with trusted law enforcement personnel from the Government of Laos. This sharing of information is typically done in person with the law enforcement staff – the costs for such meetings are in the WCS staff salary and travel lines in the budget. Additional project outputs include media articles that by their very nature will be available online. WCS will ensure Lao and English language versions are available and promoted over social media platforms. In this project, significant support will be made to government reports and some of this information will be incorporated into reports to the CITES secretariat/standing committee, into reports towards the 2016 Hanoi conference, and available as information documents online.

24. 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)

Reduced opportunities for corruption and the degradation of criminal networks trafficking endangered wildlife through Laos

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 12, 13 and 14. (You may copy and paste the same answer as provided in Question 5 here).

(Max 50 words)

Wildlife trafficking is recognized as a political and developmental threat by the Government of Laos, and a broad coalition of government agencies are participating in domestic and international efforts to dismantle trans-boundary wildlife trafficking syndicates operating within Laos

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 just insert a row(s).

Indicator 1	By 2018 effective enforcement action has led to the prosecution and conviction of at least 2 key individuals within identified major IWT networks operating in Laos that to date have been immune from any law enforcement action
Indicator 2	By 2018 the number of government agencies leading IWT responses (including issuing action plans, legal actions, and investigations) extends from two at present (i.e. DoFI and CITES MA), to at least five (including National Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Government Inspectorate)
Indicator 3	

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	Law enforcement agency reports, CITES MA reports to Standing Committee/Secretariat
Indicator 2	Official media releases, meeting minutes or proceedings from National Assembly, MoFA, GI
Indicator 3	

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	WCS has established itself as a credible, loyal and trusted partner in Laos in the field of wildlife conservation and IWT. To implement this project, this collaboration with individuals within local and central law enforcement agencies must continue
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Assumption 2	Continued national commitment to CITES convention and ASEAN by Laos
Assumption 3	Capacity-building efforts of UNODC, World Bank and USG continue

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	Compelling actionable intelligence products (including nominal information, business details, corrupt relationships, and crime modus operandi) on three major wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Laos
Output 2	Influential countries (Viet Nam, China, Thailand, US, UK, Germany, France) aid agencies (ADB, World Bank) and international media, are informed and active in advocating to GoL on measures needed to enhance national response to IWT
Output 3	An informed, supportive and active constituency is developed from The National Assembly, Government Inspectorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Finance

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	By June 2017, 10 intelligence dossiers and products produced and disseminated to GoL and related agencies on the three major

	trafficking syndicates annually in 2016, 2017 (baseline = 0)
Indicator 2	By March 2018, 75 Records/Source documents inputted into the WCS Global Wildlife Intelligence Database relating to Laos (2015 Baseline: 30)
Indicator 3	

Output 2	
Indicator 1	By December 2017, 20 media articles in international and domestic media on the identified major IWT networks operating in Laos in 2016, 2017 (Baseline in 2014=10, all for Xaysavang, none for the other major trafficking companies)
Indicator 2	Laos actively and constructively participates in CITES SC and CoP in 2016 and 2017 responding in a meaningful way to existing decisions and commitments (Baseline = Lao suspended from CITES due to lack of compliance on reporting, and inactive in meetings)
Indicator 3	Five actions annually by diplomatic missions, donor agencies and neighbouring countries that advocate to GoL on required enhancements in national response to IWT

Output 3	
Indicator 1	By March 2018, five statements, legal documents, or actions by National Assembly, MoFA, and GI on IWT responses (Baseline: 0)
Indicator 2	
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	WCS intelligence database
Indicator 2	WCS media scanning reports, CITES SC committee and WG reports, Meeting minutes from the Lao IWT Coordination Forum

Indicator 3	Official statements, Legal gazette, national assembly proceedings, WCS media scanning reports
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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	WCS and partners continue to not be restricted in gathering data independantly and from government sources on individuals and companies trafficking wildlife in Laos.
Assumption 2	For the duration of this project, IWT remains high on the political agenda for UK, US, Germany, EU, World Bank and ASEAN.
Assumption 3	The Lao National Assembly and other government agencies continue to show an interest in Environmental issues and are active in lobbying the Executive branch of Government.

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	Information-gathering surveys by WCS and partners in Lao
Activity 1.2	Maintenance/licensing of WCS Intelligence management and analysis system, ensuring Lao program has access to global database on IWT
Activity 1.3	Production and dissemination of intelligence products (including nominal information, business details, corrupt relationships, and crime modus operandi) on three major wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Laos

Output 2	
Activity 2.1	Develop an informed and active media network of domestic and foreign journalists (including media briefings, interviews, field trips, media analysis feedback reports)
Activity 2.2	Tri-lateral dialogue on IWT enforcement collaboration between Laos, Viet Nam and China
Activity 2.3	Technical and fiscal support to participation of key Lao government agencies at global IWT events (e.g. Standing Committee)
Activity 2.4	Establish a regular IWT coordination forum to inform and activate bilateral donor agencies and diplomatic missions

Output 3	
Activity 3.1	Technical assistance to DoFI and the CITES MA to implement actions towards compliance with national and international IWT commitments
Activity 3.2	Briefings to National Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government Inspectorate on IWT issues and responses
Activity 3.3	Multi-agency workshops to plan actions and disseminate information on responses to IWT

25. 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 1				FY 2			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	9								
1.1	1	x				x			
1.2	6	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1.3	2			x			x		
Output 2	10								
2.1	3		x	x	x	x	x	x	
2.2	2					x			
2.3	3			x		x		x	
2.4	2		x		x		x		x
Output 3	18								
3.1	12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.2	4		x		x		x		x
3.3	2			x		x		x	
3.4									
Output 4									
4.1									
4.2									
4.3									
4.4									
4.5									
Output 5									
5.1									
5.2									
5.3									

5.4									
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26. 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)

WCS's success relies on credibly measuring and reporting our conservation impacts over time. In order to achieve rigorous but holistic evaluations, we will utilise a combination of qualitative and quantitative information, incorporating the objectively verifiable indicators, anecdotal supporting evidence, and individual narratives. Monitoring will be conducted by WCS staff in collaboration with DoFI officers and also utilising the Lao-WEN mechanism.

Data will be gathered from law enforcement agencies and verified media coverage on enforcement actions relating to identified individuals involved in three major trafficking networks operating in Lao (Vanseng/Ounalom, Vinasakone, and Keosavang) with a focus on violations involving rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolins, and freshwater turtle and tortoises. We will track progress on cases from arrest/seizure through prosecution, conviction and punishment and also collect data on inter-agency responses, planning and actions related to those cases and analyse intelligence on the impact to the network.

WCS uses adaptive management practices when implementing all its projects. Results from monitoring activities will feed into management decisions, both by WCS (as the project manager) and DoFI. Quarterly project meetings will be used to assess progress against the project indicators, develop work plans for the next quarter, and determine necessary changes to the overall strategy. On an annual basis, monitoring data will be reviewed by WCS, DoFI and members of the Lao-WEN and compared against expected results. This transparent and collaborative analysis process will ensure the adaptation of each subsequent year's project work plan.

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**

Certification

On behalf of the trustees of

Wildlife Conservation Society

I apply for a grant of £ 288,031 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 reports can be found at

Name (block capitals)	Joe Walston
Position in the organisation	Vice President, Field Conservation

Signed Date:

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance Notes (guidance for applicants, financial information, schedule of terms and conditions)?	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 10, including the Project Leader?	X
Have you included a letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations identified at Question 9?	X
Have you included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	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 12th October 2015 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.