
IWTR9S2\1028

Strengthening measures to combat IWT in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.

This ZSL-led project in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape combines 1) work to build the capacity of law enforcement and the judiciary with 2) innovative methods to test the legality of meat found during IWT operations, thus facilitating legal trade, 3) new regional techniques to recover trace evidence from animals / animal parts to improve case outcomes, and 4) support to local communities affected by IWT and the regional security crisis, which will help build support for combatting IWT.

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Section 1 - Contact Details

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Section 2 - Objectives, Species & Summary

Q3. Title:

Strengthening measures to combat IWT in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTR9S1\1001

IWTR9S1\1055

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

Please tick all that apply. Note that projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

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

Q5. Species project is focusing on

Where there are more than four species that will benefit from the project's work, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

African Savanna Elephant – *Loxodonta africana*
(Endangered)

West African Lion – *Panthera leo* (W African subpopulation is Critically Endangered)

Northwest African Cheetah – *Acinonyx jubatus*
(NW African subpopulation is Critically Endangered)

Leopard – *Panthera pardus* (Vulnerable)

Do you require more fields?

No

Q6. Summary

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 the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This ZSL-led project in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape combines 1) work to build the capacity of law enforcement and the judiciary with 2) innovative methods to test the legality of meat found during IWT operations, thus facilitating legal trade, 3) new regional techniques to recover trace evidence from animals / animal parts to improve case outcomes, and 4) support to local communities affected by IWT and the regional security crisis, which will help build support for combatting IWT.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than four countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1 Benin

Country 2 Niger

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2023

End date:

31 March 2026

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

3 years

Q9. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£205,681.00	£225,664.00	£168,080.00	£599,425.00

Q10. Proportion of IWT Challenge Fund budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %



Q11a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

ZSL will provide matched funding, contributing to both staff time and overheads for the ZSL Cotonou and Kandi offices. King's College London will contribute to the costs of training material and equipment. Dr Barbara Daniels (KCL) and Dr Tracy Alexander, Director of the Forensic Science Service of the City of London Police – will work on the project on a pro bono basis. The Cheetah Conservation Initiative (CCI) will contribute to the costs of community engagement and Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

Q11b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) ██████████

Q11c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A

Section 4 - Problem statement & Gap in existing approaches

Q12. Project stage

With reference to the application guidance, please select the relevant project stage.

Main

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of illegal wildlife trade and its relationship with poverty. 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 reduce poverty.

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document).

The W Transboundary Biosphere reserve (WTBR) is the largest cross-border protected area in West Africa, covering an area of more than one million hectares, and is shared between Benin (577,000ha), Burkina Faso (250,000ha) and Niger (220,000ha). It is a key element of the WAP landscape and recognised as one of the last wild areas in West Africa of international importance. WTBR is the last stronghold of the critically endangered West African lion and the Northwest African cheetah and is home to the largest population of West African elephants.

Threats to the biodiversity of the area include agricultural encroachment, transhumance in the parks, illegal hunting, climate change, unsustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and overexploitation of fishery resources. Poaching levels are high, particularly of elephants and big cats. CITES MIKE highlighted Pendjari as a site of global concern. Benin is the main hub for WAP-related trafficking, and ZSL market surveys from 2017, 2019 and 2021 found big cat, pangolin and elephant products openly on sale, with clear links identified to international organised crime groups.

At the level of the judicial system of the WAP countries, there are weaknesses in the identification of offenses, in the resulting investigations and in the subsequent prosecution of the perpetrators. Several reasons can be identified:

- the limited knowledge of magistrates and prosecutors concerning the legal texts applicable to wildlife including national and international wildlife laws;
- the judiciary's limited interest in issues related to wildlife crime and a poor perception of the value of natural heritage resulting in limited motivation to prosecute wildlife crimes.
- the lack of human capacity and technical knowledge to carry out the in-depth investigations needed to produce irrefutable evidence of wildlife crimes and produce high-quality judicial files for prosecutions. It is therefore essential to ensure the strengthening of the capacities of magistrates and prosecutors to use forensic evidence, but also to ensure good collaboration between the judicial systems and law

enforcement agents to be able to effectively combat wildlife crime. This includes building the capacity of law enforcement agents to professionally conduct crime scene investigation as first responders and crime scene investigators.

In addition, IWT and insecurity in the protected areas, compounded by limited and poorly resourced law enforcement capacity, are direct threats to tourism related livelihoods. Over three hundred families depend on employment from lodges providing tourist services, with many more families indirectly supported by the sector. As poaching and insurgent activity increased, tourist numbers continued to fall dropping by 40% to fewer than 5,000 in 2015. Local communities' wellbeing has been largely neglected by Government and donors, driving their engagement in unsustainable resource use including IWT as well as disincentivising their engagement in combatting IWT, which is critical to the long-term future of the landscape and its biodiversity. It is necessary therefore to improve wellbeing through promoting sustainable, diversified livelihoods as well as ensuring operations to counter IWT do not unjustifiably target local people going about their legal business, including trading in domestic meat and other products.

Q14. Gap in existing approaches

What gap does your project fill in existing approaches? Evidence projects should describe how the improved evidence base will be used to design an intervention and the gap the intervention will fill. Extra projects should also provide evidence of the intervention's success at a smaller scale.

The project fills capacity gaps within law enforcement in the region, taking steps necessary to improve crime scene investigation for first responders and investigative scene managers, using internationally approved training materials. A specific problem the project addresses is the difficulty of distinguishing legally traded meat from illegal wild meat, which often results in legal meat spoiling during the investigation period, understandably angering local traders. Project partner King's College London will develop a presumptive exclusion test that will allow such identification, using a lateral flow-type test, made possible from advances during covid. Unique in its cost-effective delivery method and in its scientific application, and easily scalable for multiple meat products, the test will have global applications far wider than this project. In addition, the establishment of a forum for enforcement and judiciary to meet and to ensure forensic advances are understood fully with an opportunity to learn lessons from past case weaknesses will promote continuous learning and thus help fill capacity gaps in the judicial process. The project will also help address the need to diversify and improve local peoples' livelihoods, building local support for efforts to counter IWT and reducing peoples' need to rely on unsustainable natural resource use.

Section 5 - Objectives & Commitments

Q15. Which national and international objectives and commitments does this project contribute towards?

Consider national plans such as NBSAPs and commitments such as London Conference Declarations and the Kasane and Hanoi Statements. Please provide the number(s) of the relevant commitments and some brief information on how your project will contribute to them. There is no need to include the text from the relevant commitment.

Improved skills and capacity within law enforcement, a better developed legal framework, and poverty reduction through facilitating legal trade while also minimising the public health risks all support the objectives of the London Conference on IWT and the associated declarations from the Kasane and Hanoi Conferences.

The project contributes to the first two objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. The project contributes to the implementation of the following articles of the CBD: 8d, 8e, 8k, 10e, 17.1 and 17.2. It will also contribute to the implementation of the West African Regional Strategy to Combat Wildlife Crime and that of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Exchange of Information on Biodiversity in Niger, and the 2021-2030 forest policy of the Republic of Benin.

The project enables Benin and Niger to achieve the Aichi target B by reducing direct pressure on protected species in the WAP resulting from poaching and illegal wildlife trade; target E by improving implementation through knowledge management and capacity building among law enforcement agents and communities; and Aichi Target 12 (longer term goal: extinction of known threatened species averted and conservation status improved).

The project also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 by helping reduce poverty (by facilitating legal trade and diversifying incomes) and 15 by helping to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (by improving efforts to counter IWT in species in the WAP ecosystem).

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q16. Methodology

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

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project?
- The need for this work and a justification of your proposed approach.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

The Forensic Science Service (City of London Police - CLP) and Kings College London (KCL) will develop a covid style lateral flow presumptive test for excluding common legal meat products (which are used in region to conceal illegal meat products) during law enforcement searches. This will allow limited law enforcement resources to focus on illegal products and facilitate the lawful movement of legal meat products to market. This will result in saving money and time for enforcement, whilst reducing incidents of legal meat products being spoiled through delays. The identification of meat and meat products (including bushmeat) has been tried and tested (1,2,3). These methods are laboratory based but have been designed to be used without the use of expensive DNA sequencing methods.

A review of field-based detection of biological samples for forensic analysis has been carried out by Morrison et al (4). Most of the methods developed use standard instruments that have been miniaturised and designed to be used by non-laboratory specialists. A group in Harvard (4) have used this technology linked to a lateral-flow readout. This, they estimate, could reduce the cost 4–65¢ USD per test. King's Forensics biochemistry group have been developing Biosensors for Forensic Analysis. Review reference (4). It is envisaged that the proposed research will use the species specific mtDNA markers reported in the literature to develop a tagged biomarker. All references above are listed in the supporting documents to this application.

2. Expansion of Community-Based Income Generation with WAP Broader

Our approach builds on the methodology of past community initiatives in the WAP (e.g. IWT055) and the existing relationships between local partners and conservation authorities. Building on previous research that took a participatory approach to identifying potential income-generating activities, the project will further identify and assess potential sustainable livelihood options in collaboration with community

members, and will resource and pilot a minimum of 2 community-based sustainable livelihood options per village, requiring a commitment to not engage in illegal hunting or trade, to support a shift from illegal resource use to sustainable livelihoods (benefiting 200 households from 10 villages). This will be captured in a participatory agreement between communities and project partners (local NGOs and Wildlife and Forest Department).

To do this, livelihood identification workshops and focus groups (following GESI principles) will be held in each village in year one to identify potential options for trial. Following this, the feasibility of potential livelihood options will be assessed. Technical support (in the form of workshops, one-to-one training sessions, demonstrations, on-the-ground support and training/capacity building on each specific income generating activity) will be provided and regular monitoring will assess progress and uptake.

To monitor illegal resource use and trade levels at both the individual and community level, the bean count method will be used as part of a low-cost and anonymous questioning tool to provide estimates of the percentage of people engaging in illegal activities at the village level (10,11). These data will be triangulated with data from local market surveys in year 1 and 3 (for baseline review of indicators to better understand changes affecting the supply of illegal wild products and trends in animals/animal parts for sale).

3. Improved law enforcement capacity to detect, investigate, and build successful prosecutions for wildlife crime offences.

Classroom and field-based basic and advanced law enforcement training will build capacity in key investigative areas using the 'explain, demonstrate, imitate, practice' training model. This will use the AWFN Wildlife Crime Scene Guide for First Responders (8) along with UK College of Policing training material. Training will be delivered by subject matter experts.

Judicial and prosecutor workshops will ensure the advances in forensic and crime scene evidence recovery are fully understood, including the operating procedures implemented to protect and preserve the chain of evidence. Attendees have previously come together on ZSL projects to review and redraft wildlife legislation.

4. Changes in the regional bush meat market trade over the course of the project have been analysed and the knowledge used to help assess the impact of the other components of the project and guide further work.

Surveys of local bush meat markets (21 markets in Niger and 44 in Benin) will be carried out in years 1 and 3. Data from these surveys will provide a baseline of indicators to better understand changes affecting the supply of illegal wild products and trends in animals/animal parts for sale over time.

Analysed to track changes in availability of IWT products, revealing effects of project activities in law enforcement and community engagement.

Q17. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

The development and deployment of a presumptive field exclusion test that is low in cost, simple and quick to use, and accurately distinguishes between legal domestic and illegal wild meat, will substantially raise the capability of law enforcement agents (both during and after the project) to conduct effective interventions. This project has the potential to strengthen IWT law enforcement on a global scale, as the test can be adapted to a wide range of global meat products. Its low cost and ease of use make it a valuable tool for combatting IWT in low-resource, biodiversity-rich contexts.

Crime scene first responder and scene management training will deliver skills to recognise, document, collect and recover evidence, whilst preserving the chain of evidence to support prosecution cases. Reviewing and providing feedback on the cases built by law enforcement will ensure lessons learnt are built into future prosecutions.

The project will build the capability of the judiciary by improving understanding of forensic techniques, improving members' ability to interpret and assess new evidence presented in court. The establishment of a forum for judiciary-law enforcement learning and sharing will build the capability of both professions to identify and fill knowledge gaps in the judicial process.

This project will also build capacity and promote links between researchers and academic institutions in the UK with law enforcement practitioners in the WAP region.

Communities:

In order to effectively implement income generating activities with communities, a process of discussion and selection of appropriate activities following Free Prior and Informed Consent protocols is initiated. Once activities have been chosen in collaboration with stakeholders, training in techniques and processes is provided to community members to develop their capacity and capability to implement activities over and beyond the life of the project.

Q18. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

ZSL recognises the importance of gender mainstreaming to achieve equitable societal outcomes and is committed to meeting obligations under the International Development Act (Gender Equality 2014). ZSL considers Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles at all stages of project implementation and incorporates GESI analyses and risk assessments into its safeguarding systems.

The communities living around the WAP are generally patriarchal, with men being disproportionately represented in positions of influence and women having limited economic opportunities. Women play an important role in the management of households and family finances and are important economic and social actors. The income generating activities already delivered successfully around the WAP have created a space for the leadership of women and therefore represent an empowering model that will be scaled up. By providing opportunities for women-led projects to foster the economic resilience of vulnerable families, this project will encourage female participation and leadership. Further, focus groups and livelihood identification workshops will follow GESI principles and disaggregate groups to ensure female voices, needs and opinions are fully considered and incorporated into decision-making. As part of ZSL's existing safeguarding tools, stakeholder analyses will be used to further understand and identify existing barriers and intersecting vulnerabilities that can prevent female participation so that gender responsive plans to address these barriers and promote equitable participation can be designed.

The trainers, both male and female, will provide role models for all delegates and also act as mentors. The trainers will be representative of both genders but also disability. Further, all project datasets will be disaggregated by gender (e.g. gender specific records of stakeholder participation) to ensure we can monitor and evaluate our project with gender equality in mind. Delegates at enforcement and judicial events will be invited following GESI principles with all delegates respected in an inclusive supportive setting.

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit, considering both people and species of focus a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit,

differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. Demand reduction projects should demonstrate their indirect links to poverty reduction.

Provision of crime scene and wider investigation skills with improved evidential control will both increase the public's confidence in the rule of law and professionalise and standardise evidence submission in court files. Investigative skills, robust documentation and reporting mechanisms will increase the judiciary's confidence in the prosecution's case presented before the court. Professional evidence gathering supports the drive against corruption, linking into robust evidential control including standards covering the record-keeping around seized items.

The crime scene training focusses on the preservation and collection of evidence at a crime scene, ensuring forensic integrity and value is not lost. It will also cover specific forensic techniques for use with both live wildlife and their derived parts. Training will be delivered using the existing first responder guide from the AWFN and accompanying trainer notes. They will provide guidance for managing and recovering evidence from wildlife crime scenes, supporting first responders and investigators to consistently employ best practice techniques when in the field. Consistency in procedures in Niger and Benin will support the efficient investigation of cross border crime groups operating in the cross-border landscape.

Judicial and prosecutor workshops will create a platform for discussing both forensic advancements and how the techniques should be interpreted, but will also deliver a group where lessons can be learnt, best practice shared, and continual improvement built into the judicial system

The development of a covid style lateral flow legal meat elimination presumptive test will, in the medium- to long-term, reduce the impact of enforcement action through reduced delays to trade and the risk of goods spoiling. Within the region, mixed loads of meat products are transported both raw and smoked. The carcasses are often dismembered and skinned, making species identification problematic. In routine roadblocks with no refrigeration units, lengthy examinations can lead to legitimate products spoiling unnecessarily. Speedy intervention, facilitated by this science will allow local peoples' livelihoods to prosper unhindered, and limited law enforcement resources to be focussed on illegal trade.

Local communities in the WAP face intense pressure on their livelihoods due to declines in the natural resources they depend on. By introducing IGAs, 200 HHs will benefit from improved livelihoods with at least 70% seeing changes in their attitudes, knowledge and practices related to IWT from the baseline. Awareness raising effort will alter beliefs around illegal wildlife products, encouraging a decreased willingness to purchase and use illegal wildlife products and reduce dependency on natural resources. IGAs will also improve multi-dimensional aspects of wellbeing including security, social relations, assets and food security. A broader, awareness raising campaign will be launched in the schools of participating villages to encourage drive long-term attitude changes.

Q20. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project will complement existing training by AP and WAC. Using current UK police and AWFN crime scene investigation training material, ZSL and partners will improve the long-term capacity of law enforcement to investigate OCGs involved in IWT. We will draw upon existing knowledge to deliver a low-cost method of quickly identifying legitimate meat products in the field, supporting livelihoods and public health. Regional intelligence shows that both legal and illegal meat travels along the same trade routes. Significant delays are caused by enforcement checks, which lack provision for examination in a controlled environment. Resulting in meat spoiling income loss and public health issues for the poorest community members.

The Judiciary in region will better understand and interpret wildlife crime forensic evidence, thus improving the conviction levels for trafficking, while increasing local communities' confidence in the justice system.

Local communities negatively affected by IWT and the security crisis in WAP will be supported to transition towards sustainable and legal livelihoods. By empowering marginalised groups and community members to diversify their livelihoods, coupled with increasing their awareness on IWT, the project will incentivise pro-conservation behaviour by using conditionality agreements which aim to decrease people's willingness to engage with IWT.

Q21. Exit Strategy

How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

As a result of the security situation and the extent of poverty in the region, continued investment will be necessary to guarantee the long-term effectiveness of law enforcement.

This project complements existing programmes to support rangers in the protected areas, and these will continue post-project with funding from African Parks and Wild Africa Conservation. This stability ensures that new skills learned during this project can continue to be used after it ends.

This project has the potential to strengthen IWT law enforcement on a global scale, as the test can be adapted to a wide range of global meat products.

Practical training will be delivered to key individuals (already trained as trainers by Born Free) who can cascade out knowledge beyond the initial cadre of students through both formal and informal mentoring, leaving a long-term legacy in the landscape.


Online mentoring groups are already established across enforcement and have been proven to be a credible platform for continued growth beyond the initial delivery of training. These groups promote transparency around the seizure and disposal of goods supporting anti-corruption measures in law enforcement. ZSL has a proven track record in the delivery of productive income generating activity in the landscape that have lasted the test of time and provided enrichment to the poorest communities.


Replicating the business model in further community groups, whilst acting on past lessons learned, will deliver positive change in the supported households that will continue to provide long-term sustainable change in people's lives. The promotion of the important leadership roles played by females in the success of these enterprises will create community role models for future generations.


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

 [ZSL WAP Supplementary Information Attachment](#)

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q22. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one

Safeguarding Risk, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register, using the [Risk Assessment template](#), and be prepared to submit this when requested if you are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
<p>Fiduciary Misuse of funds by partners</p>	severe	unlikely	major	ZSL has stringent financial protocols in place and works with a wide range of partners. A grant agreement is set up with clear outline of financial responsibilities by each partner. Additionally, ZSL has worked with the project partners on many grants and has strong financial reporting systems already in place.	moderate
<p>Safeguarding Harassment, abuse or sexual exploitation of project stakeholders or participants during their interactions with the project, resulting in harm caused to individuals</p>	major	unlikely	major	ZSL has rigorous in-house protocols and policies for safeguarding, which all partners adhere to. ZSL has training for all project staff on safeguarding, GDPR and the Global Code of Conduct.	moderate
<p>Delivery Chain Changes in leadership within Government leads to transition of priorities.</p>	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	ZSL has developed relationships at key Ministerial and Director general level where the countries strategic environmental issues are considered – with actors remaining supportive of this initiative and wider work in the landscape.	Minor


Risk 4	Security risks are heightened as a result of Insurgent activity in the region	major	possible	major	ZSL has rigorous health and safety policies covering the delivery of projects, supported by regular dialogue with the relevant security actors in the region. Experience in the landscape has allowed the identification of suitable secure facilities for the delivery of all training.	moderate
Risk 5	Delays in project implementation due to potential actions by political insurgents in the landscape may disrupt community engagement activities	major	possible	major	ZSL has formal and informal contacts with relevant authorities and stakeholders allowing us to track the security situation and monitor changes and potential challenges as they arise. Emergency Response plans and Risk Assessments have been created for all project sites and activities for rapid response to challenges as they arise.	minor
Risk 6	The project deepens gender or other iniquity by not providing equitable opportunities to engage with the project or not informing all stakeholders appropriately.	moderate	possible	major	The project intends to minimize this risk by mainstreaming GESI principles into the project approach to ensure equal opportunities for participation. The project will also establish grievance mechanisms, stakeholder feedback and disaggregated data collection.	minor


Section 8 - Implementation Timetable


Q23. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities


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

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.

 [ZSL WAP project timetable](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

IWT Challenge Fund projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

The project's MEL plan will be designed by the project management team. Progress will be tracked via existing monitoring tools, as well as through reporting and regular meetings. Given the sensitivity of data, secure data management protocols will be followed to collect, store and share data. Weekly catchups will support timely dissemination of vital intelligence across the landscape, facilitating quick and efficient responses to illegal activities. Regular digital communication will ensure project team receive adequate support from UK partners. Formal analysis of market data, training results and livelihood monitoring will be led by ZSL and anonymised before being shared further. To support global efforts to combat IWT, market intelligence recorded in the TRAFFIC style database will be securely shared with other partners working in the region (e.g USFWS, Born Free IFAW, UNEP, TRAFFIC).

Outcome 1. Along with judicial records, rudimentary skills in forensic, anecdotal, and documentary evidence gathering will be used to systematically monitor IWT across the WAP landscape. Trained law enforcement investigators will discreetly gather intelligence from a network of different stakeholders (i.e., communities, custom officers, government officials etc) which will directly feed into an existing, inhouse database based on the TRAFFIC model. Regularly discussing the surveillance efforts between partners will support enforcement action.

Output 1. The effectiveness of the field-based presumptive (exclusion) test will be monitored via its uptake and efficacy in supporting bushmeat identification. Training and end-of-project feedback questionnaires will be used to assess user feedback.

Output 2. Livelihood diversification will be monitored using an interdisciplinary, mix-methods approach. Participatory tools, including storytelling techniques, will be used to narrate community impacts. Baseline

and endline KAP surveys will be used to depict changes in Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice. It will focus on awareness, knowledge/beliefs, activity time-allocation and dimensions of wellbeing such as food security, savings, changes in assets etc. These data will be disaggregated and presented according to gender, age, disability, ethnicity and wellbeing. The bean count method will be added to the end of the KAP surveys to assess illegal resource use. Field visits will gauge general effectiveness of livelihood diversification.

Output 3. Improved capacity in law enforcement will be gauged from pre-and-post learning assessments, as well as regular communication with trained investigators. Judicial records will also be monitored over the grant period to ascertain whether forensic evidence from the field presumptive (exclusion) test is being increasing used, as well as analysing prosecutions, convictions and sentences of IWT offences.

Output 4. Building on the 118 markets surveys undertaken in IWT055, trained investigators on Market Investigation Survey Training (MIST) will identify and quantify products and subproducts of wildlife species to facilitate actions to combat illegal activity.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£144,927.00
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	24
Number of days planned for M&E	288

Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q25. Logical Framework

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

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible.** Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

-  [ZSL WAP logical framework](#)
-  19/12/2022
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-  pdf 146.9 KB

Impact:

W-Arly-Pendjari complex is secured for people and wildlife, with effective law enforcement supported by communities, reduced poverty, and increasing populations of species targeted for IWT.

Outcome:

Enhanced effective IWT investigations and law enforcement, combined with strong community awareness raising, leads to an equitable reduction in IWT within the vital WAP landscape.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

A field-based presumptive (exclusion) test to distinguish legal domestic non-controlled meat products from illegal wild meat products, using covid style lateral flow kits, developed allowing prioritisation of suspected illegal bushmeat for confirmatory testing, while facilitating local people's legal trade.

Output 2:

Expansion of community-based income generation within WAP-border villages linked to awareness raising about the effects of IWT, improvements in community -park relations and shifts towards sustainable livelihoods.

Output 3:

Improved law enforcement capacity to detect, investigate, and build successful prosecutions for wildlife crime offences.

Output 4:

Changes in the regional bush meat market trade over the course of the project have been analysed and the knowledge used to help assess the impact of the other components of the project and guide further work.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1. Development of presumptive DNA tests for field use to eliminate non controlled meat products from investigation
- 1.2. Distribution of presumptive time-based tests to agents working at crime scenes (Police, customs, forestry) in Benin and Niger.
- 1.3. Provision of training to law enforcement agents participating in Basic law enforcement training and Law enforcement advanced practitioner training including the use of presumptive test and the use of results in court documents.

- 2.1. Identification of potential partner communities in WAP prioritising the communities most affected by IWT and obtaining their willingness to engage with the project as part of free, prior, and informed consent processes.
 - 2.2. Verification of the selection of the 10 target villages through follow-up dialogues by community facilitators with villages previously engaged in sustainable development activities in WAP.
 - 2.3. Organisation and facilitation of a one-day workshop in each village - to include interviews/open discussions with the communities to agree to participate in the program as part of ongoing FPIC process.
 - 2.4. Implementation of an information, education and communication program (previously developed by ZSL) on poaching, bushmeat and wildlife trafficking in communities and schools around the WAP.
 - 2.5. Consultations on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods (e.g., livelihood identification workshops and focus groups disaggregated using GESI principles) to short-list income-generating activities and evaluate their feasibility.
 - 2.6. Participatory agreements defined, written up and consented to for individuals and village associations registering for livelihood diversification schemes.
 - 2.7. Pilot and/or support income-generating activities identified for each village group (e.g., market gardening, production of shea butter/honey, etc.)
 - 2.8. Technical support at all stages as part of ongoing livelihood diversification.
 - 2.9. Regular monitoring (3 months) to assess livelihood diversification progress (including level of technical knowledge, uptake, maintenance etc).
- 3.1. Provision of a Basic Law enforcement training (BLET) to Law Enforcement Agents in Benin and Niger (Police, Customs, Water and Forest agents)
 - 3.2. Provision of a Law enforcement training advanced practitioner (LEAP) to Law Enforcement Agents in Benin and Niger (Police, Customs, Water and Forest agents)
 - 3.3. Provision of training to prosecutors and judiciary in the application of forensic techniques in wildlife crime cases, including establishing case review procedures.
- 4.1. Provision of training in covert market survey techniques and identification of IWT products.
 - 4.2. Conduct surveys in local markets in Benin and Niger to better understand changes affecting and impacting the supply of illegal meat products in communities.
 - 4.3. Analysis of information from market survey data to assess trends in the supply of illegal wildlife products in communities. Aligning significant seizure activity, jihadist activity and general security with the data collected.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q26. Budget

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


Note that there are different templates for projects requesting under £100,000 and over £100,000. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.


- [Budget form for projects under £100k](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)


Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.


N.B.: 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.

Please upload your completed IWT Challenge Fund Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 [BCF-Budget-over-£100k-MASTER-Apr22](#)

 19/12/2022

 22:52:28

 xlsx 92.84 KB

Q27. Funding

Q27a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

Development of existing work

Please provide details:

The work builds on previous work carried out by ZSL in the region, notably the training and capacity development of law enforcement agents (including Customs and police) funded by the US government International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and IWTCF 055. African Parks and Wild Africa Conservation (WAC) have carried out work with communities in the region, funded by the European Union and the Fondation Savannes Ouest Afriques (FSOA). Livelihood activities have been initiated among communities adjacent to the Park W in Niger and Park W in Benin, notably bee-keeping and Non-Timber Forest Product value chain enhancement by WAC and African Parks.

Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q28. 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.

n/a

Q29. 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.

This project deploys effective means to achieving the project outcome. The ability to identify legal from

illegal meat products in a non-laboratory setting, at an affordable price for low-income countries, will impact positively on IWT enforcement effectiveness. It will also facilitate the speedy movement of legitimate food products in the region, supporting livelihoods and reducing the risks posed to public health by wild and spoiled meat. The test will also continue to deliver value after the project ends. It can be adapted for use in efforts to combat IWT around the world.

Funding the development, testing and use of a presumptive exclusionary lateral flow-style test for meat products represents excellent value for money. This work piggy-backs on scientific advancements made during covid research, delivering maximum value from UK government investment while allowing this project to incorporate new best practice. Additionally, KCL's work to create the test is on a wholly pro bono basis. City of London Police are also contributing to the project on a pro bono basis – providing staff time and other resources for training activities.

Trainers are accredited by the UK College of Policing standards as both crime scene investigators but also as crime scene managers allowing practitioners as well as mid to senior leaders to gain appropriate knowledge from the training.

The judicial workshop, as well as ensuring forensic techniques are understood and evidence appropriately weighted, brings together key actors where and case weaknesses or developing issue can be discussed and responded to.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q30. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
---	---------

We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
---	---------

We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
---	---------

We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
---	---------

We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
--	---------

We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
---	---------

We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

If your project involves data collection and/or analysis which identifies individuals (e.g. biometric data, intelligence data), please explain the measures which are in place and/or will be taken to ensure the proper control and use of the data. Please explain the experience of the organisations involved in managing this information in your project

Throughout ZSL's long-term experience in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape implementing projects jointly with government organisations, local communities, PAs, and research institutions, the team has developed ways to introduce safeguarding policies inclusive of vulnerable groups and protecting their rights. ZSL has safeguarding policies governing national and international work. During due diligence, partners must demonstrate they meet the same environmental and social safeguarding standards, or have the ability to do so, in which case commitments to implement them must be in place and monitored, with these policies incorporated in co-operation agreements.

The project recognises Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and will follow FPIC guidelines and use a participatory approach to ensure stakeholder needs, concerns and opinions are incorporated into all aspects of programming, with grievance mechanisms and beneficiary feedback also in place. All staff will receive training in ethics, safeguarding, GDPR and code of conduct as a standard prerequisite, ensuring there are no adverse effects on any community members, and project interventions are equitable and gender-sensitive.

All trainers are serving or retired police officers, and DBS checks are mandated prior to training. Human rights training forms part of all training events and is drawn from material created by LEAD Ranger (9).

Q31. Ethics

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

ZSL has rigorous in-house protocols for ethical approval, adhering to international human rights commitments. As part of ZSL's Environmental and Social Management System, the project will undergo an environmental and social risk assessment, ensuring programmatic risks and potential negative impacts on local people, project staff and biodiversity are mitigated and reported on. The results will be managed through an Environmental and Social management plan, with a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and co-developed Grievance Mechanism appropriate for the local context. FPIC guidelines will be followed as part of a participatory approach to ensure stakeholder needs, concerns and opinions are incorporated into all aspects of programming.

Communities and enforcement personnel can be victims and perpetrators of human rights infringements. The project will therefore be subject to a full OSJA risk-assessment to identify, monitor and manage human rights issues flagged through an initial assessment undertaken internally. Law enforcement training will comply with the UK College of Policing code of ethics and human rights legislation, delivering best investigative practice for arrest, detention, questioning of suspects and storage of data, ensuring human rights are protected. Further, as a founding supporter of the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA), ZSL implements and follows the URSA code of conduct.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q32. FCDO Notifications


Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.


No


Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.


Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [Evidence of FCDO outreach](#)

 19/12/2022

 22:22:29

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q33. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Alain Lushimba	Project Leader	30	Checked
Yekini Chabi-N'D	ZSL WAP Field Manager	100	Checked
Andrew Fowler	Regional Director	5	Checked
Solange Akpo	Finance Officer	30	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Grant Miller	Law Enforcement Advisor	10	Checked
Kimberley Fry	International Finance Accountant	3	Checked
Aaron Foy	International Operations Officer	5	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked


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

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [ZSL WAP combined CVs](#)

 19/12/2022

 22:26:54

 pdf 1.49 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q34. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

Lead partner name: Zoological Society of London

Website address: www.zsl.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

ZSL - is a leading international conservation organization, providing technical support and building capacity to deliver on the ground conservation impact. This includes a long history as a technical partner to government agencies in Benin and Niger. ZSL's project team has extensive experience in the region and around the activities proposed. This will ensure effective delivery of the project's objectives. ZSL will assume overall responsibility for project leadership and management, reporting and administration.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?

Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:

The Forensic Science Service for the City of London Police. Dr Tracy Alexander
FKC - Director Forensic Science Services

Website address:

www.cityoflondon.police.uk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Forensic Science Service of the City of London Police have long supported the law enforcement training delivered by ZSL, working across projects in West Africa, Mongolia and the Philippines. They will provide pro bono training in the area of crime scene investigation and forensic analysis from within their accredited staff. The service will provide case-specific advice on an ongoing basis through an online mentoring group, where advice can be provided in real time to investigators. They will also provide training to police, customs and forestry officers who encounter crime scenes, delivering both first responder and crime scene management training in line with UK College of Policing standards.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

2. Partner Name: Kings Forensics, Kings College London

Website address: Kcl.kc.uk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): KCL will conduct scientific research to support advancements in the ability to detect and differentiate legal from illegal meat products in a field setting through Masters research programmes from within the forensic biochemistry and genetic groups. Training support as required will be provided on a pro bono basis to meet the project objectives.

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Desertification (ME-LD) of Niger - General Directorate of Water and Forests (DGEF) - Directorate of Wildlife, Hunting and Protected Areas (DFC-AP) Ministry of the Environment and Living Environment (ME-CV) of Benin - General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting

Website address: <http://www.environnement.gouv.ne/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): Under the supervision of their respective ministries, the General Directorate of Waters and Forests of Niger and the General Directorate of Waters, Forests and Hunting of Benin are the authorities responsible for the management of the conservation of fauna and flora resources and the control of wildlife trafficking. The departments with the other law enforcement departments (customs and police) are beneficiaries and responsible for the implementation of the skills acquired.

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00





Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No





Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

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

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [ZSL WAP combined letters of support](#)
 19/12/2022
 22:34:30
 pdf 948.4 KB

 [ZSL WAP cover letter](#)
 19/12/2022
 22:34:30
 pdf 140.16 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded IWT Challenge Fund funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
29-011	Bishnu Prasad	Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods
DARCC001	Paul Barnes	Mainstreaming livelihoods, health, poverty, and wellbeing into EDGE species conservation
DARCC010	Fridah Mutili	Building effective and equitable multi-stakeholder mitigation for HWC in Tsavo
28-006	Monica Wrobel/ Tungalag Ulambayar	Protecting Mongolia's Gobi Desert for wild camels and herder communities
DARPP222	Samuel Turvey	Respecting expertise of mountain people; conserving Vietnam's surviving bears
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q36. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

The Zoological Society of London

I apply for a grant of

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, logframe, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence – see [Financial Guidance](#)) are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Andrew Terry
Position in the organisation	Director of Conservation & Policy
Signature (please upload e-signature)	Andrew Terry signature 19/12/2022 22:36:44 jpg 5.33 KB
Date	19 December 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

- [ZSL annual report and accounts 20 21](#)
19/12/2022
22:37:27
pdf 5.03 MB

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

- [ZSLGlobal Safeguarding Policy](#)
19/12/2022
22:37:33
pdf 1.48 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "IWT Challenge Fund Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 33, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 34, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or other evidence of financial capacity as set out in the Financial Guidance, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the IWT Challenge Fund website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the IWT Challenge Fund website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant

scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: IWTR9S2\1028 - Strengthening measures to combat IWT in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	A field-based presumptive (exclusion) test to distinguish legal domestic non-controlled meat products from illegal meat products, using covid style lateral flow kits, developed allowing prioritisation of suspected illegal bushmeat for confirmatory testing, while facilitating local people's legal trade.													
1.1	Development of presumptive DNA tests for field use to eliminate non controlled meat products from investigation	18												
1.2	Distribution of presumptive time-based tests to officers working at crime scenes (Police, customs, forestry) in Benin and Niger	18												
1.3	Provision of training to law enforcement agents participating in BLET and LEAP covering first responder, crime scene management and forensic techniques. Culminating in the final year in the deployment and use of a presumptive test and results forming part of the chain of evidence within court prosecution documents.	4												
Output 2	Expansion of community-based income generation within WAP-border villages linked to awareness raising about the effects of IWT, improvements in community -park relations and shifts towards sustainable livelihoods.													
2.1	Identification of potential partner communities in WAP prioritising the communities most affected by IWT and obtaining their willingness to engage with the project as part of free, prior, and informed consent processes.	1												
2.2	Verification of the selection of the 10 target villages through follow-up dialogues by community facilitators with villages previously engaged in sustainable development activities in WAP.	1												
2.3	Organisation and facilitation of a one-day workshop in each village - to include interviews/open discussions with the communities to agree to participate in the program as part of ongoing FPIC process.	1												

Project Title: IWTR9S2\1028 - Strengthening measures to combat IWT in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.4	Implementation of an information, education and communication program (previously developed by ZSL) on poaching, bushmeat and wildlife trafficking in communities and schools around the WAP.	1												
2.5	Consultations on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods (e.g., livelihood identification workshops and focus groups disaggregated using GESI principles) to short-list income-generating activities and evaluate their feasibility.	1												
2.6	Participatory agreements defined, written up and consented to for individuals and village associations registering for livelihood diversification schemes.	4												
2.7	Pilot and/or support income-generating activities identified for each village group (e.g., market gardening, production of shea butter/honey, etc.)	3												
2.8	Technical support at all stages as part of ongoing livelihood diversification.	2												
2.9	Regular monitoring (3 months) to assess livelihood diversification progress (including level of technical knowledge, uptake, maintenance etc).	1												
Output 3	Improved law enforcement capacity to detect, investigate, and build successful prosecution for wildlife crime offences.													
3.1	Provision of a Basic Law enforcement training (BLET) to Law Enforcement Agents in Benin and Niger (Police, Customs, Water and Forest agents)	2												
3.2	Provision of a Law enforcement training advanced practitioner (LEAP) to Law Enforcement Agents in Benin and Niger (Police, Customs, Water and Forest agents)	4												
3.3	Provision of training to prosecutors and judiciary in the application of forensic techniques in wildlife crime cases.	1												
Output 4	Changes in the regional bush meat market trade over the course of the project have been analysed and the knowledge used to help assess the impact of the other components of the project and guide further work.													

Project Title: IWTR9S2\1028 - Strengthening measures to combat IWT in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape.

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4.1	Provision of training in covert market survey techniques and identification of IWT products.	1												
4.2	Conduct surveys in local markets in Benin and Niger to better understand changes affecting and impacting the supply of illegal meat products in communities.	4												
4.3	Analysis of information from market survey data to assess trends in the supply of illegal wildlife products in communities. Aligning significant seizure activity, jihadist activity and general security with the data collected.	1												

Project Title: IWTR9S2\1028 - Strengthening measures to combat IWT in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: (Max 30 words) W-Arly-Pendjari complex is secured for people and wildlife, with effective law enforcement supported by communities, reduced poverty, and increasing populations of species targeted for IWT.</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words) Enhanced effective IWT investigations and law enforcement, combined with strong community awareness raising, leads to an equitable reduction in IWT within the vital WAP landscape.</p>	<p>0.1 The number of wildlife crime cases investigated increase relative to baseline levels (established over first 6-month period) in Benin and Niger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase by at least 20% by end of year 3; <p>0.2 Increased number of wildlife crime cases brought to court, with a projected 30% increase by the end of the project (end of Y3) compared to baseline levels (2022 assessment).</p> <p>0.3 Decrease in the occurrence of wildlife products in the markets surveyed around WAP in Benin and Niger from trained investigators:</p>	<p>0.1 Court Wildlife crime offence records.</p> <p>0.2 Judicial court records.</p> <p>0.3. Wildlife market survey reports from trained investigators. With a weekly review on external factor (security, insurgent activity, significant seizures, or other factors disrupting illegal supply chains) that</p>	<p>Previous progress to strengthen enforcement capacity under IWT055 and INL SINLEC18GR2081 grants will be maintained and will facilitate the introduction of these innovate tools for enforcement.</p> <p>Government Departments, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) working in the region (USFWS, Born Free, IFAW, UNEP UNoDC, INL) will be open to the adoption of the effective forensic tools that are developed.</p> <p>Strengthening enforcement in the landscape will not simply displace activity because i) the package of</p>

Project Title: IWTR9S2\1028 - Strengthening measures to combat IWT in the W-Arly-Pendjari landscape

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projected decrease of 20% by the end of the project period (end of Y3). <p>0.4. Community members in WAP target villages provide increased support to efforts to address IWT (baseline established by end of month 12) with at least a 50% increase in documented incidents of support by the end of year 3.</p>	<p>may impact on the formal survey results.</p> <p>0.3.b. Database (TRAFFIC model) on illicit wildlife products established to support analyses and to track trends in the survey results.</p> <p>0.4 Records of community information, supporting the disruption of the Illegal wildlife trade – all info retained in compliance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and professional intelligence handling protocols.</p>	<p>tools is designed to be replicable in the medium term and ii) the disruption and investigation will make the organised crime groups more vulnerable.</p> <p>International and domestic government efforts to combat an ongoing insurgency will remain robust, allowing community projects and law enforcement training to be delivered in secure locations.</p> <p>Partners in the region, principally AP and WAC, remain committed to partnership working, securing, and managing the WAP landscape.</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. A field-based presumptive (exclusion) test to distinguish legal domestic non-controlled meat products from illegal wild meat products, using covid style lateral flow kits, developed allowing prioritisation of suspected illegal bushmeat for confirmatory testing, while facilitating local people’s legal trade.</p>	<p>1.1 A minimum of 100 presumptive field-based tests developed and distributed to crime scene first responders by end of project period. With initial delivery at end of year 2.</p> <p>1.2 100 rangers attending Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET), or Law Enforcement Advanced Practitioner (LEAP) courses will be trained in the</p>	<p>1.1. Production and distribution (with receipts) of presumptive field-based test.</p> <p>1.2.a Course feedback questionnaires.</p>	<p>Project assumes successful development of a field presumptive kit, that can be delivered in a cost-effective manner, using covid style (lateral flow) testing methodology within the project period. This assumption is judged valid given use of such techniques in recent high-profile investigations involving counterfeit buffalo mozzarella and</p>

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	<p>use of the presumptive test and use of the results in court documents by project end.</p> <p>1.3 A minimum of 25% trained wildlife crime scene first responders will utilise the presumptive test during a suspected bushmeat intervention by the end of the project period.</p>	<p>1.2.b End of project period questionnaires to gather feedback on responders' experiences of using the tests.</p> <p>1.3.a Government wildlife crime offence records.</p> <p>1.3.b Report on field test usage, including numbers and types of products identified or eliminated from enquiries</p>	<p>selling of horse meat as beef in the UK.</p> <p>Target countries have existing infrastructure or agreements in place for the analysis of finger marks and human DNA evidence.</p> <p>All trained wildlife crime scene first responders will be involved in a suspected bushmeat stop.</p>
<p>2.Expansion of community-based income generation within WAP-border villages linked to awareness raising about the effects of IWT, improvements in community-park relations and shifts towards sustainable livelihoods.</p>	<p>2.1 a) 200 household in 10 WAP target villages will participate in IGAs resulting with least 70% of improved Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) compared to the level before the project by the end of project period (end of Y3). Participatory workshops to identify IGAs will follow GESI principles.</p>	<p>2.1 a) Baseline and Endline Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) surveys with all 200 participating HH. This will include uptake of IGAs, awareness/knowledge/beliefs of IWT and changes to wellbeing (food security, savings etc). Results will be disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity and wellbeing.</p> <p>2.1 a) General monitoring of IGAs effectiveness will be done by quarterly reports from field visits.</p>	<p>Access to the communities surrounding Parc W remains possible.</p> <p>Communities remain supportive of the initiatives.</p> <p>Developing IGAs for the communities living around the WAP can help reduce their dependence on the resources of the WAP parks and decrease willingness to purchase illegal products thus contributing to efforts to combat the IWT.</p>

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	<p>2.1 b) Levels of illegal resource use are reduced compared to baseline levels through conditionality agreements that specify to participate in IGAs communities will refrain from illegal wildlife activities.</p> <p>2.2 At least 5 schools with 1 vegetable garden in each developed by the project, with the gardens providing at least 25% of the school canteens' needs by the end of Y3</p> <p>2.3 At least 2 training and IWT awareness campaigns conducted in 2 schools in each of 10 villages by the end of Y3.</p>	<p>2.1.a) Video recording of community beneficiary testimonies.</p> <p>2.1 a) GESI disaggregated attendance lists.</p> <p>2.1 b) Bean count method will be used to track engagement in illegal activities as part of baseline and endline surveys.</p> <p>2.2. Activity reports, pictures, and video recordings.</p> <p>2.3. Training and awareness campaigns reports, pictures, and video recording.</p>	
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<p>3. Improved law enforcement capacity to detect, investigate, and build successful prosecutions for wildlife crime offences.</p>	<p>3.1. 18 law enforcement agents trained to Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) standard in each country, Benin and Niger, in Year 1 and 2. All delegates on completing training, join the established and successful WhatsApp supported mentoring network.</p> <p>3.2 18 law enforcement agents trained to Law Enforcement Advanced Practitioner (LEAP) level in each country, Benin and Niger, in Year 1 and 2.</p> <p>3.3.100% of trainees have at least 70% knowledge of scenes of crime first responder role including DNA and finger-mark forensic investigation techniques after 18 months of the project and reach 90% knowledge after 24 months of the project. Assessed through pre</p>	<p>3.1. Pre and post learning assessments.</p> <p>3.1. Record of engagement across the existing, WhatsApp mentoring network. Including questions asked, solutions found, and documented and celebrated successes.</p> <p>3.2. Pre and post learning assessments.</p> <p>3.3 Court and local enforcement agency records of successful prosecutions attributed to those units/officers in receipt of training.</p>	<p>Government support for cross-agency training and operational deployment continues in Niger and Benin.</p> <p>Venues remain secure and available to deliver the training in line with FCDO guidance</p>
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	<p>and post event tests and practical assessments.</p> <p>3.4 100% of attending delegates from the judges and magistrate's cohort have retained 80% knowledge on the use of forensic evidence and new techniques deployed in the region to rule upon wildlife crimes, post-delivery of the training in year 2, evidenced through course feedback questionnaires and assessments.</p> <p>3. 5. Baseline established year 1, with a 25% increase in the number of criminal case files using forensic evidence to support the prosecution's case in the first 12 to 18 months of the project, 35% by the completion of the project period (end of y3).</p>	<p>3.4.a Feedback regarding crime scene management and retrieval of forensic evidence from prosecution authorities and forensic partners.</p> <p>3.4b Pre and post learning evaluation.</p> <p>3.5 Court wildlife crime offence records.</p>	
<p>4. Changes in the regional bush meat market trade over the course of the project have been analysed and the knowledge used to help assess the impact of the other</p>	<p>4.1 At least 44 markets in Benin and 24 markets in Niger selling wildlife products surveyed twice over the project period. (Y1 and Y 3)</p>	<p>4.1.a Market survey reports.</p>	<p>Market surveys remain feasible given security concerns</p>

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<p>components of the project and guide further work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The occurrence of wildlife products, including species present and the scale of trade, identified for each market surveyed and published at the end of year 1 and year 3. in a threat assessment report covering the region’s bush meat trade. • Markets serving and located in communities that have benefited from project support and awareness raising outreach work show a fall of at least 30% in both range of species and the scale of products available in comparison to markets serving unsupported communities by completion of Year 3. (Also see Outcome Indicator 0.3.) 	<p>4.1.b Data collected during the market surveys are recorded in the TRAFFIC database model, which makes it possible to track changes over time</p>	
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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. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

- 1.1. Development of presumptive DNA tests for field use to eliminate non controlled meat products from investigation
 - 1.2. Distribution of presumptive time-based tests to agents working at crime scenes (Police, customs, forestry) in Benin and Niger.
 - 1.3. Provision of training to law enforcement agents participating in Basic law enforcement training and Law enforcement advanced practitioner training including the use of presumptive test and the use of results in court documents.
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- 2.1. Identification of potential partner communities in WAP prioritising the communities most affected by IWT and obtaining their willingness to engage with the project as part of free, prior, and informed consent processes.
 - 2.2. Verification of the selection of the 10 target villages through follow-up dialogues by community facilitators with villages previously engaged in sustainable development activities in WAP.
 - 2.3. Organisation and facilitation of a one-day workshop in each village - to include interviews/open discussions with the communities to agree to participate in the program as part of ongoing FPIC process.
 - 2.4 Implementation of an information, education and communication program (previously developed by ZSL) on poaching, bushmeat and wildlife trafficking in communities and schools around the WAP.
 - 2.5. Consultations on potential incentive schemes, empowerment initiatives, etc. using participatory methods (e.g., livelihood identification workshops and focus groups disaggregated using GESI principles) to short-list income-generating activities and evaluate their feasibility.
 - 2.6. Participatory agreements defined, written up and consented to for individuals and village associations registering for livelihood diversification schemes.
 - 2.7. Pilot and/or support income-generating activities identified for each village group (e.g., market gardening, production of shea butter/honey, etc.)
 - 2.8. Technical support at all stages as part of ongoing livelihood diversification.
 - 2.9. Regular monitoring (3 months) to assess livelihood diversification progress (including level of technical knowledge, uptake, maintenance etc).

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- 3.1. Provision of a Basic Law enforcement training (BLET) to Law Enforcement Agents in Benin and Niger (Police, Customs, Water and Forest agents)
- 3.2. Provision of a Law enforcement training advanced practitioner (LEAP) to Law Enforcement Agents in Benin and Niger (Police, Customs, Water and Forest agents)
- 3.3. Provision of training to prosecutors and judiciary in the application of forensic techniques in wildlife crime cases, including establishing case review procedures.

- 4.1. Provision of training in covert market survey techniques and identification of IWT products.
- 4.2. Conduct surveys in local markets in Benin and Niger to better understand changes affecting and impacting the supply of illegal meat products in communities.
- 4.3. Analysis of information from market survey data to assess trends in the supply of illegal wildlife products in communities. Aligning significant seizure activity, jihadist activity and general security with the data collected.