

Submit by 2359 GMT on Tuesday 20 February 2018

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Application form for Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund Round 4 - Stage 2

Before completing this form, please read both the Fair Processing Notice on pages 18 and 19 of this form and the Guidance. This is available at GOV.UK. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required.

1. Name and address of lead organisation

Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader only

Applicant Organisation Name:	The WILD Foundation – Mali Elephant Project
Address:	
City and Postcode:	
Country:	
Project Leader name:	Dr Susan Canney
Project Leader email:	
Project Leader phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and project title

Stage 1 Ref: 378	Title (Max 10 words): Developing elephant eco-guardians: fundamental for co-ordinated anti-poaching/trafficking initiatives in Mali.
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3. Project dates and budget summary

Start date: July 1 st 2018	End date: March 31 st 2021	Duration: 2 years 9 months	
2018/19 £ 90,125	2019/20 £ 122,880	2020/21 £ 122,050	Total request £ 335,055
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total Project cost			

4. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on GOV.UK. Please bear this in mind, and write this summary for a non-technical audience.

(Max 80 words)

This project will raise the profile of eco-guardians to increase their capacity and motivation for elephant protection activities, simultaneously providing a respected community role and alternative occupation to joining armed groups. The information they provide on elephants will enable the anti-poaching unit to target its activities and they will lead the community in conducting a total population census in synergy with an aerial survey; while their role in “elephant-centred CBNRM” is fundamental to delivering local livelihood benefits from elephant conservation.

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. **This should be the same as the Outcome statement given in Question 25.**

(Max 30 words)

Community eco-guardians and enforcement agencies monitor and protect elephants across their range, preventing poaching, providing respected occupations, and improving multi-dimensional security.

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

6.a. Put an X in all that apply (See Guidance Note 3.1)

1. Developing sustainable livelihoods and economic development, to benefit people directly affected by IWT	X
2. Strengthening law enforcement	X
3. Ensuring effective legal frameworks	
4. Reducing demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade	

6b. Which of the commitments made in the London Conference Declaration, the Kasane Statement and/or the Hanoi Conference 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 Notes 4.1 and Annex A)

London Conference Declaration:

- *Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents*: X, XI, (IX, XII – indirect through partners).
- *Strengthening law enforcement*: XIII, XIV, XV, XVI.
- *Sustainable livelihoods and economic development*: XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX.
- *The way forward*: XXII, XXIV.

Kasane Statement:

- *Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents*: 5.
- *Strengthening law enforcement*: 7.
- *Sustainable livelihoods and economic development*: 10, 11, 12, 13.

Hanoi Conference:

- *Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents*: B.
- *Strengthening law enforcement*: C.
- *Sustainable livelihoods and economic development*: D.

6c. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

(Max 250 words)

SDGs 1 and 2 (no poverty and zero hunger) are supported by the actions of eco-guardians in halting and reversing the natural resource degradation that undermines local subsistence livelihoods; and SDGs 3 and 6 (good health and well-being and clean water and sanitation) by enforcing community regulations regarding wise use of water resources and through the APU providing healthcare to local people. Goals 8 and 10 (decent work and reduced inequalities) are supported by providing a respected occupation for youth and empowering them to control resource depredation by commercial interests; while their support to women in alternative livelihood schemes that provide additional incentives for wise resource management helps with goal 5 (gender equality). SDGs 13 and 15 (climate action and life on land) are supported by their prevention of habitat clearance, promotion of resilient ecosystems and protection of biodiversity (notably the elephants and their habitat). SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) is enhanced through eco-guardian information that facilitates the operation of the anti-poaching unit, as well as their role in detecting infringements of community resource management rules, thereby promoting local governance. An online article was published on Impakter ("focused on delivering, only high quality impact driven information") about the project in relation to SDG16 which discusses the project in relation to "how to build more peaceful and inclusive institutions, locally and nationally, and uncover wellsprings of hope even in the most corrupt and dysfunctional of settings" see <http://impakter.com/defending-wildlife-road-sdg-16-mali/>.

7. Country(ies)

(See Guidance Notes 3.3 and 4.5)

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: Mali	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

8. a. About the lead organisation:

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	1974
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO Yes Government No University No Other (explain)
How is your organisation currently funded?	(Max 100 words) The WILD Foundation is funded from a variety of sources including private donations, funds from foundations, other NGOs, and by government and quasi-governmental organizations
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?	Yes

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. They can include IWT Challenge Fund and Darwin Initiative projects

Contract/ Project 1 Title	Developing long-term stakeholder capacity for elephant conservation in Mali
Contract Value/ Project budget	
Duration	3 years, 2012-2015
Role of organisation in project	Project leader

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	Original objective: Communities manage human-elephant coexistence and elephants become an integral part of natural resource management (NRM) and support local livelihoods in the Gourma through the generation of long-term capacity at all levels of decision-making. Outcomes: Communities reported a reduction in incidences of human-elephant conflict; an intercommunal convention covering the whole of the elephant range entered law and protects elephant habitat; pastoralist communities implemented sustainable NRM that includes habitat protection and restoration; a participatory plan for agro-pastoral and agricultural communities was developed and used to raise money for implementation; projects working in the area included the consideration of elephants in their programmes; community eco-guardians mobilized to monitor elephants and poaching activity.
Client contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	UK Government's Darwin Initiative (DEFRA/DFID) Contact: Darwin-projects@ltsi.co.uk

Contract/ Project 2 Title	Community Security and Counter-Poaching Support in the Gourma area
Contract Value/ Project budget	
Duration	2016-2018
Role of organisation in project	Project leader
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	The aim was to contribute to the human security of the local communities in the vulnerable Gourma area by augmenting the operational capabilities of the Wildlife Rangers to counter poaching and armed group activity, which threatens the existence of Mali's elephant population and benefits organised crime networks. The project also supported ongoing community engagement and provided incentives for communities to counteract poaching through related conflict-sensitive programming
Client contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Contact: The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission to Mali (MINUSMA). David Lochhead

Contract/ Project 3 Title	Conservation of elephants in the Gourma region of Mali
Contract Value/ Project budget	
Duration	Contract renewed annually since 2010 with commitment of 5-10 years
Role of organisation in project	Project leader

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	Core support to the wider project to enable the mobilisation of additional funds, plus project activities. Initial support was for the implementation of the resource management plan developed at Lake Banzena (a key water source for elephants) and its extension across the elephant range, to protect elephant habitat, the migration route, ecosystem restoration and improved livelihoods.
Client contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	International Conservation Fund of Canada Contact: Anne Lambert

9. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the 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:	The WILD Foundation
Website address:	https://www.wild.org/mali-elephants/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	<p>The WILD Foundation began the project in 2002 and it has been leading it successfully ever since. It is responsible for the overall direction and co-ordination, financial accounting and management.</p> <p>At the heart of the global wilderness community for over 40 years, the WILD Foundation protects wilderness while meeting the needs of local communities, working across cultures and boundaries by collaborating with local peoples, organisations, the private sector, and governments to create dynamic practical projects and communications initiatives.</p> <p>The WILD Foundation has extensive experience at board and executive level to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide specific national and international policy formulation and political liaison. - Source and co-ordinate required and relevant technical assistance. - Effectively administer grants. - Implement communications and public relations strategies.

Partner Name:	The Mali Government: Ministry of the Environment, with its Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF) as the principle contact; plus other Ministries as appropriate but particularly the Ministries of Defence and Territorial Administration.
Website address:	http://primature.gov.ml/primature/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	(Max 200 words) The Minister of the Environment has asked the project to support DNEF in developing Mali's strategy for elephant protection and conservation. DNEF is the government agency responsible for nature conservation, and their authorisation is required to allow the project to operate. Since a change in Director in October 2016 there has been a dramatic advance in commitment and capacity to support the project. The project works closely with top levels of the Malian Army in planning the military support to anti-poaching that has become necessary due to the decrease in security since 2015, including the engagement of the Malian air-force in aerial surveillance. They will also assist with the engagement of other enforcement services (gendarmes, police, customs, judiciary).
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	Yes:

Partner Name:	Chengeta Wildlife
Website address:	http://chengetawildlife.org/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	(Max 200 words) Chengeta Wildlife provide the anti-poaching training to the government unit. They were chosen because their doctrine recognises the key role that communities play in fighting poaching; and the importance of the unit
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	Yes

Partner Name:	Local community groups
Website address:	

<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p>	<p>(Max 200 words)</p> <p>The project engages initially with the community leaders and any members of the community who wish to attend a “general assembly” to discuss issues and challenges for them and for the elephants; before moving on to potential solutions. These may last several days or take place over several different occasions.</p> <p>Community governance structures are elected to put resource management decisions into practice.</p> <p>Elephant protection is delivered through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community leaders establish the social norm that elephant poachers are thieves who steal from the community, something that carries great shame. • Community eco-guardians gather information on elephant locations, movements, behaviour, deaths and poaching incidents.
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</p>	<p>Yes, the signed minutes of a meeting with community leaders validating the project’s programme for the next 5 years, including this project</p>

<p>Partner Name:</p>	<p>British and American Embassies</p>
<p>Website address:</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-bamako</p>
<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p>	<p>(Max 200 words)</p> <p>The British and American Embassies have provided key advice and strategic support, facilitating with contacts related to the project’s work; and attending key meetings at the Ministry when appropriate to demonstrate the interest of the international community in Mali’s elephants. The project updates the British Embassy because of existing Darwin Initiative and IWT grants, and the use of British technicians; and the American Embassy due to a long-standing relationship stretching back to 2002. Additionally it is now working with British and American counter-trafficking initiatives to act the trafficking of ivory and wildlife parts.</p>

Have you included a Letter of Support from these organisations?	Yes
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Partner Name:	The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)
Website address:	http://minusma.unmissions.org/en
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	(Max 200 words) MINUSMA provide financial, logistical, technical and political assistance towards anti-poaching activities. It also provides a valuable co-ordination role between the project and bilateral partners.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	Yes:

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 or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV attached?
Dr Susan Canney	Project Leader	25%	Yes
Nomba Ganamé	Field Manager	25%	Yes
Dr Louis Phipps	Project Officer	25%	Yes
Idrissa Ganamé	Head of local office	25%	Yes
Laura Souleymane	In-country monitoring officer	25%	Yes
Rory Young (indirectly)	Anti-poaching Unit (APU) Training Specialist	100%	Yes

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 <i>Loxodonta africana</i>	2.
3.	4.

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)

The 350-400 elephants of the Gourma region are one of only two desert-adapted populations and the northernmost in Africa, making an annual migration to find food, water and refuge across an area of 32,000 km². This internationally important isolated population is classified as "vulnerable", listed on Appendix II of CITES, and protected by a regional MoU.

Meanwhile 85% of the 250,000 human inhabitants rely on subsistence livelihoods, but increasing human pressure has resulted in desertification, habitat loss and degradation, reduced environmental and social resilience, and impoverished livelihoods that exacerbate human-human conflicts and human-elephant conflict. There is, however, great local support for the MEP's model of elephant-centred community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), developed since 2009.

Before 2012 the killing of elephants was rare, but a government coup, armed rebellion and jihadist insurgency allowed weapons and lawlessness to proliferate, and trafficking networks to extend their influence across this vast, remote region. It is still highly insecure, and high levels of youth unemployment have provided fertile ground for banditry and jihadist recruitment. All of this exacerbates poaching both directly and indirectly.

Community protection contained poaching for 3 years but a decrease in security and sudden aggressive targeting of the elephant range by traffickers led to a severe escalation in 2015 when >20% of the population was killed. Since the deployment of Mali's first anti-poaching unit (APU) in February 2017 there has been zero poaching. Fundamental to this success has been the information on elephant locations and poaching incidents provided by the eco-guardians, the eyes and ears of elephant range, and the bedrock of CBNRM. This positive momentum must now be maintained through maintaining community engagement and improving the capacity of the APU to apprehend traffickers.

Poaching is a complex issue and boosting the effectiveness of eco-guardians provides a multi-dimensional tool to tackle this complexity.

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 Section 3, before answering this question.

(Max 750 words)

This initiative builds on the work led by the Mali Elephant Project (MEP) in elephant protection and “elephant-centred” CBNRM that delivers multiple local benefits and secures the support of the vast majority of the population for elephant conservation. This means that government enforcement is able to focus on the criminal elements. [A pre-CBNRM survey of 350 people across the elephant range in 2008 revealed that 22% of the population either didn’t know or would not mind if elephants disappeared. One might say that these people could be tempted to poach]

This dual approach builds on 3 years scientific studies to understand the elephant migration and chief threats (2003-6), followed by 2 years of community, government and donor engagement and outreach to understand the socio-ecological context in the Gourma (2007-9). These results informed the development of an [award-winning](#) model of mutually beneficial human-elephant co-existence based on community empowerment in sustainable CBNRM that proved popular and has been extended to other communities in the elephant range.

This provided a strong base from which to respond to the advent of elephant poaching with the 2012 conflict, insurgency and lawlessness through:

- Mobilising communities across the Gourma to protect elephants through elders establishing the social value that poachers were thieves, depriving local people of the benefits of elephant presence; supported by a vigilance network of local youth who detected poaching and discovered the identities of perpetrators. Elephant-centred CBNRM therefore unites the community under the umbrella of elephant conservation to deliver a range of tangible benefits, and reinforce community solidarity in the face of the lawlessness that enables poaching/trafficking.
- Creating Mali’s first government anti-poaching unit from scratch, trained to operate in this insecure zone, in a way that supports local people (known locally as the “kind army”) and has achieved a high-profile within MINUSMA (UN peace-keeping force) as a model of how to operate in zones of insurgency

The eco-guardian network is fundamental to the success of all these activities (see graphic in annexe) as it provides direct local engagement in an area that is difficult to penetrate and is the only way to know what is happening across this vast remote, insecure area.

This IWT proposal aims to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of this network through increased recognition of the role of eco-guardian and to “professionalise” its operations, so that it becomes a respected occupation for at-risk youth that they can aspire to, providing a much-needed and safer alternative to joining armed groups, together with the opportunity for progression and advancement.

Activities include:

- The project will focus on the 50 best-performing community eco-guardians, providing training and recognition payments for them to collect monitoring data, particularly on elephant movements, deaths and poaching incidents, but also related to CBNRM performance. The 15 day training in year 1 will also include communications networks, how to operate safely in an insecure zone, their role in CBNRM, and how to recruit and train others; and will be followed up by 3 days evaluation in years 2 and 3 plus continual monitoring and mentoring as appropriate
- Support in conducting alternative livelihood activities based on the experience of the Darwin Initiative project.
- The recognition and inclusion of eco-guardians in commune-level CBNRM agreements/conventions and closer monitoring of their activities to increase their commitment to their role as leaders of CBNRM and elephant monitoring, and also elevate their status at the local level. This will include providing certificates and badges to acknowledge achievement.
- Census of the whole elephant population in year 2 or 3 completed by communities and the APU/ASU. Training in elephant census will be given and simultaneously community eco-guardians will count elephants for one day as the ASU conducts an aerial census. This will occur at the end of the dry season when the elephants are concentrated around the very few water-holes still containing water. It is hoped that this will help the local community feel directly linked to maintaining elephant numbers and provide an innovative experiment in community-census.

The government has discussed the possibility of recruiting members of the local community as “adjunct” foresters. It is in no position to do this at the moment, but the eco-guardians of the Gourma could provide a model that encourages the government in this policy.

The work is an extension of the team’s existing activities, both in Mali and Oxford, and therefore has been programmed to fit with existing activities. A monitoring and evaluation officer has been recruited for Mali to ensure correct data collection and management for the multiple grants.

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? 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.

Demand reduction projects should clearly demonstrate their indirect links to poverty reduction, for example, by identifying impacts in the source countries for the products concerned.

(Max 750 words)

[Monitoring information and indicator # are contained in square brackets and in the log-frame]

Without the eco-guardians it would be impossible to monitor and fight poaching and contribute to anti-trafficking, and so their work is fundamental to the survival of this elephant population. Their presence therefore benefits the government and the people of Mali through the protection of a national heritage, and safe-guarding an important tourist attraction (as evidenced pre-conflict). The elephant range lies adjacent to the tourist attractions of Mopti, the inner delta, Timbuktu, the Bandiagara escarpment and Dogon country. [0.1. Poaching incident database]

As an internationally important elephant population their presence also benefits the international community. Not only is the elephant population accorded international importance by IUCN, and therefore an international heritage; but the eco-guardian presence also provides local information that helps guide international support to Mali.

The people of the elephant range will also benefit. Due to the large spatial scale and high number of internally displaced persons in Mali it is difficult to accurately quantify the number of people who will benefit both directly and indirectly from the project, however the direct beneficiaries will be the 50 best eco-guardians and their families [1.3. numbers to be determined at project start through household surveys]. They are located in 43 settlements/campements which are also areas of high elephant use, and are home to 28,274 people from 5,160 households, who will also benefit [0.6. + 1.3. Perception and livelihood surveys, and CBNRM indicators (0.2)].

From census data it is estimated that 237,552 people (49% women) from >44,541 households live in communities/campements within 16 communes along the migration route. 85% of people lead subsistence livelihoods and more than 50% live on less than \$1.50 per day, and although the population density is low (<8 people/km²) high levels of competition for scarce resources drive human-human and human-elephant conflict.

Raising the profile of the eco-guardians will be important in helping other communities to implement CBNRM systems and ultimately throughout the elephant range. The local people and environment benefit in the following ways:

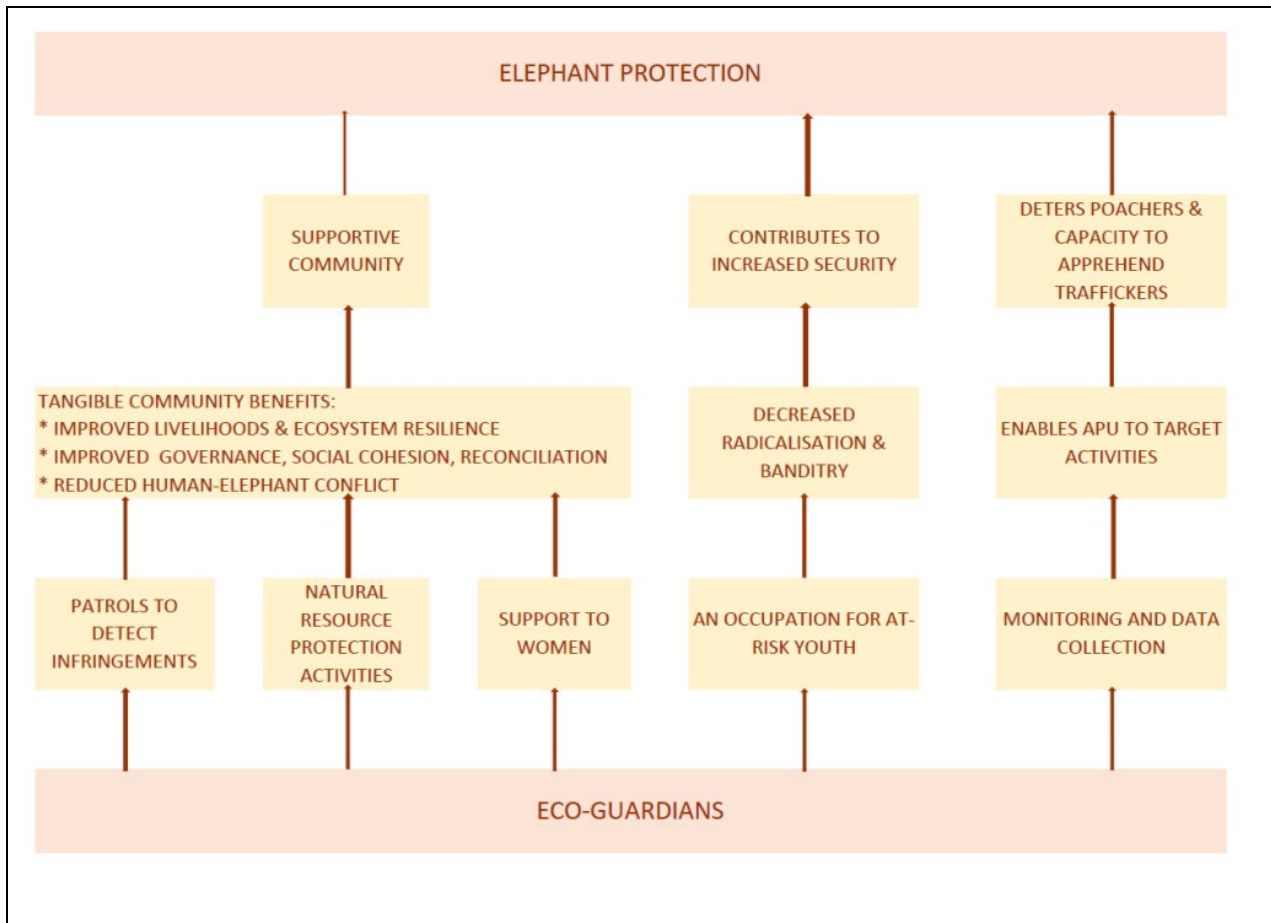
- The recruitment of the youth by extremist groups is countered by providing respected occupations that carry local status, are less risky and enable them to stay within their communities; while the reduction of recruits for armed groups reduces radicalisation, banditry and contributes to increased security. They also act as role models for younger members and engage others in their communities. [0.2. Eco-guardian performance database]
- Eco-guardians provide the crucial role in CBNRM through (a) ensuring that infringements of community NRM rules are detected and (b) conducting NRM protection activities (c) supporting the women in livelihood initiatives that support CBNRM. Livelihood improvements include:
 - The increased availability of natural resources resulting in increased income (e.g. in 2015 one community of 75 households earned \$24,000 from sustainable pasture management, plus healthier, more valuable animals).

- Empowerment to manage resource use at sustainable levels using methods that are familiar and part of local culture. This prevents the degradation of natural resources and biodiversity which undermines ecosystem resilience to cope with the variable climate; and social resilience by increasing competition for increasingly scarce resources.
- Improving local community governance, food and energy security.
- Promotion of social cohesion and reconciliation
- Reduction in human-elephant conflict.

Elephants provide the unifying factor on which to attach the reinforcement of community solidarity, reconciliation, social cohesion and CBNRM by providing a common ethic that applies to all and harnesses many types of value, not just monetary.

The formalisation of the eco-guardian role will provide depth and impact to the project's new commune-level method of delivering CBNRM by using the 50 best performing to provide a clear, readily understandable profile for eco-guardians (and others) more generally to aspire to, improving motivation and performance. The commune approach allows the model to be implemented simultaneously across the elephant range while the project field team provide oversight, support, training and monitoring, instead of actual implementation. This increases the sustainability, reduces the need of the project team to travel and facilitates the collection of monitoring data. This will begin with communities with high social cohesion (selected by the commune) as these provide a rapid demonstration of the benefits of collective management. It is hoped that this will entice communities with less social cohesion to follow suit, however this will be monitored closely to see if it is the case [0.6. Community perception surveys].

These benefits are summarized in the graphic below:



15. Gender

(See Guidance Note 4.6)

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will 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)

Natural resource management committees of elders tend to be male-dominated, although women have demonstrated their support in the past by attending meetings when they deemed encouragement was necessary.

Strengthening the role of the eco-guardians aims to attract additional recruits to catalyse the spread of resource management across the elephant range. Supporting the youth in this way also supports the women's associations in their alternative livelihood initiatives. The eco-guardians protect the resource-base for these initiatives (piloted through a Darwin Initiative project) and prevent over-use in sustainable harvest zones. They also perform any manual labour required such as the erection of fencing, digging pits and demi-lunes, planting seedlings and building fire-breaks.

Supporting women and youth in this way provides strong support, influence, income and additional incentives to the traditionally male natural resource management structures; promotes social cohesion and equity through engaging all parts of the community in a common enterprise that all benefit from; and achieves multiple goals that include improving many aspects of security.

Providing a respected occupation to prevent youth from joining armed groups promotes stability and contributes to physical security which particularly benefits women and children, as they are the most vulnerable in zones of conflict and lawlessness. Providing information about the location of elephants and of poaching incidents facilitates the operation of the APU/ASU (aerial surveillance unit) which also contributes to security, as does the demonstration of an enforcement agency actively helping local people with medical provision.

The project also improves physical security by supporting community solidarity, promoting community governance, reconciliation and social cohesion through CBNRM.

The model developed over several years provides roles to all parts of the community to maximize effectiveness and sustainability through mutual synergy, with transparent systems to ensure all benefit.

Perception and household surveys will collect gender disaggregated data.

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)

The eco-guardians are core to being able to protect the elephants of the Gourma through the monitoring and information they provide on elephant locations, deaths, poaching incidents and the state of natural resources. Without them, this unique and internationally important population of elephants would be well on the way to extirpation, if not already gone. This is due to the ongoing conflict, lawlessness and insecurity which prevents government from returning; emboldens poachers, traffickers and other criminals; and greatly reduces the ability to operate in the area. Without them there is no way to effectively counter poaching.

They are also fundamental to the “elephant-centred CBNRM” that provides multiple tangible benefits to local people, thereby securing local support for elephant conservation, as described previously and shown in the graphic in annexe.

Before 2015 their actions contained poaching for three years. In 2015 6.92 ± 6.48 elephants were poached per month, with 83 killed in total (25% of the population), and a PIKE of 72.17% demonstrating a poaching-driven population decline.

In 2016, 4.25 ± 5.93 elephants were poached per month (51 in total), but since the deployment of the APU in February 2017 no elephants have been killed by poachers, however their actions rely on eco-guardian information.

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)

The project will accompany communities in establishing CBNRM systems until the benefits are evident and the practices become habitual. This initiative will hasten this point by boosting the quality and performance of the eco-guardians.

Evidence from individual communities suggests that without the conflict, progress could have been rapid with many more examples of self-sustaining systems across the elephant range, however the enormous upheaval of the conflict and insecurity has impeded this process and the resources required to establish a government APU have reduced those available for CBNRM.

The project has compensated by supporting eco-guardians with incentive payments until sufficient funding became available for a sustained CBNRM campaign across the elephant range.

EU and GEF funding from 2018 for 6 years (with potential follow-up funding), will help deliver this providing the **breadth** to test the hypothesis that these systems can become self-sustaining.

Raising the profile and professionalising the eco-guardians will provide a catalyst that provides the **depth** by enhancing their performance, raising their commitment through public recognition at commune level and supporting them in being proactive in their resource management activities.

The eco-guardians will also provide a strong model to encourage the government to create “community adjunct foresters” in the future.

Funding and budget

Please complete the separate [Excel spreadsheet](#) 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 Guidance](#) for more information.

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

18. Funding

18a) 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 in that it is focusing on raising the profile of “ecoguardian” to ensure the performance and sustainability of the role. Eco-guardians have, however, been at the heart of the project’s work from the beginning, with annual grants from ICFC and USFWS pre-conflict, and a £ grant from the Darwin Initiative at the onset of conflict in March 2013. Poaching began and the project built on the existing CBNRM project to mount a community elephant protection response whereby community leaders established the social sanction that poachers were thieves and eco-guardians reported elephant poaching and discovered the perpetrators. This contained the poaching for 3 years but an armed enforcement response was needed to act on information. In 2014 the project obtained \$ from Buffet/ANPN and \$ from the UK-Gov IWT for equipment and training. To meet the 2015 escalation in elephant poaching additional funds were raised for APU in-operations training, running costs, danger money and aerial surveillance have come from MINUSMA (\$); ECF (\$), USFWS (\$), MIKE (\$), AEF (\$). Meanwhile a 2016 Darwin Initiative grant for £ supports alternative livelihoods for women, and funds for CBNRM have come from MINUSMA (\$), UNICRI (\$) and USFS (\$).

18b) Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No – There are currently no other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work in Mali.

18c) Are you applying for funding relating to the proposed project from other sources?

No – the project hasn't made any other applications for this eco-guardian initiative, having been completely occupied in securing the EU and GEF grants that cover a new "commune-based" approach, piloted in 2017, that will enable a methodical establishment of CBNRM systems simultaneously across the elephant range, as well as ensure the anti-poaching unit has adequate funds for running costs into the future.

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 "[Finance for Darwin & IWT Challenge Fund](#)" and Guidance Note 3.3 and 8.1)

Confirmed:				
Organisation	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
International Conservation Fund of Canada				
MINUSMA				

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) None

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

(Max 150 words)

20. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

(Max 200 words)

Financial - Preventing misuse of funds is one of the major preoccupations in project design and implementation.

Several practices are in place to mitigate fraud risk: there are multiple signatories on the bank account; supporting material is collected and retained, checked and audited. The project's office in Mali recently (November 2017) underwent a Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (*HACT*) micro-assessment as part of its selection process as an implementing partner of the forthcoming Global Environment Facility/UNDP/MEADD/WILD project which covered financial procedures and management in detail. This was performed by a third party service provider which registered an overall weak risk.

The funds for this project will be monitored directly by the project accountant based on a well-established approach where individuals have to sign for participation expenses based on standard amounts. This is similarly the case for eco-guardian incentive payments.

Security – The eco-guardian informants provide information on the security situation to enable the field team to plan their operations accordingly. The commune-based approach will reduce the risk to the field team plus enhance the sustainability through embedding procedures within the Mayor's office, with the team providing oversight. The bank account has been moved to Douentza to avoid travelling with cash amounts.

21. 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)

None

22. 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)

This initiative builds on local structures and trust developed over the past 15 years of continual engagement with elephant-range communities, multi-level government partners and enforcement agencies and international development and peacekeeping agencies. Over this time an integrated and synergistic model has been developed whereby project actions are mutually supportive and deliver multiple social and environmental benefits. The effectiveness of this approach has recently been recognised through a [UNEP Equator Initiative Prize](#). The project is therefore uniquely placed to deliver the planned outcomes and outputs for good value for money despite the increased costs required to function in an insecure zone.

The role of eco-guardians is tried and tested and the planned capacity building and status elevation can be readily transferred and shared with other eco-guardians across the wider landscape, providing vital support to the new commune-wide approach to CBNRM targeted to impact the whole of the elephant range in a short amount of time. The initiative also provides the foundation to test and develop an innovative approach to elephant census that engages local people in experiencing the impact of their work on the elephant population.

Strengthening the role and status of the eco-guardians will improve the ability of the APU to effectively target its activities and enhance its intelligence-driven approach, which is a game-changer when trying to operate in this vast zone. Elephant monitoring and protection therefore provide unifying factors on which to attach the reinforcement of community solidarity, reconciliation, social cohesion and mutually beneficial CBNRM, extending beyond monetary value.

23. Ethics and human rights

(See Guidance Notes 5.4 and 6.1)

Outline your approach to meeting the IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance notes. Additionally, if there are any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

(Max 250 words)

The project's approach in engaging with local communities is always to listen first, to understand local problems and preoccupations, always valuing local knowledge, and developing solutions built on it and in conjunction with our local partners; but at the same time insisting on local contributions and responsibility.

The project team inform themselves as to the state of the security situation throughout the elephant range and plan activities accordingly, while western members of the project team do not visit the elephant range, and instead maintain daily communication with the team by phone and frequent visits to meet the team in Bamako.

Eco-guardians are unarmed but given training in how to operate safely, avoid apprehension and what to do if apprehended by bandits or other criminals.

Principles of Prior Informed Consent are adopted for all project activities.

The rangers receive a 2 day human rights training course from MINUSMA, and are trained in how to work with and protect local communities both by the project and while in-operations training.

The anti-poaching doctrine taught by Chengeta is much safer for rangers than more usual models as it teaches techniques to avoid detection and the forester-rangers will benefit from military protection.

The project has always worked with DNEF and other government bodies as partners, supporting committed individuals, including them in project achievements to help their rise to top leadership positions. The project's aim is for structures to be in place for government to be able to manage anti-poaching activity as soon as possible.

24. Outputs of the project and Open Access

(See Guidance Note 5.5)

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

(Max 250 words)

The project will produce the outputs listed below. Outputs listed as “*Sensitive*” may contain sensitive information that will only be available to verified individuals upon request to protect identities or tactics. Executive summaries and highlights of sensitive project activities, outputs and databases will be published in regular project updates on the [MEP blog](#) and articles in the popular media. Blog updates will include summaries of anti-poaching training and operations, trends in elephant poaching, progress and impacts of CBNRM initiatives and any other project updates. No funds specifically for open access costs are requested from the IWT Challenge Fund because the MEP blog and social media will be managed by MEP and WILD staff and research publication fees will be covered from elsewhere.

- Research articles submitted to open access peer-reviewed journals:
 - Impacts of CBNRM initiatives on natural resource availability and poverty alleviation.
 - Effectiveness of community-based, multi-agency anti-poaching measures in a conflict zone.
- Central databases for project activities:
 - Eco-guardian performance database. *Potentially sensitive*.
 - Elephant movements and mortalities. *Potentially sensitive*.
 - CBNRM participation and impacts databases.
 - APU operations. *Sensitive*.
- Census training outputs:
 - Manual for community elephant census.
 - APU elephant census manual.

Project monitoring and evaluation

25. 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 Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

Annex B and Annex C in the Guidance provides helpful advice on completing a logical framework

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: (Max 30 words) In Mali elephant poaching and ivory trafficking are eliminated through improved information management and co-ordination of local, national and regional actors.			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) Community eco-guardians and enforcement agencies monitor and protect elephants across their range, preventing poaching, providing respected occupations, and improving multi-dimensional security.	<p>0.1. Monthly elephant poaching rate is reduced to <1 / month by end of year 1; 0.5 / month by end of year 2; and 0.25 / month by end of year 3. Baseline: 3 / month, Jul 2016 – Jun 2017).</p> <p>0.2. # of eco-guardians actively and regularly monitoring elephants in key areas throughout the elephant range reaches 50 by end of year 1 and is maintained or increases through the project period (baseline: 11 eco-guardians from 6/8 core communes regularly reporting elephant movements in 2016-17).</p> <p>0.3. # of days/month proactive and reactive APU missions completed based on community-derived information. Target: ≥15 days/month by end of Q2 in year 1, maintained throughout project period. Base-line: 6 days/month in 2016-</p>	<p>0.1. Database of elephant mortalities; monthly summaries and maps of poaching incidents following Monitoring of Illegally Killed Elephants (MIKE) guidelines (compiled by APU and MEP field team, verified and updated by MEP monitoring officer).</p> <p>0.2. Eco-guardian database of measures of activity and effectiveness, monitored by MEP field team (e.g. lengths of firebreaks created to protect pasture; number of days training attended; number of elephant reports submitted).</p> <p>0.3. Monthly APU mission reports; Cybertracker mission reports, remotely uploaded to secure online server.</p>	<p>The security situation does not deteriorate and the project and its partners continue to be able to operate (Note: the MEP is the only NPO to have continued to operate throughout the conflict).</p> <p>The Malian government (and other partners) remains committed to developing an effective elephant protection strategy and enforcing its laws on poaching (Note: the MEP has developed good relationships with government personnel at all levels, and is in regular correspondence with the parliamentary working group for conserving wildlife and natural resources. Other partners such as MINUSMA are committed to providing continued support).</p> <p>Improved monitoring and law</p>

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	<p>17.</p> <p>0.4. Census of total elephant population to be completed Mar-June, year 2-3. Base-line: zero (last aerial census completed in June 2015).</p> <p>0.5. Number of elephant range communes monitored in synergy by community eco-guardians + APU. Baseline = zero. Target = 6/8 core communes across range by end of year 2, 8/8 by end of project.</p> <p>0.6. Elephant range communities perceive that the community-APU system enhances multi-dimensional security by end of project (indicated by positive changes detected from mixed methods perception surveys).</p>	<p>0.4. Report from elephant population census, compiled by MEP staff, community representatives and DNEF personnel.</p> <p>0.5. Biannual reports on APU and community monitoring activities for each commune, depending on elephant presence.</p> <p>0.6. Before (year 1) and after (year 3) perception surveys with >100 households sampled from five key areas of the elephant range.</p>	<p>enforcement results in a reduction in the poaching rate.</p> <p>Increased government presence improves security.</p> <p>The Gourma communities remain committed to CBNRM and elephant protection initiatives (Note: community support for the project remains strong and continues to extend to additional communities due to the delivery of tangible benefits).</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. The capacity and motivation for eco-guardians to lead and promote elephant conservation activities is increased through training and the formalisation of their occupations, enabling them to work in synergy with the APU.</p>	<p>1.1. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians selected from across the elephant range receive advanced training in monitoring elephant movements and key habitats, (15 days of workshops), with follow-up refresher training in year 2 and 3 (five 1-day workshops/year).</p> <p>1.2. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians from across the elephant range receive monthly incentive payments following their selection in year 1 and continuing throughout the project.</p> <p>1.3. Household income for the 50 best-performing eco-guardians increases by 20% in year 1 and is maintained</p>	<p>1.1. Eco-guardian registers; training registers; photographs; workshop reports.</p> <p>1.2. Eco-guardian registers and incentive payment receipts signed/marked by eco-guardians.</p> <p>1.3. Annual household surveys for the 50 eco-guardians.</p>	<p>The security situation does not deteriorate to a level that prevents the eco-guardians from operating (Note: the young men prefer this occupation to joining armed groups as it is less risky and earns respect).</p> <p>The Gourma communities remain committed to CBNRM and elephant protection initiatives.</p>

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	<p>at/above the same level for year 2 and 3 (baseline income to be determined in year 1).</p> <p>1.4. The role of community eco-guardians as leaders of CBNRM and elephant monitoring activities is formally recognised in commune-wide CBNRM agreements. Target: Formal recognition of the role in 6/8 core communes by end of year 2, 8/8 by end of project.</p>	<p>1.4. Commune-wide CBNRM agreements, signed by elected community leaders and representatives.</p>	
<p>2. The anti-poaching unit (APU) conducts effective proactive and reactive operations based on eco-guardian monitoring reports.</p>	<p>2.1. # of community reports of elephant presence/absence increases from 15 / month across the elephant range (baseline for 2016-17) to 20 / month by year 2 and 30 / month by end of project.</p> <p>2.2. # of days/month on which proactive missions are conducted by the APU. Target: 15 days/month from year 1 and maintained throughout project. Baseline: 6 days/month, 2017-18.</p> <p>2.3. % of eco-guardian reports of poaching activity responded to by APU (i.e. reactive missions). Target: 100% response rate by end of year 1, maintained throughout project duration. Baseline 2016-17: 15%.</p> <p>2.4. Proportion of elephant range monitored/protected effectively by the APU across the year (depending on elephant movements). Target = 8 core communes monitored and protected from year 1 to project end.</p>	<p>2.1. MEP community reporting database, updated monthly; Cybertracker reports when security permits.</p> <p>2.2. Quarterly reports from analysis of Cybertracker anti-poaching mission data (uploaded remotely to secure server accessed by MEP staff).</p> <p>2.3. Triangulation of MEP community reporting database & Cybertracker reports from APU missions.</p> <p>2.4. Quarterly reports from analysis of Cybertracker anti-poaching mission data (uploaded remotely to secure server accessed by MEP staff).</p>	<p>Community eco-guardians continue to provide information to the APU, the project and its partners.</p>
<p>3. A census of the total elephant population is conducted by aerial surveillance and local communities</p>	<p>3.1. Strategic plan and methodology document for the elephant census completed and accepted by all partners</p>	<p>3.1. Published document and agreement signed by all partners: MEP, DNEF, community representatives.</p>	<p>Weather and security conditions do not hamper aerial surveillance activity.</p>

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<p>counting simultaneously.</p>	<p>by end of year 1.</p> <p>3.2. # of days of elephant census training completed by community eco-guardians. Target: 3 days for 132 participants in Q3-4 of year 2. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.3. # of days of ground census surveys completed. Target: 10 consecutive days of ground surveys completed, Q4 of year 2 – Q1 of year 3. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.4. # of days and flight hours of aerial surveys completed. Target: 5 consecutive days of aerial surveys completed, Q4 of year 2 – Q1 of year 3. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.5. Census data analysed and report completed by end of Q2 in year 3. Baseline: last aerial census completed June 2015. No community censuses have ever been conducted.</p>	<p>3.2. Training attendance registers; reports; photos; certificates; aviation log book copies.</p> <p>3.3. Field data sheets; maps; photos and census report.</p> <p>3.4. Aviation log book copies; field data sheets; maps; photos and census report.</p> <p>3.5. Report from elephant population census, compiled by MEP staff, with input from participants and external consultants.</p>	<p>Community eco-guardians are able and willing to lead the ground surveys and the community participants follow the methodology.</p>
<p>4. Training materials are produced and distributed to community eco-guardians and APU personnel; and project progress and lessons learned are disseminated to the wider national and international community.</p>	<p>4.1. Field manual written and distributed for community eco-guardian monitoring by end of Q3 in year 1.</p> <p>4.2. Field manual for APU elephant monitoring, including working effectively with communities, drafted by end of Q3 in year 1 and updated annually as necessary.</p> <p>4.3. Elephant census report completed and distributed to partners and stakeholders by end of Q3 in year 3.</p> <p>4.4. Article(s) on community-based</p>	<p>4.1. & 4.2. Copies of field manuals; photos of manual in use by eco-guardians & APU.</p> <p>4.3. Copy of census report and emails distributing report to partners/stakeholders.</p> <p>4.4. Article submission receipt(s).</p>	<p>Materials are prepared and disseminated according to the work-plan.</p>

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	<p>elephant monitoring and protection submitted to peer-reviewed journal by end of project.</p> <p>4.5. Quarterly newsletter and blog updates (via the MEP website and other internationally distributed blogs e.g. National Geographic) to reach the wider international community.</p> <p>4.6. Two conference / symposium presentations per year.</p>	<p>4.5. Web-links to newsletters / blogs.</p> <p>4.6. Presentations/talks & conference agendas (proceedings when available).</p>	
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1. Training workshops for community eco-guardians (five 2-day workshops in year 1; five 1-day workshops in years 2-3).</p> <p>1.2. Incentive payments are made on a monthly basis to the 50 best-performing eco-guardians in return for CBNRM and elephant protection activities.</p> <p>1.3. Monitoring of eco-guardian activities by community leaders and MEP field team.</p> <p>1.4. Annual household surveys with the 50 eco-guardians that receive training and incentive payments.</p> <p>1.5. Activities related to the launch of the process of formal recognition of the eco-guardian role</p> <p>2.1. Community reports on elephant movements and poaching activity are collected, processed and forwarded to the APU.</p> <p>2.2. APU conduct proactive missions for >15 days/month across all 8 core communes of the elephant range.</p> <p>2.3. APU responds to community reports on poaching related activity (reactive missions) across all 8 core communes of the elephant range.</p> <p>2.4. APU mission reports created, analysed and synthesised into quarterly reports.</p> <p>3.1. Elephant census strategic plan and methods completed and accepted by project partners and census participants.</p> <p>3.2. Elephant census training provided to community eco-guardians, APU personnel and other participants (3 days for 132 participants).</p> <p>3.3. Ground census completed by communities, APU and other participants during 10 consecutive days.</p> <p>3.4. Aerial census completed by aerial surveillance unit during 5 consecutive days.</p> <p>3.5. Census data collated and analysed and report completed and distributed to all partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>4.1. Field manual for community eco-guardians written and distributed.</p> <p>4.2. Field manual on elephant monitoring for APU written and distributed.</p> <p>4.3. Elephant census report written and distributed.</p> <p>4.4. Article(s) on community-based elephant monitoring and protection written and submitted to peer-reviewed journal.</p>			

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4.5. Blogs written and published online.

4.6. Conference / symposium presentations delivered.

26. 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 (starting from Q2 July 2018). Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1. Increased capacity and professionalization of best-performing eco-guardians												
1.1. Training workshops for community eco-guardians	20 days											
1.2. Monthly incentive payments for 50 eco-guardians	33											
1.3. Monitoring of eco-guardian activities by community leaders and MEP team	33											
1.4. Annual household surveys with 50 selected eco-guardians	6											
1.5. Community eco-guardian role formally recognised in commune-level NRM agreements												
Output 2. APU conducts effective operations in synergy with local communities												
2.1. Community reports on elephant movements received by APU.	33											
2.2. APU conducts proactive missions across 8 core communes.	33											
2.3. APU responds to community reports on poaching across 8 core communes	33											
2.4. APU mission reports created, analysed and synthesised quarterly	33											
Output 3. Ground and aerial census of total elephant population completed												
3.1. Strategic plan and methods document completed and accepted	3											
3.2. Elephant census training for community participants and APU	5 days											
3.3. 10 consecutive days of ground census completed by communities	10 days											
3.4. 5 consecutive days of aerial census surveys completed	5 days											
3.5. Census data collated, analysed and report completed and distributed	6											
Output 4. Training material and other outputs completed and disseminated.												
4.1. Field manual for eco-guardians – first draft	3-6											
4.2. Field manual on elephant monitoring for APU validated, distributed, updated	3-6											
4.3. Elephant census report written and distributed.	6											

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4.4.	Article(s) on community elephant monitoring and protection submitted	12												
4.5.	Blogs written and published online	Quarterly												
4.6.	Conference / symposium presentations delivered	2 / year											18b	

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

(Max 500 words)

This aspect of the project adds new elements to the existing M&E strategy which is now focussed on overseeing the scaling up of the CBNRM model from a local level to the whole commune level. Systems to monitor progress towards achieving the project's intended outcomes and outputs have been integrated into the planned activities using a results chain framework as described below and as shown in the log-frame. The new elements include intensive performance monitoring of the 50 selected eco-guardians, aimed at maximising their level of engagement and the effectiveness of their monitoring and NRM activities in key locations (0.2, 0.5, 0.6, 1.1-1.4, 2.1). This increased community monitoring capacity will enable the APU to conduct effective operations across the elephant range, with their own activity monitored through triangulation of community reports and a Cybertracker remote monitoring system (0.3, 0.5, 2.2-2.4). The capacity of the APU to monitor the elephants and their movements will also be improved through additional training for the elephant census which will provide important information on population demographics (0.4, 3.1-3.5, 4.3). The M&E training and implementation capacity of the project, the communities, the APU and other partners will be enhanced through the publication and distribution of field manuals for elephant monitoring, specifically tailored to the ability and needs of the target users (0.1, 4.1-4.6).

The MEP has a well-established system of monitoring project progress which involves regular (several times per day) communication between the field manager and project director, enabling rapid adaptation of planned activities depending on the situation on the ground. This is essential given the dynamic security situation in central Mali and the effectiveness is demonstrated by the ability of the field team to continue operating despite the challenging conditions in recent years. On a monthly basis the field manager, field M&E officer and field assistants compile information received from community members and recorded during field monitoring activities (e.g. elephant locations (0.2, 2.1); poaching activity (0.1); CBNRM activities and agreements (1.4); household and perception surveys (0.6, 1.3); training / workshop outputs (1.1, 1.4)) into monthly reports which are forwarded to the project director and UK project assistant with a list of corresponding expenses and receipts. Data are entered into primary databases by the field team before being sent with the monthly reports to the UK project assistant for validation and entry into master databases. The UK project assistant sends monthly reports to the project director which summarise the current

status of project activities and expenses for review.	
The field M&E officer will maintain an eco-guardian performance database (0.2) using locally verified data (e.g. number of reports of elephant presence; number of active days; CBNRM outputs such as lengths of fire-breaks; number of training days attended etc.) and will report back to the field manager and UK project assistant.	
Monitoring data (including APU Cybertracker data downloaded from a secure online database and census data) will be analysed by the UK project assistant and project director for publication in reports and research articles where appropriate (all indicators).	
Total project budget for M&E (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	Approximately £
Number of days planned for M&E	Regular monitoring: 152 person days/year (MEP monitoring officer = 96 days/year; field team = 48 days/year;)
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	

FCO notifications

Please put an X in 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 WILD Foundation

I apply for a grant of £335,055 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 last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual

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report are also enclosed.

Name (block capitals)	SUSAN CANNEY
Position in the organisation	DIRECTOR OF THE MALI ELEPHANT PROJECT

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 , including the “Guidance Notes for Applicants” and “Finance for Darwin and IWT Challenge Fund”?	X
Have you read, and can you meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	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 2359 GMT on Tuesday 20 February 2018 to IWT-Fund@LTSL.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 (e.g. 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 - Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete your application, the grant acceptance and the supplier forms.

Defra will use your personal data primarily for the purpose of processing your application for Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund funding. By submitting an application, applicants have agreed to any disclosure of the information supplied (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which Defra considers necessary for the administration,

evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Funds (as detailed in the paragraphs below).

A completed application form signifies agreement to place certain details of successful applications (i.e. name, title, total grant value, project summary, lead organisation and location of project work) on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund website listed below. A completed application form also signifies agreement to send data on the project proposals during the application process to British Embassies and High Commissions outside the UK, including those outside the European Economic Area.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/illegal-wildlife-trade-iwt-challenge-fund>

Application form data will also be processed by Defra contractors dealing with Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund administration, monitoring and evaluation (working within relevant data protection rules).

Defra may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or 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. The Grantee shall assist and co-operate with the Department (at the Grantee's expense) to enable the Department to comply with its disclosure obligations under these enactments.

We may use information, including personal data, to test computer systems to ensure that they work effectively and efficiently and to develop new systems in order to improve efficiency and the service that we provide to you and other persons. Any use of information for testing or developing computerised systems will be conducted in a secure manner in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to safeguard the privacy of the information that you have supplied.

Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, is on the Defra section of Gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, please telephone the Defra helpline 08459 33 55 77 and ask to speak to the Data Protection Officer for a copy of the Information Charter.



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