

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Main & Extra: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

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IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	IWT133
Project title	Supporting conservation and sustainable trade of threatened timber species
Country/ies	Gabon, Ghana, Madagascar
Lead Organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Project partner(s)	Missouri Botanical Garden – Central Africa programme Madagascar Plant Specialist Group (inc. University of Antananarivo and the Missouri Botanic Garden Madagascar Program) CSIR FORIG– Forest Research Institute Ghana
IWTCF grant value	£238,239
Start/end dates of project	01/08/2024 – 31/01/2027
Reporting period (e.g. April 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	August 2024 – March 2025, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Megan Barstow
Project website/blog/social media	NA
Report author(s) and date	Megan Barstow, Laxmi Aggarwal, Sylvia Andriambololonerana, James Aponsoah, Daniel Ofori, Tariq Stevart, Hasina Rakouth and Harisoa Bako Ravaomanalina

1. Project summary

Our project is focused on ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents and strengthening law enforcement; with a specific focus on better informing IUCN Red List assessment and CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) processes for timber trees. Our project will improve data collection and availability for priority timber tree species, and therefore the harvest and trade of the species can be better monitored and wild populations managed sustainably.

We work with diverse stakeholders for this project.

Working together with these rural and forest communities we will gather information to understand the population and status of the focal timber species and inform the final data collection protocol.

Additionally, we will provide training in the final data collection protocol methods, which will include the delivery of skills for carrying out stakeholder surveys and in field monitoring of timber tree species. These skills will be able to be used for other philanthropic and environmental projects in the region. Forest monitoring skills in particular will likely become increasingly important and demanded as countries grow their green economies, and carbon capture and storage become more prolific. Through the continued application of the protocol, there will be opportunities for local people to become involved in the sustainable timber trade, including income and employment opportunities. Project actions will further promote and strengthen the role of local people as primary caretakers of their forest biodiversity in the long-term, including independent management of their local timber resources.

Additionally, our project partners in the three project counties all have access to the logging community, governmental departments and their network to understand how the illegal timber trade impacts legitimate sales and if they have any projects with local forest-based communities.

In 2022 The Red List of Timber Trees was published (Hills *et al.*, 2022). This identified that one in three timber species were globally threatened with extinction. It also found that much of the data used to complete the assessment was from forest loss statistics, and not timber trade or harvest information. Similar results were also found in reports prepared by Traffic (Ratsimbaxafy *et al.*, 2016) and CITES NDF documents, as more timber trees become listed on Appendix II. The lack of trade data in assessments can be detrimental to species conservation, it could lead to an underestimate of risk to the species from harvest and trade. It can impact conservation planning and prioritisation as decisions about trade and harvest impact may falsely not be considered as threats that need to be tackled.

The Global Tree Assessment (GTA) and CITES, identified information gaps on timber species in the wild. Currently, there is no standardised method of data collection at species-level for monitoring sustainable and non-sustainable use, and conservation of timber species. There are many guidelines and methodologies for managing commercial forestry (FSC, PEFC and project G3D in Madagascar), however, these do not provide the data needed for enforcement of CITES, producing NDFs or Red List assessments. Often non-biological metrics are used which provide limited information on wild population sizes (number of mature trees, life history, extent of recruitment) and it is this population information that is essential to understand for IUCN Red List and CITES Processes.

This project builds on CITES focused projects in Madagascar, building on their Rosewood identification work and the development of NDF processes for Malagasy precious timbers such as *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*.

Specifically, the work of Missouri Botanic Garden on assessments for timber trees within Gabon will be enhanced through this project's 3-step data collection, building on information gaps and delivering a data collection protocol for better data collection methods, as informed by those participating in this project. Currently, the majority of timber trees are assessed on the threat of habitat loss rather than impact of trade, largely because timber data is difficult to access and often collected under trade or genus names. There is an underlying need to establish improved baselines from which to effectively manage sustainable use or monitor tree populations in the wild using set quotas.

In Ghana, there is limited understanding of what data exists and information on the wild tree populations, especially of the focal species of this project. Working with in-country partners who benefit from the outcomes of this project to make more informed decisions on sustainable use of the focal timber species, this project aims to consolidate the existing available data and address existing knowledge through field data collection.

The project also builds on Wolf *et al.*, 2018 guidance, using this as a template to guide the information needs of the final project outputs. Similarly, the IUCN Red List guidance (IUCN Standards and Petitions Subcommittee 2024), has informed what information we need to gather as part of this project.

Due to alignment of this project with CITES NDF and Red List assessment processes from the beginning we will seek endorsement from these bodies to mainstream the data collection protocol, to ensure the resource is available for the assessment of all timber species. Resources will also be hosted online on the BGCI website, providing greater access to several audiences.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Project Partners

Collaborating in Gabon

Our partners were selected based on previous experience collaborating on projects with BGCI. Specifically with Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) Gabon Programme, they have strong connections with the timber industry making them ideal partners for this project and have previously worked with the Forest Stewardship Council and on a High Conservation Value (HCV) forest methodology.

Collaborating in Madagascar

In Madagascar, illegal timber trade is a major issue causing severe declines to populations of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*. We are working closely with the IUCN SSC Missouri Plant Specialist Group and the Missouri Botanic Garden – Missouri Programme, both of whom are part of the CITES Scientific Authority (SA) and part of the Madagascar Precious Wood Consortia. This project builds on their contributions to several products (ITTO-CITES consortium, PEER - USAID, G3D - EU, FID2D - USAID Hay Tao, Franklinia Foundation). The results of which will contribute to the data presentation for these species (Activity 2.1.1 MoV 2.1a).

Working in Partnership

All project partners represent countries with unique diversity. Two of the countries are united by being French speaking, allowing project resources to be provided in two languages, French and English. All three countries are aligned in the recent addition of many timber species on to the CITES Appendices and the need for additional guidance for the production of NDFs.

All project partners contributed to this project design from the planning phase ensuring participatory action and that the project design is tailored to meet the cultural nuances of their country. The staff from each partner organisation sits on the project steering committee to oversee that the project continues to be designed, informed, and tailored to their field realities, challenges, opportunities and needs. Moreover, this ensure that, all project partners are part of the M&E for this project, sharing ideas, feedback and updated as part of these meetings and that they have the opportunity to continuously contribute to overall project product design (Annex 4– Meeting Minutes). So far, to develop the stakeholder survey they have helped us to understand the different audiences to tailor the project for and going forward they will contribute to the design of the data analysis and evaluation of the survey process when it is completed at the end of April. Additionally, partners have chosen who they would like to interview for the stakeholder survey, using their established networks and understanding of the situations to make these decisions. A list of target interviewees is given in Annex 5.

Additionally, thanks to this project, staff from BGCI, CSIR-FORIG and MPSG were able to attend the CITES training on Non-Detrimental Findings in March 2025. This training helped many members of each organisation to further understand the NDF process, needs and therefore, how to better design this project going forward.

Our partners have exemplary existing knowledge of the timber trade systems in their country. Their contribution of this knowledge very much guides this project. For example, initial discussions held by our partners with their networks informed us that some of the data to be collected for NDFs and IUCN Red List assessments could be collected from stakeholders (government bodies, communities and organisations) rather than the need to collect all the data from the field. This has influenced the stakeholder survey, making it more comprehensive than we thought it would be in the initial planning. It is hoped that by having this more detailed survey we will be able to gather more data, understand the data availability and situation better in each country and within organisations. This can in turn be supported by fieldwork and better tailor the fieldwork data gathering steps. If successful, this will mean that the demand for resources for fieldwork (one of the most expensive aspects of conservation) could be shifted towards greater stakeholder engagement and data sharing to support international conventions and frameworks.

The project only funds a small percentage of each projects staff time in our partner organisations, this can slow down delivery of project activities, communications and can mean that meetings can be missed. To improve upon this, a better overview of activities for year 2 will be given in May, including alignment of the workplan to the best in country field seasons, and a review of dates and deadlines will be delivered. We will also work to have more efficient communication between lead partners if they are unable to attend meetings or when they will not be available due to other responsibilities.

Another challenge has been the need to deliver project products in French. All documents are prepared in English, and partners translate these into French for delivery. However, given the shorter time frame to deliver the survey in year 1 and that the survey was longer than anticipated, this caused added demand on the partners. We will more widely use online translation services to help with this at BGCI,

to provide a template for translation for partners and also give more lead up time for partners to translate products as needed in year 2 and year 3 of the project.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Develop best-practice data collection protocol for monitoring timber tree species in the wild to guide conservation and sustainable use, to identify the impact of logging at the species level

Activities:

1.1.1 Desktop analysis of all trade and biological information on 14 CITES listed timber species (BGCI)

A comprehensive study of the available data sets for focal timber species was completed in 2024. This analysed 54 sources of data, to identify whether they met the needs of IUCN Red List assessments and CITES NDF processes and could be used to contribute data to such processes (Annex 6b). Where there were gaps, or insufficient data available to answer certain steps of the IUCN/NDF process, this was used to form the basis of the stakeholder survey. This activity has been completed as per the workplan.

The desktop analysis specifically for the 14 focal species is underway and completed for 2 project species. We are on track to deliver this activity as per the workplan. A method for the process of conducting this analysis is available in Annex 7a.

1.1.2 Stakeholder survey on timber species data access in three countries (BGCI, Steering Committee and Partners)

The stakeholder survey was developed in November and December 2024 and was first presented to our project partners at the end of 2024. The survey was developed by identifying the gaps in available data (activity 1.1.1) and preparing questions that would encourage the sharing of information on data gaps, and the lesser understood, often secretive nature of illegal logging, from key stakeholders. All necessary design precautions were taken into consideration in designing this qualitative person-to-person data collection, including for instance, consent forms, guidance notes and interview schedule tailored for different respondents. Project managers were part of this design and deliver process to ensure their input from the onset, safeguarding any unforeseen and missed cultural nuances and challenges by BGCI (Annex 6c). This Stage-2 aims to fill the gaps initially identified by Stage-1, desk-based research, but if some information is still missing after qualitative data collection, then this Stage-2 will be used to inform the Stage-3, the quantitative-fieldwork section of the data collection protocol.

Four surveys were produced. This include the standard interview schedule and questions (Annex 8), which was then tailored for three stakeholder audiences, industry, government and communities. These surveys were translated into French by BGCI and then further tailored by our partners for local dialects. The stakeholders were identified upon discussion with our partners considering who they identified as key respondents with the needed knowledge, who they had access to and could contact and who they planned to interview (Annex 5). The surveys were tailored in length, questions style and relevance to these audiences. A full method for the survey is given in Annex 6c and will form part of the final data collection protocol.

Training in interview skills was hosted by The BGCI Project Officer, who has previous knowledge of qualitative data collection across Africa concerning the illegal wildlife trade (training figures given in Annex 9). Project partners attended the training virtually in February 2025, to prepare for their qualitative field data collection phase. The training informed on and specifically focused on the principle of *do no harm*, building rapport, preparations and record keeping especially for sensitive information and participant anonymisation, where requested. This training will be adapted to be part of the training resources (Output 3) from the project. Information on the training delivered is also in Annex 6c.

Following the training and receiving all the needed documentation such as consent form and data organisation guides, project partners began planning and booking their in-person interviews. A list of

target interviews for all three countries is given in Annex 5 and a list of supporting tools for the stakeholder survey is given in Annex 10.

Activity update from Gabon

A one-week mission was carried out in February 2025 in Libreville. An initial (trial) survey was conducted by the MBG project leader. Further interviews were conducted by a trusted Gabonese consultant. Interviewees included sustainable forest management operators, forest management consultants, national research institutes, the scientific unit of the National Parks Agency and the Ministry of Water and Forests (General Forestry Directorate, CITES focal point). For Gabon the delivery of activity 1.1.2 is to schedule. In the March steering committee meeting we received some initial feedback from the MBG project leader (Annex 4) and results from the interviews have already been shared for the BGCI Project Officer to begin analysis shortly.

Activity update from CSIR – FORIG working in Ghana

The Ghana project team, as part of preparation for the field survey undertook extensive stakeholder mapping to identify target respondents who could provide relevant data and information during the field data collection. Summary of the various potential respondents indicated in Annex 5 identified potential respondents were selected based on factors including; their role in managing species data, conservation and plantation development, species-use, management and etc. The Ghana Timber Transparency Portal (<https://ghanatimbertransparency.ghwts.org/exporters>) managed by the Forestry Commission proved to be very useful in during the stakeholder mapping for Logging companies who deal in the project focal species.

Activity update from MPSG working in Madagascar

A list of people and/or stakeholders, and resource persons to be interviewed was established on the basis of interests shared with the subject of the project in terms of governance, resource management, forestry, precious woods, trade (CITES) etc. Sixty-one (61) entities or persons were identified as data holders for this project and can be divided into seven categories: administrative and governmental authorities, NGOs, scientific communities, civil societies, grassroots communities, economic operators and resource persons (Annex 5). Survey forms have been adapted to seven categories of people, reformulated in relation to the Malagasy context, were translated into the local language. Invitations for interviews were sent in March and interviews begin in April.

We do not predict a further delay in project activities due to the delays already faced in the delivery of the data.

1.1.3 Synthesis of desktop analysis (1.1.1) and stakeholder survey (1.1.2) into first version of data collection protocol (BGCI)

Methods for the desktop analysis and stakeholder survey have been written (Annex 6). These will form the first two sections of the data collection protocol. We have analysed the data from the desktop survey, which will also contribute to the draft version of the data collection protocol.

This activity is broadly on schedule; it was anticipated that we may have been able to analyse some of the data from the stakeholder survey and have evaluated this step in year 1. However, as the stakeholder survey took longer to prepare, and roll out of the survey has taken more time than expected (see Q2 and above for more info.), this analysis and evaluation has yet to occur so will occur in May and June 2025. At the same time, we will make the final preparation of the data collection protocol. Initial data is available from partners in Gabon while in Ghana and Madagascar data collection is currently underway and the results are expected before the end of May.

1.1.4 Meetings/online workshops with Steering Committee to present first version of data collection protocol (BGCI and Steering Committee)

As we have yet to draft the first version of the protocol (see activity 1.1.1.) we have not hosted this meeting yet. Methods so far have been shared in steering committee meetings and have been hosted online in our shared Google Drive.

1.1.5 Presentation of the results of desktop analysis (1.1.1) and stakeholder survey (1.1.2) (BGCI)

The desktop analysis is completed, and results were presented in our Year one, half year report.

Stakeholder survey analysis has not been completed, and is behind schedule. This activity is prioritised for May. A plan is in place on how we will store and analyse this data (Annex 6).

Output 2: Trial data collection protocol in the field for CITES listed timber species in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, to guide conservation and sustainable use

Activities

2.1.1 Finalise species selection and sites for data collection protocol trial via. online meetings with Steering Committee (BGCI)

Species selection has been completed for the delivery of the data collection protocol for the stakeholder survey and desktop analysis. This is ahead of schedule.

Summary documents have been completed for two species, and the template can be used and is ready to fill in for the final project species. This includes comparison columns for before and after completion of the different stages of the data collection protocol as per MoV 1.1a (Annex 7).

2.1.2 Partner led field trial of first version of data collection protocol for selected CITES listed species (Partners)

This activity is due to be completed in year 2.

2.1.3 Design of evaluation questionnaire for field trials of data collection protocol, to enable assessment and feedback from field trials (BGCI, Steering Committee and Partners)

This activity is due to be completed in year 2.

2.1.4 Online meeting with Steering Committee to discuss feedback from data collection protocol trial (BGCI and Steering Committee)

This activity is due to be completed in year 2.

2.2.1 Data collected from field trials analysed and inputted into IUCN SIS Database, for inclusion in the reassessment of 12 CITES listed species (BGCI)

This activity is due to be completed in year 2 and year 3.

2.2.2. Methods of storing improved data internally at partner organisations agreed/discussed at meetings of the Steering Committee (BGCI and Steering Committee)

This activity is due to be completed in year 2 and year 3.

2.3.1 Data collected from field trials added to IUCN SULi species use database, and information document prepared for submission to CITES Plants Committee (for publication on CITES website, Species+, CITES and Forest Toolkit) (BGCI)

This activity is due to be completed in year 2 and year 3.

Output 3: In Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, training delivered (to trainers and trainees) and dissemination of best practice data collection protocol and delivery of recommendations to relevant stakeholders

All activities for output 3 are due to be completed in year 2 and year 3 of the project. There is no activity updated for this report for activities 3.1.1 to 3.4.2.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Develop best-practice data collection protocol for monitoring timber tree species in the wild to guide conservation and sustainable use, to identify the impact of logging at the species level

Significant progress has been made towards Output 1. This includes the preparation of methods for the desktop analysis and stakeholder survey sections of the data collection protocol (MoV 1.1a/1.2 and/

Annex 6). The desktop analysis is also completed and the relevant resources to carry through to the final data collection protocol have been identified. The desktop analysis helped to identify gaps, that we have addressed in the stakeholder survey. Through analysis of the stakeholder survey, we will be able to identify remaining gaps and data needs to design the final stage of the data collection protocol, the quantitative field data collection phase to addresses any remaining information gaps.

Overall, this output is on track. We have one section left to complete towards the draft data collection protocol which will be completed in the next quarter and can then be finalised further as the project continues. Evidence of progress is also shown in meeting minutes (MoV 1.1b – Annex 4).

Although we have not formalised any documents to share with CITES Plant Committee and IUCN Red List Technical Working Group (MoV 1.2b), discussions around what we would like to prepare, who we need to speak to, and possible relevant examples and case studies have occurred.

Output 2. Trial data collection protocol in the field for CITES listed timber species in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, to guide conservation and sustainable use

With the completion of the first two sections of the data collection protocol, we are closer to identifying the needs of the final section of the data collection protocol and in that way are preparing for the quantitative field trial stage of the data collection protocol. This preparation includes informal review of the quantitative data we are receiving in real-time from the stakeholder survey, and using this information to research potential quantitative field data collection methods that are suited to the focal countries and species. For instance, if there is a lack of data on the species growth and trunk size, then the research will include the various methods used to measure this aspect of timber growth and size.

We have also begun the presentation of summary data for our focal tree species (MoV 2.1a/Annex 7), which provides a baseline from which to evaluate the stages of the data collection protocol and their contribution of data for each species. Information gathered until now can also contribute to MoV 2.2. and 2.3 when work begins on making these updated and additions in year 2.

Output 3. In Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, training delivered (to trainers and trainees) and dissemination of best practice data collection protocol and delivery of recommendations to relevant stakeholders

We have not completed training activities as specified under this output as these are not due until year 2 of the project, however we have carried out two small internal trainings for steering committee members and their organisations admin staff (as appropriate).

This included finance training and virtual training on interview techniques, safety and ethics (attendance information provided in Annex 9). The former is to support half year and annual reporting, building knowledge of BCF processes in these organisations. For the latter, this was essential for the delivery of Activity 1.1.2 so partners could roll-out the in-person survey of the data collection protocol. This training will be adapted to be part of the year 2 training resources (MoV 3.1) and data collection protocol. Disaggregation of this training data is available in Annex 9.

Partners in Ghana carried out a subsequent in-country training on 24th February for all other supporting staff at the Forestry Research Institute in Ghana who would be engaged with the in-person survey data collection (Annex 9). Sixteen individuals were trained (10 male: 6 female). Dr. Laxmi Agarwal from BGCI joined the training online as a key resource person. Participants were given a presentation on the project overview; highlighting objectives and the purpose of the field data collection. The training was aimed at building the capacity of all field data collectors to be effective, while bearing in mind the social and environmental safeguard policies of BGCI for the project.

As we are on track with the preparation of the final data collection protocol, we are also on track to deliver the training courses from quarter 2 year 2.

Conversations in steering committees and recording of these in minutes (Annex 4), will inform parts of and contribute to case studies in the Guidance documents and final Project Report to be delivered in year 3.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Enhanced data availability for timber species threatened by logging, through the application data collection protocol, in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar enabling improved species conservation and sustainable use

Considering the progress made on Output 1, it is likely we will achieve the project outcome and improve the data availability for the focal project species.

To effectively measure and document the increased availability of data for the focal project species, a structured and multi-faceted approach is essential. This involves tracking progress through summary species tables (as outlined in Annex 7), which consolidate information gathered from desktop analyses, and later will include the information from the stakeholder surveys, and fieldwork. This table layout will serve as a repository for the identification of data gaps, through which missing data could be found and robustly informing future data collection efforts, will enabling those efforts to minimise wasted resources and funds.

In essence the desktop analysis provides a baseline of what information is available while stages two and three of the planned data collection protocol build on this to increase our understanding of what data is available on the ground and what data can be collected. This analysis and method are currently being missed in publications and the international community. Understanding the different resources and sources of data available is in itself enhancing understanding and knowledge of data availability for future data gathering projects and protocols.

Looking ahead, planned activities (specifically Activities 2.2.1 and 2.2.3) aim to make portions of this information accessible online, thereby broadening the impact and utility of the data for conservation efforts. This online dissemination will not only facilitate transparency but also encourage collaborative efforts in biodiversity conservation. Where possible online dissemination will be monitored for usage metrics.

As we move into year 2 of the project and begin engaging with CITES Plant Committee and IUCN Red List Technical Working Group (MoV 0.1b, 1.2b) we will be able to tailor our methods and final data collection protocol to ensure it is best aligned to improve species conservation and sustainable use. Our final workshop in year 3, with all partners present, will also help evaluate if we have improved this process.

Training processes (Output 3) to be carried out in year 2 will provide longevity and increased knowledge, which in the long term is likely to improve species conservation and sustainable use of focal timbers.

A further indicator in the long-term will be the use of the data and its integration into decision-making where the new data has informed policy decisions, conservation strategies, or resource management plans.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All stakeholders in the country chosen are committed to reducing IWT for timber species. (Mitigation: working with stakeholders who recognise the negative impacts of the depletion of timber resources, and delivery of tools and training that enable effective and timely monitoring of sustainable use of timbers)

This assumption still holds true, as stated in Q1, many focal timber species of this project have only recently been added to CITES Appendix II in our project countries. This project is therefore timely, and there is specific interest and need for the products this project is due to provide. This has maintained interested and commitment from partners.

Knowledge and skills gaps result in illegal harvesting of timbers. (Mitigation: empowerment of local communities to monitor and manage their own timber resources)

Due to our relationships with our partners, and their familiarity with staff and focal communities this remains an assumption that is unlikely to occur. Analysis of the stakeholder survey and fieldwork will provide more information on local communities, drivers and impact of trade etc. It is therefore important to monitor this assumption.

Assumed endorsement from CITES and IUCN Red List Technical Working Group (mitigation: familiarise project staff with these processes, have consistent communication with the groups to ensure endorsement can occur)

In year one we have not yet pursued endorsement. This assumption shall remain.

Trial shows protocol does not work as expected (Mitigation: Protocol to be adapted as required through consultation with Steering Committee and stakeholders in-country)

We have prepared some methods so far towards the data collection protocol, these will be reviewed by the steering committee alongside any new methods. Products and resources are reviewed as part of regular steering committee meetings (Annex 4). We will continue this process into the next years of the project and hold additional meetings to finalise products before publication as needed. We will also have evaluation stages following the drafting and trialling of the data collection protocol (Activities 2.1.3, 3.2.2).

Trial cannot take place due to severe weather, political instability etc. (Mitigation: Alternate sites/species/country identified for implementation)

We have already had an impact of severe weather in Madagascar delaying the rollout of activity 1.1.3. We have been monitoring the situation via email, and steering committee meetings with our Malagasy partners. In May we will do a period of project planning and identify when we can and can't run fieldwork due to severe weather and make the changes needed to the workplan across the project, or just for Madagascar as is needed. Our relationship with Kenya remains strong if we need to change countries of implementation.

Trained staff remain in institution and in a position to use the skills provided. (Mitigation: Training of trainers approach helps to ensure that skills can be shared and passed on as staff rotate or leave).

Training proper for this project begins in year 2 and will be continually monitored. For the first stage of training (activity 3.2.1) project partners will nominate 'champions' to be trained as trainers for the data collection protocol. Considerations of longevity can be considered at this point. As well as ensuring a variety of positions in the organisation are recommended to take part.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and multidimensional poverty reduction

Impact statement: Reduced pressure of illegal logging on threatened timber species through provision of species data to facilitate more effective and long-term conservation and sustainable timber use.

Tackling IWT

The number of timber tree species being added to CITES is increasing, as evidenced in the addition of 195 new timber species at CITES CoP19. Despite the increase in number of species, the number of NDFs for these species is not growing, through this project we will provide additional guidance and case studies to ensure the proper preparing of CITES NDFs for timber species. This will support improved implementation of sustainable harvesting and CITES in the long-term.

Additionally, the information gathering processes presented in this project will inform IUCN Red List assessments, which are widely used to make global and national conservation decisions by a variety of stakeholders. Improving the information used for these assessments, will better inform these decisions and prioritisation processes and thus ensure the comprehensive sustainable use and conservation of the species. Already, a recommendation from Gabon has been the need to reassess priority timber species more frequently than the IUCN Recommended 5–10-year cycle.

Supporting multidimensional poverty reduction

Beyond the life of the project, the training will provide people with skills in data collection and monitoring, which can be transferable to other employment opportunities. These skills can also increase livelihood opportunities for monitoring timber species and biodiversity, as green economies grow and biodiversity and carbon credit markets develop. The increased knowledge can improve community governance of forest resources, and the associated livelihood benefits from the forests. This work will also provide evidence and a voice to the community needs of the forest, to ensure conservation and sustainable management of forest products for sustained benefits to local communities.

The skills developed in the project and through extended work of the project (Red List assessments and monitoring) will help communities manage their timber resources sustainably, and aid in building climate resilient communities. There will be gains from the long-term benefits of local forest cover which includes improved water and food security, reduced air pollution and cooling affect from shade trees under which crops can be grown through sustainable agroforestry practices (Rivers *et al.* 2023).

4. Thematic focus

This project aligns with the two themes (2) Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents and (3) Strengthening law enforcement.

The project focus on data collection will enable better implementation of the CITES Framework and IUCN Red List. Evidence provided by the project is expected to be considered in the formulation of CITES NDFs and therefore better informed CITES quotas, information documents and decisions at Committee Meetings and CoPs. The improved data for 14 CITES-listed species and the increased data gathering capability will help abate the threat of illegal logging by aiding national governments to revise export quotas, update threatened species lists and regional/national conservation assessments (Wolf *et al.* 2018). While better guidance and more informed IUCN Red List assessments for timber trees will help raise awareness with decision makers and consumers. Beyond the project, this will have an impact on both reducing demand for threatened timber species.

5. Impact on species in focus

The project goal is to gather more information for timber species and make this available nationally and internationally to support decision-making regarding trade in these species. Beyond the project this can inform national policies, NDFs and IUCN Red List assessments, which may result in changes to the conservation, protection, sustainable use etc. of the species but this is not a deliverable of this project.

We have already been gathering information available for the focal species at the desktop level, and this baseline information is presented in Annex 7 for two species.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

Working in UMIC Country

Gabon is a UMIC, however with forestry being a main economic output for the country CITES regulations can pose a challenge to local incomes and the economy if listed species are unable to be traded due to a negative NDF decision. Our project, alongside other timber focused projects in Gabon, will ensure that this possibility does not become a reality. By advancing knowledge on the data needs for NDFs and identifying where data gaps occur for NDF and IUCN Red List processes and how to fill these, including considerations for conservation, the timber industry can become resilient, and able to respond to changing international laws. Our partners in Gabon have worked alongside timber organisations within the country for several years, assisting in developing methods for identifying and protecting High Conservation Value forests and preparing IUCN Red List assessments for timber trees in country. Through collaboration on this project, we will be providing new knowledge to their network and upskilling the mainly rural workforce for delivering three types of research methods (in-person surveys, desktop research and field skills). These are also skills which will be developed in the two other project countries.

Wider poverty reduction

It is anticipated that training in the skills described above will be transferrable to other activities in biodiversity, environment and green sectors, especially with the growing global recognition for monitoring of tree planting for carbon and biodiversity credits. Thus, contributing to employment potential. Our training will be delivered broadly to community members, as well as staff in existing organisations (Activity 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). Already in Ghana, they have extended the training provided by BGCI to staff on in-person interview skills which has built confidence in the team for this data collection process. As some of the team members were research students, they will take these skills forward to their early career trajectory.

The strength of this project lies in the contribution of advancing knowledge and understanding for threatened and CITES listed timber tree species. Although plants make up a larger proportion of CITES listed species, and more plant species are threatened than animal species, the understanding of these species in the wild can be lacking in comparison to other more charismatic groups. Our project is working to bridge this gap and identify ways we can understand the populations of these species in the wild through different research methods and how these methods can better inform conservation and

sustainable use decision making by contributing to CITES NDF and IUCN Red List Assessment processes for trees. As we progress through year 2 and year 3 of the project, how we can publicise this data and what steps are needed to apply this data to CITES and IUCN will become more refined.

This project has local communities as a focal stakeholder. Their knowledge will be incorporated into the final data collection protocol and presentation of species data (MoV 2.1) as local community members will be interviewed as part of our stakeholder survey (Activity 1.1.3). CITES NDF Module 4 (CITES Secretariat, 2020-), highlighted the need to incorporate local and traditional knowledge into NDF processes and we are pleased to be able to contribute to this goal, and provide a method with which to do this for tree species. Community members will also have the opportunity to be trained in use of the final data collection protocol (Activity 3.3) becoming trained 'data collectors' and contributing to quantitative fieldwork. Additionally, this will improve knowledge in these communities for governance of forestry resources and understanding of sustainable use of timber species.

Herein lies the indirect project benefits for poverty reduction. Improvements in forest governance and stewardship by local communities is proven to better conserve forests. Conserved forests are able to provide increased water and food security, improved climate and reduced pollution from air filtration and shading of a retained forest canopy (Rivers *et al.* 2023). My enhancing our understanding of threats to tree species, and methods of mitigation of threats and sustainable use we will ensure that communities that rely directly on the timber and forest for livelihoods will continue. Sustainable forestry has a larger impact on the wider economies of the countries we are working in, all of whom rely heavily on natural resources or the green economic for the GDP.

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Having reviewed the scale above we have assessed our project to be Sensitive where the GESI context has been considered during design and project activities thus far have taken these into implementation. This project addresses the basic needs GESI and is designed in a manner to prevent further inequalities. The following bullet points highlight the GESI considerations from the initial proposal and how these have shaped over the course of project realisation thus far, including acknowledgment of our limitations to better our approach to GESI going forward.

- Stakeholder **survey disaggregation** based on demographic to understand the differential impact of illegal logging on marginalised individuals.
 - All stages of data collection include a demographic section, including gender, age and occupation to ensure data can be demographically disaggregated to identify views and potential needs of different marginalised groups.

- Working with local partners to **identify lower-income women-led households** to ensure they are considered for data gathering roles, are active participants and beneficiaries of any project dissemination and training.
 - Our partner organisations have been informed of GESI activities and considerations. Data collection is designed to ensure that researchers identify, encourage and involve marginalised individuals in the research both in communities and professionals in urban organisations, to encourage where possible gender balance in responses.
 - So far, this project does not have any outputs for dissemination. Going forward the project remains committed to equal representation of beneficiaries.
- **No Harm** approach to local traditional gender norms in each country, identify how the project may impact relationships in a negative way and mitigate that impact.
 - This project takes place in three different countries in different regions and rural and urban contexts. To accommodate this diversity and no harm, the data collection stages are accompanied by ethical considerations. All participants are informed through documents (translated in relevant languages) (see Annex 10), and verbally if needed due to disabilities or literacy on, project aims, their right to remain anonymous (name, telling information and demographic information is omitted), choose to answer which questions they are comfortable with, to dictate terms of information sharing and the right to revoke responses or full participation at any point. This format allows participants to safeguard themselves within their own contexts and realities ensuring negative impacts are mitigated should they feel threatened.
- BGCI has a **non-discrimination policy** that partners must adhere to, based on MOUs.
 - Project partners are still in adherence to the non-discrimination policy, and each have appointed a safeguarding focal point who has undergone training with BGCI (see Q13).
- **50% of the steering committee** is led by females.
 - Currently the steering committee is led by over 50% gender balance to women.

Concerning the GESI analysis guide the following can be said:

Rights: As addressed above under *No Harm*. Documents are designed and worded in a manner to allow each country partner to input their details as per their laws, such as legal age, local safeguarding focal point, and any laws that must be considered during field data collection. Therefore, even if the participant is unaware these will be conveyed to them through the documents or verbally as needed.

Practice: No power challenges have been identified by the project partners considering participation in project activities. Nonetheless, this project is designed to ensure that the power dynamics reside with the participants. Project partners have been informed to allow the participants to choose where survey meetings should take place; ensure participants know they do not have to participate or answer questions if they do not wish to; ensure participants are aware they can revoke their participation at any stage; ensure that participants are aware that they can report any activities on the incidence log. See *No Harm* above.

Environment: The individuals in this project range from urban professionals to rural communities and the main stressor this project addresses is threatened timber species and unreported harvesting of timber. These stresses can have impacts on vulnerable groups and women (Ratsimbaxafy *et al.* 2016) and this may be more evident upon data analysis at the end of this project. No personal security risks or acts of violence have emerged or been proposed by the project thus far.

Roles/Responsibilities: No cultural norms and restrictions have been identified by the project partners. The data collection stages of this project do not burden vulnerable groups. This project already takes into consideration and has informed the data collectors the need to remain flexible in timings ensuring that surveys can be rescheduled depending on childcare, or conducted in the presence of family and at participants homes after safeguarding measure have been considered, to remove any barriers to participation. Moreover, project participants have ensured documents have been translated into local languages where needed, and that data collectors are able to convey the information verbally if necessitated by literacy rates or disabilities. Data collectors have also been trained on how to rephrase questions for understandability and clarity if needed, without leading responses from participants.

Representation: The qualitative field surveys are designed in a manner to allow individuals to share information, including anonymously if needed, and conducted in a manner they chose and in a location

they pick. This ensures that the individuals' participation is within a safe space, encouraged and integrated into the project design going forward with verisimilitude, uncovering the underlying factors of illegal logging. Other than language and literacy, no other barriers have been identified for participation.

Resources: Gender does play a role in access to timber or participation in the legal and illegal logging industry, where in most cases it is male dominated. For this reason, the project is designed to cover the do no harm principle, robust safeguarding protocol, as well as to ensure equal distributions of project outputs and gender balance in participation where the power dynamics reside with the participants who can then ensure their own participation and safety.

For the reasons outlined and discussed above this project falls in *Sensitive* on the GESI scale. Please see the methodology (Annex 6c) for more information.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

M&E and project oversight is provided by the project steering committee which is made up of one focal staff member from each partner organisation and BGCI project staff. The committee meets every other month to discuss a standard agenda (Annex 4). This has worked well for this project, the project partners readily feedback to BGCI on project progress and successes and any issues. Following this there is then often a discussion of what the BGCI project staff can do to support the partners to overcome these issues (e.g. develop new resources) or how can they help in the delivery of the next phases of the project (e.g. translate needed materials).

A specific aspect of these meetings has been the discussion around project products. This is a half an hour slot in the steering committee meetings, where BGCI can present on research conducted and resources produced that will be needed or will inform the next phase of the project. At this point, we can have feedback from the partners on the specific item and have time to make changes needed ahead of the wide adoption of the tool. These documents are shared ahead of time where possible. All resources and products are shared on a joint Google Drive which ensures transparency of working and shared space for collaboration.

As steering committee meetings are not hosted monthly, some issues (mostly contract related) have been dealt with over emails, or via. one-one calls with project partners. Upon reflection, these calls will be further encouraged especially as there are more partner deliverables in Years 2 and 3 of the projects, having a more consistent communication with partners will help with the overall M&E process. The project steering committee gives time to monitor assumptions, risks and report on safeguarding. It ensures we are delivering the project to schedule.

Alongside the steering committee we have built in evaluation activities in the project workplan. This includes:

- Evaluation of training courses and resources (Activity 3.2.2)
- Evaluation of the data collection protocol (Activity 2.1.3)

We have also ensured there is time to respond and adapt both the training (Activity 3.1.2) and data collection protocol (Activity 1.2.1) in response to these evaluations before the end of the project. We have already begun preparing some of the methods for the data collection protocol (Annex 6) and the introduction to the project report, working on these ahead of time will provide ample opportunity for evaluation over the remaining years of the project. This also demonstrates we are on track to produce the required number of project products specified in SMART Indicator 0.1.

Beyond the steering committee, we are seeking endorsement from the IUCN Red List Technical Workings Group and CITES Plants Committee. Feedback and correspondence (MoV 0.1b and 1.2b) with these two bodies will also be an important aspect of evaluation of the project.

Our main indicators of achievement will be in our training numbers (MoV 0.2, 3.2, 3.3) and evaluation and test results from our training courses (Activity 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3). One main project outcome is the improvement of data available for our focal project species. This will be monitored using the species data collection forms (Annexes 7) which will be first initially completed using the desktop survey method (Annex 6), then they will be filled in iteratively following results from the stakeholder survey and the quantitative fieldwork steps. In this way we will see how the data available is increasing with application of each stage of the data collection method, which will also be evidence that data collection protocol meets the needs of this project.

Once the data collection for species is completed internally, we will be making this information available on a variety of databases as is applicable (MoV 2.2. and 2.3). Records of number of databases contributed to will also be evidence of reaching the project outcome.

Beyond project products and outputs, BGCI Staff time is recorded and managed on Clockify an online timesheet portal that can also be used to assist with project budgeting. With our partners we have set up contracts which specify reporting needs and timelines. They have also had finance training (Q3.2), have their own workspaces in Google Drive to save relevant receipts and fill in the financial reporting templates. Safeguarding training has also been delivered to over 50% of relevant project staff (Q13).

9. Lessons learnt

Our delivery of Activity 1.1.2 took longer than expected. This is due to changing the scope of the survey from the original application and underestimating the length of time it would take to prepare the survey. The greater scope was needed to improve the data we would capture from participants, to fill in the identified data gaps (Q1).

The greater scope meant running the different stakeholder interviews took up to two hours which is longer than we originally thought these sessions would run. As we did not have a large sample size of individuals to interview the impact here has not been significant, but we will take this knowledge forward and it should be recognised by other organisations delivering similar stakeholders survey to allow more time to deliver more in-depth surveys. It would have been beneficial to have time built into test deployment of the survey and for partners to run practise interviews, we will include this as advice in the final project report, protocol and training materials (Output 3).

Having gone through this process it means when we prepare the final data collection protocol and project report we will be able to state an estimated time for each of the stages and identify possible adaptations to reduce the time spent on the survey. If upon analysis, the survey (Activity 1.1.3) is ultimately too long and not achieving what we intended it too, we will evaluate this and discuss it in the steering committee and make changes to update the survey to reflect this feedback and ensure the in-person survey best serves the data collection protocol.

Additionally, obtaining meetings with some stakeholders to conduct the survey was difficult as the topics are sensitive. A long lead time was also often needed for government agencies to set up meetings, and often preparatory/reconnaissance meetings were needed to first explain and describe the project and interview need, before organising a secondary meeting to deliver survey. In year 2, we will also ensure that any fieldwork delivery is aligned to the normal field seasons of project partners to prevent delays and pre-empt changes ahead of time in the delivery of these activities, as this was the cause of delays in stakeholder survey delivery in year 1.

Surveys carried out in Gabon also identified that some of the data required to inform NDFs and IUCN Red List Assessments may sit outside of our country partners. For example, in Gabon, some of their data is known to be hosted in European organisations such as Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech - University of Liège. Other NGOs may also host this information such as TRAFFIC and CITES itself. In Year 2 of the project, BGCI project staff will generate a list of 6-12 priority NGOs and organisations with whom to deliver the in-person interviews for. Although outside of the window of time for the in-person survey (activities 1.1.3 to be delivered Q4 Y1), as there is built in time for feedback on the data collection protocol this experience and information gathered can be incorporated at a later stage of the project. Species information and the final project report can also be informed, which are not due to be delivered until year 3.

Despite the issues above, in general those who have been interviewed are supportive of the project and process and willing to share information and data. The interviews have offered an opportunity to promote the project and raise awareness of these data gaps to new audiences. The surveys have helped confirm some of our initial understandings coming into the project such as the causes of illegal logging, and how these may be addressed as part of the project as well as the need for more connectivity between organisations to tackle illegal logging and improve data collection.

Our steering committee meetings (Annex 4) have been a particular success of year 1 and having these set up and working well already will ensure success for M&E in year 2 and year 3. The meetings are well structured and provide an open forum for partners to share and discuss updates or issues with the project. The specific project product discussion sessions also improve feedback and input on project deliverables and ensures all ideas can be incorporated into these products. Working with partners

abroad can be challenge in terms of meeting deadlines, but as reflected on in previous questions more time will be taken at the start of year 2 to explain the project workplan, deliverable dates and activities for the year (as discussed in Q2, Q10). Additionally, more time is needed for partners to translate materials (Q2).

10. Risk Management

11. Scalability and durability

The project has a specific action to pursue endorsement of the data collection protocol by the IUCN Red List Technical Working Group and CITES Plants Committee; this will ensure scalability and durability of the project work. To seek endorsement, we will work directly with IUCN and CITES bodies, to ensure project relevance and adoption. Already, the project is in alignment with efforts of the CITES Secretariat, who, since 2021, have been working on updating and improving their CITES NDF guidance (<https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>). Our project will provide case studies that can be used as part of this work for the CITES Secretariat.

Additionally, case studies from this project can be hosted on a variety of online sites to be used by others seeking to gather data, and improve the information being used to make conservation and sustainable use decisions. Species data gathered for this project will also be made available online (as far as possible), to further sustain this projects contribution to future conservation and sustainable use decisions.

The data collection protocol is directly scalable as it will be relevant to all CITES-listed and threatened timber tree species and our work across three countries and 14 species will provide ample case studies for how others can use the protocol for their own NDFs and assessments. The development of the in-person stakeholder survey, is a relatively novel tool for gathering information for these conservation metrics; its mainstreaming will provide a new tool for others wishing to complete similar work. Overall, the protocol alongside training material, the project report (containing case studies) will be made available online providing longevity to the product.

Our project will provide skills in-country, creating opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with more organisations at a local level. These can catalyse funding to carry out surveys in more localities as skilled individuals are already in place.

12. IWT Challenge Fund identity

A presentation was delivered at the Eighth Global Botanic Garden Conference by Megan Barstow, slides on the IWTCF project were part of the presentation titled The Red List of Timber Trees – identifying conservation needs of the world's timber trees. There was both online and in-person attendance of the presentation.

Dr Laxmi Aggarwal, Conservation Policy Officer presented at the 4th International Seminar on Green Criminology in Mexico, online (<https://lnkd.in/gq4c9Bn2>), on BGCI's work on the illegal timber trade, and the upcoming Illegal Plant Trade Collation. With over 150 participants attending this insightful webinar seminar series, it was inspiring to see how green criminology is evolving as a crucial tool for environmental preservation. The discussions underscored the urgent need for interdisciplinary collaboration, and global action against environmental crimes.

Our partners in Madagascar created a simplified booklet to facilitate understanding by the target audience and to enhance the visibility of the project (Annex 11). In 2025, we will set up the project page on the BGCI website for wider communication and awareness of the project.

13. Safeguarding

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2024-March 2025)

Project spend (indicative) sinc last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)

		Total actual IWT Costs (£)		
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	49430	49425	0	

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			BGCI Core funding for staff time and CITES events
			In-Kind Staff time CSIR-FORIG
			In-kind staff time at MBG – Gabon Programme
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			Besoz Earth Fund

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Reduced pressure of illegal logging on threatened timber species through provision of species data to facilitate more effective and long-term conservation and sustainable timber use.</p>	<p>Initial desktop research has confirmed the gap in existing data currently used to monitor timber use and trade. From initial species research, we have been able to identify more information at the desktop level that can be used (1) to enhance sustainable use decision making for the species, (2) inform improved data collection methods for timber species.</p>	
<p>Outcome Enhanced data availability for timber species threatened by logging, through the application data collection protocol, in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar enabling improved species conservation and sustainable use</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>0.1 By end of the project, three knowledge products (a data collection protocol, project report, training course) will be produced and published in French and English. Best practise recommendations will be written, delivered (via reports in emails) and acknowledged by IUCN and CITES [IWTCF-B05]</p>	<p>We have prepared draft methods that will form two out of three sections of the data collection protocol. This includes the method for doing desk-based analysis for relevant species level data and delivering the in-person stakeholder survey.</p> <p>Our regular steering committee meetings have provided us with some initial examples that can be developed into full case studies for the project report. Additionally, research for the desk based and survey methods will be used in the introduction of the final report.</p> <p>Engagement with IUCN and CITES was not due to begin until Y2 of the project.</p>	<p>Finalise the first two draft sections (desktop and stakeholder survey methods), draft and finalise field methods.</p> <p>Begin conversations with IUCN and CITES about the project, and presentation of initial work.</p> <p>Prepare training course and begin coordinating training courses.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2,</p> <p>At least four local organisations, in three countries with improved skills and knowledge to monitor threatened timber trees (including CITES listed species) as a result of the project [IWTCF-D03]</p>	<p>We have provided training so far for four local organisations (Missouri Botanical Garden – Central Africa Programme, CSIR FORIG, Missouri Botanical Garden – Madagascar Programme, IUCN SSC Missouri Plant Specialist Group). This training has been in the delivery of in person community and stakeholder survey, delivered by Dr Laxmi Aggarwal (Project Officer).</p> <p>The project also provided opportunity to partners to attend the CITES led NDF training which was hosted in March 2025.</p> <p>Training numbers, disaggregated and given in Annex 3 and Annex 9.</p>	<p>Prepare training courses for the data collection protocol, to be carried out as train-the-trainer sessions (hosted online) and in person, data collector sessions.</p>

Output 1 Develop best-practice data collection protocol for monitoring timber tree species to guide conservation and sustainable use, and to identify the impact of logging at the species level		
Output indicator 1.1 By end of Y1, a first version of data collection protocol developed [IWTCF-D26]	So far, we have completed drafts for two out of three methods (Annex 6), that will form the data collection protocol. This aligns with our project workplan. Results from the desktop survey for two species are also included in Annex 7 (MoV 1.1a)	Finish first draft of protocol Q1Y2, including finalising the two draft method documents and writing the third and final field methods.
Output indicator 1.2 By end of project, the final version of the data collection protocol will be published and two recommendation documents prepared and delivered to IUCN and CITES Plants Committee/NDF Working group [IWTCF-B21]	This output (and associated activities) is not due until end of the project. Progress made is described above.	Begin conversations with IUCN and CITES about the project, and presentation of initial work.
Output 2 Trial data collection protocol in the field for CITES listed timber species in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, to guide conservation and sustainable use		
Output indicator 2.1. By end of Y2, field trial of data collection protocol completed.	Field trials do not begin until Y2 of the project. Some partners have picked the sites they will survey in year 1 of the project. Partner organisations have also secured, or in the process of securing permissions to conduct field work on the priority species in their selected sites. See meeting minutes in Annex 4 (MoV 1.1b). Given the delay to start of the project the field surveys are not currently predicted to be finished until Y3 Q2.	Partners to continue to gather permissions for fieldwork. Data collectors to attend training to use the data collection protocol in the field. Plan fieldwork trips.
Output indicator 2.2. By project end, 12 CITES-listed timber species across three countries have improved data on their status in the wild, conservation and sustainable use [IWTCF-D25]	The method for the desktop survey has been completed, which has enabled information gathering for the first 12 species to occur. These are presented in Annex 7 (MoV 1.1a).	Continue to make progress on presentation of species data.
2.3 By project end, 12 CITES listed timber species across three countries with improved records added to accessible databases [IWTCF-D23]	Explicit progress has not been made but information from MoV 1.1a and activities for outputs 2.1 and 2.2 all contribute to the delivery of this indicator.	Identify the databases for information to be added to and prepare data to be added.
Output 3. In Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, training delivered (to trainers and trainees) and dissemination of best practice data collection protocol and delivery of recommendations to relevant stakeholders		
3.1 By end of Y1, a training course for applying the data collection protocol and field methods, produced in French and English [IWTCF-A16]	We have completed drafts for two of the three methods, that will form the data collection protocol (Annex 6). Training slides for the conducting of in-person interviews have also been	Plan what we would like the training materials and course to

	prepared. These will be translated into online training materials and hosted on BGCI's online training platform. The final method for the quantitative fieldwork needs to be written. This will occur in the first half of Y2 in alignment with our workplan.	look like (length, how many modules etc.). Work with partners to set up schedule of delivery (dates and times) of training.
3.2 By project end, eight trainers trained in the data collection protocol, from four institutions reporting to have delivered further training to ≥24 people [IWTCF-D01]	This is to be delivered in Y2. No progress has been made so far.	Steering committee meeting, and additional meeting with partners to identify trainers to train and schedule online training for trainers.
3.3 By the end of the project, ≥24 people from local organisations and communities received training in the data collection protocol [IWTCF-D02]	This is to be delivered in Y2. No progress has been made so far.	Steering committee meeting to pick dates for in person training. Organisation of in person training.
3.4 By the end of the project a written report, including data collection protocol and best-practice examples and recommendations (as an Annex), produced and published in French and English [IWTCF-D13]	<p>We have prepared draft methods that will form two out of three sections (Annex 7) of the data collection protocol and will also inform the final project report.</p> <p>Our regular steering committee meetings have provided us with some initial examples that can be developed into full case studies for the project report. Additionally, research for the desk based and survey methods will be used in the introduction of the final report.</p> <p>Engagement with IUCN and CITES was not due to begin until Y2 of the project.</p>	<p>Steering committee meeting to gather more information, and ideas for possible casestudies in written report.</p> <p>Completion of final methods document on field collection.</p> <p>Additional mapping activities on how existing data, can be used and interpreted for IUCN Red List/NDFs as a case study for the final report.</p>

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Reduced pressure of illegal logging on threatened timber species through provision of species data to facilitate more effective and long-term conservation and sustainable timber use.			
Outcome: Enhanced data availability for timber	0.1 By end of the project, three knowledge products (a data collection	0.1 a) Data collection protocol, project report (with case studies) and training	All stakeholders in the country chosen are

species threatened by logging, through the application data collection protocol, in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar enabling improved species conservation and sustainable use	protocol, project report, training course) will be produced and published in French and English. Best practise recommendations will be written, delivered (via reports in emails) and acknowledged by IUCN and CITES [IWTCF-B05] 0.2 At least four local organisations, in three countries will have utilised the knowledge products, and have both improved skills and knowledge to monitor threatened timber trees (including CITES listed species) as a result of the project [IWTCF-D03]	course will be produced. All resources will be published and available in two languages on BGCI's website. 0.1b) Emails between IUCN and BGCI and CITES and IUCN as evidence of best practise recommendation delivery, letters of acknowledgement including information on further planning for endorsement activities beyond the time frame of this project. 0.2 Training records, with training monitoring on participant impact (incl. surveys taken before and after training to understand development in skills and knowledge).	committed to reducing IWT for timber species. (Mitigation: working with stakeholders who recognise the negative impacts of the depletion of timber resources, and delivery of tools and training that enable effective and timely monitoring of sustainable use of timbers). Knowledge and skills gaps result in illegal harvesting of timbers. (Mitigation: empowerment of local communities to monitor and manage their own timber resources) Assumed endorsement from CITES and IUCN Red List Technical Working Group (mitigation: familiarise project staff with these processes, have consistent communication with the groups to ensure endorsement can occur)
Outputs: 1. Develop best-practice data collection protocol for monitoring timber tree species to guide conservation and sustainable use, and to identify the impact of logging at the species level	1. By end of Y1, a first version of data collection protocol developed and agreed by project steering committee based on a desktop study (of the 12 target species) and stakeholder survey [IWTCF-D26] 2. By end of project, the final version of the data collection protocol will be published and two recommendation documents prepared and delivered to IUCN and CITES Plants Committee/NDF Working group [IWTCF-B21]	1.1 a) Presentation of results from desktop survey and stakeholder survey results, and other steps taken to produce the data collection protocol. 1.1 b) minutes from Steering committee meetings 1.2 a) Final data collection protocol and associated training resources available free via BGCI's website. Publication of data collection protocol on other stakeholder sites (inc. CITES and Forests online toolkit) 1.2 b) Two documents of best practise recommendations submitted to CITES Plant Committee and IUCN Red List Technical Working Group.	All stakeholders in the country chosen are committed to reducing IWT for timber species. (Mitigation: working with stakeholders who recognize the negative impacts of the depletion of timber resources, and delivery of tools and training that enable effective and timely monitoring of sustainable use of timbers). Assumed endorsement from CITES and IUCN Red List Technical Working Group (mitigation: familiarise project staff with these processes, have consistent communication with the groups to ensure endorsement can occur)

<p>2. Trial data collection protocol in the field for CITES listed timber species in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, to guide conservation and sustainable use</p>	<p>2.1 By end of Y2, draft data collection protocol has been tested in the field in at least three sites</p> <p>2.2 By project end, 12 CITES-listed timber species across three countries have improved data on their status in the wild, conservation and sustainable use [IWTCF-D25]</p> <p>2.3 By project end, 12 CITES listed timber species across three countries with improved records added to two accessible databases [IWTCF-D23]</p>	<p>2.1 a) Summary document of information on target species before and after the field trial</p> <p>2.1 b) Results from evaluation questionnaire of field trials, disaggregated by gender. Steering Committee minutes and online meeting recordings.</p> <p>2.2 Updated population information available within range States and added to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - SIS database, for inclusion in the reassessment of species.</p> <p>2.3 Addition of species to IUCN SSC SULI Species Use database, and information documents submitted for publication on CITES related database (e.g. Species+, as information documents or CITES & Forests Toolkit)</p>	<p>Trial shows protocol does not work as expected (Mitigation: Protocol to be adapted as required through consultation with Steering Committee and stakeholders in-country)</p> <p>Trial cannot take place due to severe weather, political instability etc. (Mitigation: Alternate sites/species/country identified for implementation)</p>
<p>3. In Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, training delivered (to trainers and trainees) and dissemination of best practice data collection protocol and delivery of recommendations to relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>3.1 By end of Y1, a training course for applying the data collection protocol and field methods produced in French and English [IWTCF-A16]</p> <p>3.2 In Y2, eight trainers trained in the data collection protocol, from four institutions and reporting to have delivered further training to ≥24 people [IWTCF-D01]</p> <p>3.3 By the end of the project, ≥24 people from local organisations and communities received training in the data collection protocol [IWTCF-D02]</p> <p>3.4 By the end of the project a written report, including data collection protocol and best-practice examples and recommendations (as an Annex), produced and published in French and English [IWTCF-D13]</p>	<p>3.1 Online e-learning course and associated materials (presentations, activities etc.) available in French and English on BGCI's website.</p> <p>3.2 Number of trainers that have completed the online e-learning course and proof of delivery of onward training.</p> <p>3.3 Training records, with training monitoring on participant impact (incl. surveys taken before and after training to understand development in skills and knowledge).</p> <p>3.4 Project report published on BGCI's and other partners' Websites; data collection and protocol downloaded as a PDF guideline document.</p>	<p>All stakeholders in the country chosen are committed to reducing IWT for timber species. (Mitigation: working with stakeholders who recognize the negative impacts of the depletion of timber resources, and delivery of tools and training that enable effective and timely monitoring of sustainable use of timbers).</p> <p>Trained staff remain in institution and in a position to use the skills provided. (Mitigation: Training of trainers approach helps to ensure that skills can be shared and passed on as staff rotate or leave).</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. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.

Output 1: Develop best-practice data collection protocol for monitoring timber tree species in the wild to guide conservation and sustainable use, to identify the impact of logging at the species level

- 1.1.1 Desktop analysis of all trade and biological information on 12 CITES listed timber species (BGCI)
- 1.1.2 Stakeholder survey on timber species data access in three countries (BGCI, Steering Committee and Partners)
- 1.1.3 Synthesis of desktop analysis (1.1.1) and stakeholder survey (1.1.2) into first version of data collection protocol (BGCI)
- 1.1.4 Meetings/online workshops with Steering Committee to present and agree first version of data collection protocol (BGCI and Steering Committee)
- 1.1.5 Presentation of the results of desktop analysis (1.1.1) and stakeholder survey (1.1.2) (BGCI) in a summary data document
- 1.2.1 Update and publish final data collection protocol (based on activity 2.1.4) (BGCI)
- 1.2.2 Participation in CITES Standing Committee, CITES Plants Committee and CITES Cop 20. Presenting in IUCN Red List Technical Working Group Meeting and IUCN Global Tree Specialist Group. Providing updates via. Email as needed. (BGCI)
- 1.2.3 Two best practice recommendation documents prepared and delivered; one to Red List Technical Working Group and one to CITES Plants Committee/NDF Working group for recommendation to Standing Committee (BGCI),

Output 2: Trial data collection protocol in the field for CITES listed timber species in Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, to guide conservation and sustainable use

- 2.1.1 Finalise species selection and sites for data collection protocol trial via. online meetings with Steering Committee (BGCI)
- 2.1.2 Partner led field trial of first version of data collection protocol for selected CITES listed species (Partners)
- 2.1.3 Design of evaluation questionnaire for field trials of data collection protocol, to enable assessment and feedback from field trials (BGCI, Steering Committee and Partners)
- 2.1.4 Online meeting with Steering Committee to discuss feedback from data collection protocol trial (BGCI and Steering Committee)
- 2.2.1 Data collected from field trials analysed and inputted into IUCN SIS Database, for inclusion in the reassessment of 12 CITES listed species (BGCI)
- 2.2.2. Methods of storing improved data internally at partner organisations agreed/discussed at meetings of the Steering Committee (BGCI and Steering Committee)**
- 2.3.1 Data collected from field trials added to IUCN SULi species use database, and information document prepared for submission to CITES Plants Committee (for publication on CITES website, Species+, CITES and Forest Toolkit) (BGCI)

Output 3: In Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar, training delivered (to trainers and trainees) and dissemination of best practice data collection protocol and delivery of recommendations to relevant stakeholders

- 3.1.1 Develop, translate and publish an online e-learning course (and associated worksheets and training material) for ToT - in the use of the data collection protocol (BGCI and Steering Committee)
- 3.1.2 Online e-learning course and other training material updated with new information on the data collection protocol based on Activity 1.2.1 and feedback from Activity 3.2.2 (BGCI)
- 3.2.1 Identify and train (registration and completion of online e-learning course) eight staff to be in country champions and trainers of the data collection protocol (Steering Committee and Partners)
- 3.2.2 Develop a training monitoring questionnaire, for both trainees and trainers to be shared and completed before and after training (BGCI)
- 3.3.1 Partner led/in-country champions deliver training/ coordinate training of local communities/organisations in data collection protocol in three focal countries (Partners)
- 3.4.1 Finalise, design and publish final report in English and French on BGCI and project partner websites (BGCI and Steering Committee)
- 3.4.2 Publicise the final report through dissemination on social media, organisations newsletters, targeted mailings and presentations at relevant international regional meetings (e.g. CITES CoP 20). (BGCI)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	X
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encourage to develop a risk register.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	