Applicant: **Lanchbury, Kate**
Organisation: **WWF-UK**
Funding Sought: **£599,907.00**

IWTR10S2\1053

Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape

In response to ongoing persistent issues in tackling illegal wildlife trade (IWT), capacity, capability and coordination of multiple governmental bodies responsible for wildlife across the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) will be improved to detect, prevent and reduce both national and cross-border IWT. Through advancement and promotion of standardised monitoring systems and tools; and regional cross-learning and coordination, this project will ultimately contribute towards ensuring stable populations of wildlife, and improved well-being of local communities across this vital transboundary biodiversity hotspot.

IWTR10S2\1053

Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mrs
Name	Kate
Surname	Lanchbury
Organisation	██████
Website (Work)	████████
Tel (Work)	████████
Email (Work)	█████████
Address	████

███████████████
████
████
██████
████████████████
██████

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Dervla
Surname	Dowd
Organisation	████
Website (Work)	██████████
Tel (Work)	██████
Email (Work)	███████
Address	█████████

██████
████
████
██████
████████████████
██████

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Paul
Surname	Hatanga
Website (Work)	███████████████
Tel (Work)	███████████
Email (Work)	██████████████
Address	██████████████
	█████████████
	████
	██████
	█████

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	WWF-UK
Phone (Work)	████
Email (Work)	████████
Website (Work)	█████
Address	████████
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Section 2 - Themes, Species & Summary

Q3. Title:

Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. IWTR10S1\1001

IWTR10S1\1035

Please provide a cover letter as a **PDF** document, responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable.

|	
⬇ Stage 2 Cover Letter_GVL_FINAL	⬇ FINAL ZP in GVL 2023-BCF-Risk-Framework-Oct 2023
📅 30/10/2023	📅 30/10/2023
🕐 15:17:23	🕐 14:21:31
📄 pdf 138.74 KB	📄 xlsx 386.62 KB

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

Please tick all that apply. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score, and ticking themes that your project does not address may negatively affect project scores.

- ☑ Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- ☑ Strengthening law enforcement

Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Conservation Action 1

Law & policy (legislation, regulations, standards, codes, enforcement)

Conservation Action 2

External Capacity Building (institutional, partnerships and finance)

Conservation Action 3

No Response

Threats 1

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threats 2

No Response

Threats 3

No Response

Q6. Species project is focusing on

Please include both the common name and scientific name.

Mountain Gorilla (Gorilla Beringei ssp. Beringei)	Elephant (Loxodonta Africana)
No Response	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

- ◉ No

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

In response to ongoing persistent issues in tackling illegal wildlife trade (IWT), capacity, capability and coordination of multiple governmental bodies responsible for wildlife across the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) will be improved to detect, prevent and reduce both national and cross-border IWT. Through advancement and promotion of standardised monitoring systems and tools; and regional cross-learning and coordination, this project will ultimately contribute towards ensuring stable populations of wildlife, and improved well-being of local communities across this vital transboundary biodiversity hotspot.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q8. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Uganda	Country 2	Rwanda
Country 3	Congo (DRC)	Country 4	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

⊙ No

Q9. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 May 2024	31 March 2027	2 years, 11 months

Q10. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	£205,008.00	£216,976.00	£177,923.00	£ 599,907.00

Q11. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

⊙ Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q12. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Unconfirmed match funding is dependent on a pipeline project of one of the project partners. The amount is not too high, and is needed to cover staff time of some staff to work on the project. Other sources from the partners will be used if the unconfirmed match funding is not provided.

Q13. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

◉ No

Section 4 - Problem statement & Gap in existing approaches

Q14. 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. What is the need, challenge or opportunity? Please describe the level of threat to the species concerned. You should 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.

The Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) is one of Africa's richest biodiverse ecosystems containing more threatened vertebrate species than anywhere else across the continent (1). It encompasses a network of protected areas across the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and is home to globally important populations of elephants, hippos, chimpanzees and mountain gorillas. Despite its significance, the GVL faces numerous threats. The region has one of the highest human population densities in Africa, with as many as 1000 people/km2 in some sections of the Landscape, and up to 80% in some areas living below the poverty line (1a).

Poaching and IWT remain key concerns for conservation (2,3). For example, elephant poaching in East Africa remains above average (4), while domestic market consumption is also affecting trends (5). Uganda and DRC have some of the highest records of ivory and pangolin seizures in Africa (authorities recently seized 102kg of elephant ivory and 15kg of pangolin scales in Uganda) and are classified as source, consolidation and transit countries for IWT across Central and East Africa (6), with ivory trafficking and poaching often recorded across the DRC and Uganda border. Porous borders and insecurity facilitate IWT regionally, highlighting that wildlife crime needs a joint response involving non-conservation agencies who may not prioritise tackling IWT (7).

As such, transboundary coordination/collaboration among Protected Area Authorities (PAAs), law enforcement, customs/immigration agencies, and communities is needed. While challenging, transboundary natural resource management provides an exciting opportunity to unlock and maintain the long term potential of the wildlife economy (9).

The Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC) (an interstate institution for GVL) has developed a Zero Poaching (ZP) Strategy (10), with support from WWF and other partners, to address these challenges. However inadequate resources and poor coordination have limited its implementation.

Regionally, a lack of harmonised information gathering and sharing mechanisms hinder cross-border information sharing on wildlife offenders. To feed into this, standardised data is needed from PAAs using tools such as SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) to facilitate data gathering on wildlife and threats. Analysis of this data helps managers identify and map threats, decide on appropriate actions, prioritise limited resources, and track changes in activity over time. However there is also currently limited capacity in the PAAs to do so.

Furthermore, as joint action is needed from law enforcement (prosecutors, customs etc) as well as wildlife-focused agencies, the lack of a mechanism to bring these stakeholders together hinders effective joint planning and awareness raising on IWT. ███ ██████████████

Moreover, limited engagement with local communities, whose understanding of IWT and poaching is unmatched (8), also limits capacity to address IWT efficiently. Support is urgently required for cross-border implementation of the ZP Strategy to both detect and respond to IWT, while mitigating negative impacts on frontline communities from both the current trade and future reduction in trade.

Q15. Gap in existing approaches

What gap does your project fill in existing approaches? How will you ensure activities are aligned and do not duplicate ongoing work in the region?

Gaps have been identified by stakeholders through the ZP Framework and recently at a GVTC stakeholders workshop held in September in Rwanda, which brought together GVTC, PAAs, immigration, prosecutors, and technical partners from across the landscape. Each of the three nations identified specific gaps that affected their efforts within their national and transboundary context. These included the following, which the project will address:

-lack of harmonised data management, use and sharing,
-absence of a regional database which hinders information sharing,
-limited capacity to use the online platform Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX) which connects law enforcement agencies across borders to facilitate rapid information sharing on IWT to inform regional decision making,
-limited efforts to coordinate tackling IWT among PAAs, but also with non-wildlife focused agencies (e.g prosecutors, immigration, etc),
-limited capacity/skills in detecting wildlife crime,
-limited engagement with local communities on tackling IWT.

By setting up a transboundary Taskforce, with members from GVTC, PAAs, Immigration, prosecutors, local communities etc, supported by technical advisors, that will report to GVTC's regional Law Enforcement Technical Working Group, project activities will be reviewed regularly to ensure alignment, and avoid duplication with other national and transboundary processes and developments in tackling IWT.

Section 5 - Objectives & Commitments

Q16. 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.

The project aligns with the London Conference Declaration (LCD), Kasane Statement (KS) and Hanoi Statement (HS) by investing in capacity-building to strengthen law enforcement to counteract IWT (Action XIII LCD; Action 7 KS). The establishment of a transboundary Taskforce will act as a cross-agency mechanism to prevent and respond to wildlife crime (Action XIV LCD), strengthening a regional approach (Action XVI LCD). The inclusion of

prosecutors and support to cross border coordination also contributes to the KS Action 9.

It will also contribute to the recent resolution from the 19th Conference of Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora highlighting the need to focus on capacity-building (Conf. 19.2).

At each national level, the project will contribute to the three countries' National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) (currently under development, with support from WWF and partners), in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework and national policies (e.g Rwanda's Biodiversity and Wildlife Policies; Uganda's contribution under the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal trade in Wild Fauna and Flora; and DRC's Nature Conservation Law).

The project supports the delivery of GVTC, a priority for all three governments, to develop strategies for transboundary management of biodiversity; promote coordination of transboundary conservation; and harmonise the generation and sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices for evidence-based decision-making.

Lastly, the project contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), primarily 15.7 and 15.C by supporting efforts to reduce poaching and trafficking of protected species.

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

Q17. Methodology

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

- How you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project.
- The specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- How you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- What will be the **main activities** and where will these take place?
- How you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

The Zero Poaching (ZP) Strategy (2018-2028) (10) of GVTC is based on a tried and tested systematic collaborative approach to stopping poaching and IWT within a given area. It provides six pillars (community, capacity and prosecution, and cross-cutting supporting pillars of technology, cooperation and assessment) to address IWT. Similar approaches have been adopted by various countries (e.g. all 13 tiger range states, Kenya and Tanzania) and endorsed by 27 expert organisations including WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL).

Successful results have been shown in Nepal, who have achieved zero poaching four times (once in 2011 for rhinos, and in 2014 for rhinos, elephants and tigers), demonstrating that when these strategies are followed and supported by government stakeholders and others, zero poaching can be achieved. The approach has also been used in Tanzania and Kenya, resulting in Kenya reporting two years of zero rhino poaching and Tanzania reporting dramatic reductions in poaching.

Through the WWF Network, lesson sharing has been conducted and will continue throughout the project to ensure that these successes continue to inspire other landscapes such as the GVL.

Based on the current pressing gaps and needs in the GVL, this project focuses on four pillars of the Zero Poaching Toolkit; the capacity, technology, cooperation and assessment (11). The capacity pillar shows partners why they need to build the ability of individuals, communities and organisations to carry out zero poaching activities. The technology pillar encapsulates the need to identify and utilise software and tools that can support the core pillars. The cooperation pillar shows why effective cooperation between stakeholders is needed to coordinate their efforts and achieve zero poaching. The assessment pillar describes the need to monitor and evaluate the effect of the work to achieve zero poaching. In this project, efforts will focus on working with partners to build capacity and capability; providing tools; supporting improved cross-border cooperation; and establishing effective means to monitor, evaluate and adapt zero poaching approaches.

To do this, the project partners will:
1. Develop an integrated and robust monitoring and learning system for IWT activities within the GVL: A Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) plan and associated dashboard will be developed to streamline and integrate IWT data and reporting across the GVL through GVTC's Centre of Excellence (a physical hub to facilitate data acquisition, analysis and information sharing among GVL stakeholders). PAAs and other key stakeholders will be trained to use the MEAL Dashboard, from which data will subsequently feed into GVTC's Annual Conservation Status Report that demonstrates GVTC's accountability towards stakeholders that resources are being used adequately and efficiently while having impact across the landscape.

2. Appropriately equip and train respective work forces within GVL with standardised equipment, tools and practices: A needs assessment will first be conducted to identify the most appropriate and priority equipment and training needs. Best practice guidelines will be developed and 'Training of Trainer' (ToT) sessions will be rolled out on Ranger Based Monitoring Techniques (e.g. Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool - SMART (12)) who will subsequently lead training for other rangers across the GVL. Training will be conducted with key personnel to facilitate the interpretation of the data for informed decision-making.

3. Establish a Regional Taskforce, within the governance structure of GVTC, to improve transboundary coordination on tackling IWT, in line with the 'International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks' (13): Members of the Regional Taskforce (to be identified with relevant partners), will meet biannually to promote cross-border learning, sharing of information, and transboundary cooperation to deter IWT. Protocols to enhance decision making and collaboration between the GVL countries will be developed and rolled out and training will be provided to improve the use of TWIX - Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (14), which will help in identifying IWT challenges and inform transboundary decision making. Voices of local communities will be promoted and considered through their inclusion in the Taskforce and participation in other relevant stakeholders platforms of GVTC. The Taskforce will report to the GVTC Technical Working Group on Law Enforcement.

Project Management: Project implementation will be guided by WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (15), designed to ensure that risks are managed, human rights are upheld, and conservation projects deliver better outcomes for communities and nature. An 'In-Region Coordination Group' will report to the Project Steering Committee made up of WWF offices, GVTC, International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) and WCS to ensure timely, high quality project implementation.

Q18. Capability and Capacity

How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.

Capacity building of identified partners at all levels (from rangers on the ground to higher level decision-makers) is central to the project to improve data collection, data interpretation, informed decision-making and coordinated responses.

Under Output 1, 25 staff from PAAs and GVTC will be trained to use a newly integrated MEAL Dashboard, increasing GVL states' capacity to improve information sharing and collaboration between countries - leading to improved ability to tackle cross-border IWT.

Under Output 2, 25 rangers across the three countries will be trained as trainers on SMART data collection and use. They will be supported to deliver that training to a further 1,000 rangers across the GVL landscape. The 25 staff of PAAs and GVTC engaged in Output 1 will also be trained to improve their capacity to analyse and interpret the SMART data to inform action to tackle IWT.

Under Output 3, 25 key persons from Law Enforcement Agencies (eg. PAAs, immigration/customs, prosecutors, investigators) will be trained to use TWIX (data input, analysis and interpretation) leading to an improved understanding of IWT across the landscape, and subsequent appropriate decision-making and cross-border action.

Capacity assessments will be conducted before any training is developed or implemented to ensure that provided training is adapted to the participants' needs based on their initial level of capacity. Therefore, a flexible approach will be taken, with project partners focusing resources where most needed, with the overall aim of balancing the capacity across the GVL.

In the longer term, the capacity building efforts will foster a greater ability to tackle IWT at a transboundary level through improved capacity to collect and share data; and to collaborate across the GVL, leading to a reduction in IWT and maintenance of community benefits and livelihoods associated with stable wildlife populations.

Q19. Gender equality and social inclusion

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.

This project focuses on governance and capacity development mainly of government stakeholders, in a global context where women representation is around only 3%-11% of PAA staff (16). While specific data is not known for GVL, it's likely that women will be underrepresented amongst project stakeholders. Changing the gender balance of that workforce is outside the scope of this project (given the budget and timeline), but project staff will challenge the status quo, through influencing and advocating for better representation of women in decision-making around IWT across the landscape, for example through representation on GVTC stakeholder groups.

Project interventions are designed with consideration of human and gender rights. Participant data collection will be disaggregated by gender, enabling identification of specific issues relating to women to allow for adaptation where necessary to ensure that women's interests are heard and acted upon. Emphasis will also be placed on female participation in decision-making and capacity development activities, including training opportunities and park level Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessments, measuring proportionate representation for capacity-building opportunities provided in the project. The project will support their participation and will monitor performance against gender responsive measures. All meeting/training venues and timings will be arranged with participants to maximise participation.

All project activities are conducted in line with WWF's Environmental and Social safeguarding standards (15). ▮ ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ we will continue to orientate staff and partners to our Statement of Principles (which includes guidance regarding Human-rights based approaches and principles) to enable adoption. In practice, this means, we will ensure staff and partners exercise caution to not endanger themselves or others; or to put WWF or partners in a position of direct conflict with the Government throughout the project. We will also orientate staff to apply WWF's Discrimination & Harassment-free Standard.

Q20. 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 <u>both people</u> and <u>species of focus</u> a) in the <u>short-term</u> (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the <u>long-term</u> (after the project has ended) and the <u>potential to scale</u> the approach.

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.

In the short term, the benefits for local communities will be predominantly through two aspects. Firstly, the direct benefits of capacity building initiatives for those that work within the relevant government authorities. At least 25 rangers will have improved capacity to apply the SMART approach to gather data and monitor wildlife and threats, and a further 1,000 rangers will subsequently benefit from improved capacity in this approach following training from these trainers. While a further 25 key stakeholders in the GVL member states, from Protected Area Authorities and GVTC, will benefit from improved capacity to analyse and use the data collected through SMART to inform appropriate management and resourcing decisions, as well as the ability to use the regional dashboard created by the project to improve information sharing and collaboration across the GVL.

Secondly, local communities will benefit from improved and inclusive governance and decision making on IWT in the GVL. Community groups representing local communities and active in dealing with issues relates to poaching, human-wildlife conflict and IWT, will be included in the Regional IWT Taskforce to ensure community perspectives inform decisions and planning, while voices of local communities will be further promoted through their participation in other relevant stakeholders GVTC platforms.

Additionally, by generating more accurate data that will allow authorities to identify hotspots of poaching, the project will allow for more effective targeting of sustainable livelihoods activities (not provided through this project but nonetheless a pillar of the Zero Poaching Strategy), mitigating against the potential negative impacts of reduced poaching on local community livelihoods.

Thus the improved capacity, collaboration and coordination of government bodies responsible for tackling IWT, alongside community stakeholders in the GVL, will lead to zero poaching of mountain gorillas and elephants.

In the longer term, this will have broader benefits for local communities. These will be primarily indirect, through improved governance. Population densities within the landscape are some of the highest in the world (approximately 1,000 people/km2). For example, >500,000 people live around just the protected areas that are home to mountain gorillas in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC (17). Therefore access to and competition over resources is significant and has been associated with outbreaks of violence (18). By improving the capacity and coordination of the targeted stakeholders, governance of natural resources will improve. This should then lead to decreased levels of poaching and improved biodiversity, directly benefiting local communities who derive a livelihood from the GVL's ecosystem services - for example revenue sharing from tourism should increase as poaching decreases.

Furthermore, as IWT is known to finance and contribute to conflict actors and criminal groups and insecurity, restricting the flows of such income in the GVL will support improved security in the area with benefits for local communities. This approach builds and aligns with similar transboundary initiatives under the Lusaka Taskforce Agreement and could be scaled up through the East Africa Commission to other regional priority transboundary conservation initiatives, further improving the well-being of local communities.

Q21. Pathway to change

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

Multi-agency coordination is critical to deliver reduced IWT with examples in Kenya and Tanzania demonstrating effectiveness of integrated approaches (19). However, this is only effective if reliable and meaningful data are collected and analysed consistently; and authorities come together systematically to undertake agreed actions. This project is designed around three outputs which deliver: improved data; improved capability of authorities; and improved, formalised coordination between authorities and local stakeholders.

Collectively these outputs will enable the use of meaningful data to inform decisions around tackling IWT across the GVL, leading to the outcome of improved cross-border collaboration and capacity to tackle IWT which will reduce incidences of IWT. This assumes that the appetite of the three governments to work together (as evidenced by the GVTC and the ZP Strategy) persists, and that authorities involved will maintain sufficient capacity to engage.

Over time, reduced IWT in the GVL will lead to the impact of stable populations of iconic species and improved well-being for local communities, with particular scope for increased tourism and economic development if the iconic species are protected.

This is contingent upon various assumptions, including prevalence of external shocks; potential outbreaks of violence; and continued stakeholder collaboration on GVL ZP Strategy.

Q22. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q22a. <u>How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding?</u> how will the required knowledge and skills <u>remain available</u> to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

The Transboundary Taskforce will continue to meet and deliver post-funding, as it will be formally embedded in the established and operational GVTC governance structure between the three nations. Where funding for in-person meetings is not available, online meetings will take place for continued momentum.

GVTC, PAAs and other law enforcement agencies will have developed the skills needed to ensure better practice law enforcement after the project ends. They will be supported by trained trainers, within their own organisations, who will be champions on best practice going forward.

Data and information sharing protocols and tools developed will remain vital reference points post project. GVTC is responsible for ensuring continued adherence to protocols, and management/maintenance of the dashboard and database, which will be embedded in GVTC's Centre of Excellence, facilitating access to data and evidence to relevant key stakeholders. Training provided will ensure the organisation has capacity for long-term management.

Q22b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

The GVL 10-year Transboundary Strategic Plan is under development, led by GVTC with the support of project partners (WWF, WCS, IGCP) and other partners (e.g. International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN), CARE, and relevant governmental agencies). It will provide an opportunity for integration of the work developed under the project and further integration of the ZP Framework for the landscape.

The project is already scaling up the Taskforce approach to the regional level, building on lessons from Uganda's and Rwanda's national taskforces, and assisting the DRC to follow the same approach. Through the projects' efforts, this will form a consolidation of the tried and tested approaches to tackle IWT in GVL.

While geo-political challenges between partner states may impede progress to scale up, mitigation measures such as regular communication, trust-building, equal representation and alignment of the project with national priorities have been highlighted in the risk matrix.

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

⤓ FINAL Annex IWT CF Stage 2 ZP GVL (1)

🗓 27/10/2023

🕒 19:17:02

📄 pdf 419.32 KB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q23. 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.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
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Delivery Chain Long delivery chain of partners adding complexity to administrative and financial processes and causing delays in payments, reporting and implementation.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Ensure sufficient resources in the Lead Partner office (WWF-UK) are available to facilitate project delivery. Complete and track Delivery chain risk map. Provide training and support to ensure donor compliance by all partners.	Minor
Risk 4 Potential issues with translating reports and programme supplementary information for BCF, increasing the time needed to prepare technical reports, and potential delays in submitting required evidence on time.	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	Ensure Project Lead, project officer, and key institutions (e.g GVTC) are bilingual. Where possible, ensure first draft reports are written in English to minimise time needed for translation. Budget for translation costs for project deliverables (excl. donor reporting).	Minor

[REDACTED]

Section 8 - Project Sensitivities and Workplan

Q24. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

⦿ Yes

Please provide brief details.

[REDACTED]

Q25. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

  ⤓ [FINAL BCF-Workplan-ZP in GVL Oct 2023](#)
  🗓 30/10/2023
  🕐 13:12:15
  🗎 pdf 171.16 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q26. 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.

WWF uses a standardised results-based M&E framework to support continual evaluation and adaptive management. Successful delivery of the project will be supported by the integration of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) throughout the project lifecycle as follows:

Development of Project Monitoring Framework: WWF-UCO in collaboration with 4 implementing partners (IGCP, GVTC, WWF-DRC, WCS), and with support from WWF-UK and WWF-Kenya, will develop the monitoring framework based on the "pathway to change". The collection of baselines (where required) will be done within six months of project inception.

Internal Review and Planning meetings of the progress: These meetings will be conducted quarterly among project staff including partners to review/track project performance, progress and results (through the In-Regional Implementation Group). Biannual Project Steering Group meetings will also be held.

Project Monitoring: WWF-UCO will conduct programmatic and financial monitoring. Four implementing partners (IGCP, GVTC, WWF DRC and WCS) will conduct regular activity monitoring. There will be annual joint monitoring visits with representatives from the relevant government authorities and the project partners. WWF-UK will also undertake monitoring visits to the region and will join for two of these. Findings from these monitoring activities will be reviewed quarterly, and used to inform adaptive management of the project.

There are different levels of results which need to be tracked through different assessments:
- To track the Outcome, baselines and endline assessments will be undertaken for its five indicators:
O.1 To assess the capacity of the government bodies engaged in the Taskforce, a capacity assessment will be carried out at the project start and end, based on the Wildlife Crime Prevention Framework Assessment tool.
O.2 To assess improvements in management effectiveness in the targeted PAs, the METT (Management Effective Tracking Tool) will be used to carry out capacity assessments. Some baselines already exist, and the others will be undertaken at the outset of the project.
0.3 Data on poaching of mountain gorillas and elephants will be collected and collated from targeted PA Management Authorities.
0.4 IWT incidences will be collected directly from the PA Management Authorities.
0.5 Seizures of IWT products are tracked and will be shared by TRAFFIC.

Other capacity assessments will be included at output level to assess the ability of targeted stakeholders to use SMART and TWIX to monitor IWT incidents and to inform decisions on action to take. Pre- and post training surveys will also inform us whether those trained are putting their knowledge and skills to use.

Periodic tracking of the results according to the logframe will be led by the Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (WWF-UCO) liaising with all four implementing partners following WWF UCO's monitoring protocols and other assessments conducted by the project. A final lesson consolidation process will be supported at the end to reflect on results achieved.

WWF-UCO's M&E Specialist will coordinate the project's MEL processes working with the project team and partners to institutionalise the framework in collaboration with WWF-UK's Design and Impact Advisor.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP **(this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)**	£▮▮▮▮
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	▮
Number of days planned for M&E	107

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q27. Logical Framework (logframe)

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.

⤓ [FINAL BCF-St2-and-Single-Stage-Logical-Framework-Template-Apr23 IWTCF GVL ZP](#)

📅 30/10/2023
🕐 12:33:12
📄 pdf 149.53 KB

Impact:

By 2035, the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) has stable iconic wildlife populations and improved well-being for communities living alongside wildlife.

Outcome:

By end of year 3, government bodies responsible for tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Greater Virunga Landscape have enhanced capacity, capability and coordination, leading to a reduction in IWT.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

By end of year 3, an integrated and robust monitoring and learning system is in place for monitoring IWT activities within the Greater Virunga Landscape.

Output 2:

By end of year 2, 4 responsible government bodies within the GVL have respective workforces that are appropriately equipped and trained with standardised equipment, tools and practices.

Output 3:

By end of year 3, a Regional Task Force to improve transboundary coordination on IWT is established and functioning effectively in line with the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks.

Output 4:

No Response

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.

0.0 Inception workshop/meeting.

0.1 Baseline data consolidation on - METT for at least 5 PAs; levels of capacity, collaboration and coordination of GVTC, RDB, UWA, ICCN; and on IWT incidences, with specific focus on domestic use of wildlife and timber products of concern in the GVL.

0.2 Conduct endline assessments on - METT for at least 5 PAs; levels of capacity, collaboration and coordination of GVTC, RDB, UWA, ICCN; and IWT incidences.

By end year 3, an integrated and robust monitoring and learning system incorporating an interactive dashboard is in place for monitoring IWT activities within the Greater Virunga Landscape.

1.1 Develop MEAL plan and dashboard to support streamlined/integration of IWT data collection and reporting at regional level through GVTC Centre of Excellence.

1.2 Dashboard validation workshop and launch of dashboard.

1.3 Conduct training for protected area authorities and other key stakeholders to use the integrated MEAL dashboard in each GVL partner state.

1.4 Develop, produce and distribute GVL Annual Conservation Status Report (ACSR) each year.

By end year 2, 4 responsible bodies within the GVL have respective workforces that are appropriately equipped and trained with standardised equipment, tools and practices.

2.1 Rollout of training on SMART:

2.1.1 Conduct needs assessment.

2.1.2 Conduct training of trainers on ranger-based monitoring analysis (SMART) - use and analysis of SMART data.

2.1.3 Support trainers to conduct site level trainings for rangers in pilot PAs to reach 1,000 rangers (Bwindi, Queen Elizabeth NP and
Volcanoes).

2.1.4 Conduct pre and post training surveys (for Training of Trainers and site level ranger training).

2.2 Produce best practice guidelines on key trainings and subject matter.

2.3 Procure and distribute essential tools and equipment to enhance workforce performance in the GVL (smartphones, tents, rain jackets).

By end Year 3, a Regional Task Force to improve transboundary coordination on IWT is established and functioning effectively in line with the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks.

3.1 Conduct meetings with relevant organisations in each partner state to identify individuals/ officers to formally constitute a regional IWT Task Force.

3.2 Establish IWT Task Force, support bi-annual meetings and action planning of the regional Task Force.

3.3 Develop and support the roll-out of regional information sharing protocols and databases to enhance decision making and collaboration.

3.4 Rollout of Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX) to Task Force members, supported by TRAFFIC.

3.5 Conduct meetings to promote and popularise relevant CITES, CBD and CMS decisions at regional level so they are incorporated into planning.

3.6 Support Task Force members to conduct self-assessments against Zero Poaching Framework.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q28. 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.

☷ [FINAL BCF-Budget-over-£100k-MASTER-Aug23 (Uganda)](#)

📅 30/10/2023

🕐 14:15:25

🗎 xlsx 101.25 KB

Q29. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q29a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)? Please give details.

The project builds on and operationalises the Zero Poaching Strategy for GVL (10), further strengthening the work done by the three Governments of Uganda, Rwanda and DRC under the GVTC framework. GVTC is a framework of programs designed to conserve the cross-border network of protected areas in the GVL, initiated by the protected area authorities in the three nations and formalised under the 2015 Treaty.

The project also supports the work being led by WWF focused on building the collaboration of non governmental stakeholders (including WCS and IGCP) across GVL with GVTC to tackle conservation and development challenges in the GVL. Work conducted under this project will be reported to the wider GVL Collaboration to ensure zero poaching efforts are mainstreamed under GVL's 10 year Transboundary Strategic plan. Additionally, WCS has been supporting the development of an IWT cross-agency Taskforce in Uganda, lessons from which will be taken on board for the development of the Transboundary Taskforce. Similarly, lessons from GVTC's and RDB's efforts in implementing a Rwanda IWT Taskforce will also inform the project, helping to scale these successful models to regional and transboundary levels.

Q29b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

◉ Yes

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

All programme partners have on-going activities in the landscape that contribute towards tackling IWT. Most relevant are:

- IGCP's various programmes across all mountain gorilla habitat protected areas, including transboundary collaboration.

- WCS's pipeline project "Countering Wildlife Crime in the Transfrontier Conservation Area of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda" submitted to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, focused on strengthening collaboration to site level transboundary collaboration for the Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area in Uganda, and the Virunga National Park in DRC.

- In all of GVL protected areas, all project partners are working to improve existing data collection and analysis using SMART. Experiences from partners' field projects will be used to strengthen implementation, avid duplication and build on existing knowledge in the landscape.

- Lastly, the proposed project aligns with the overall collaboration between GVTC, WWF, WCS, IGCP and other partners, to develop a 10 year Strategic Plan for the GVL,. Lesson learning from this project will inform the plan.

Overall, the proposed project will bring together the key actors in the region to ensure additionality from this work and future work, and to develop the means to share experience and learnings.

Q30. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much IWT Challenge Fund funding as possible directly benefiting communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in-country.

Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where IWT Challenge Fund funds will be spent. What benefits will the country/ies see from your budget? What level of the award do you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any IWT Challenge Fund funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.

91.2 % of the budget will be sub-granted to WWF-UCO in the region and further sub-granted to partners based in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC, for expenditure against locally delivered activities. Activities will take place across all three countries, and depending on local circumstances, transboundary meetings, workshops and trainings, will be rotated between all three, where possible.

The remaining 8.8% of the project budget will be spent in the UK to cover staff time of the project lead (10%), finance lead (10%) and M&E support (5%), who collectively are responsible for overall, financial and quality assurance management for the project; ensuring that financial, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning, safeguarding, and project results are achieved.

Q31. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity).

Within WWF, value for money (VfM) is analysed around the 4E framework (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity) to maximise results. VfM has been considered in the project design by building on approaches that are proven to deliver (ie. Zero-Poaching Framework), and weighing the benefits of approaches being taken with others. At a strategic level this means that we understand that there are limited resources and so we have focused on working where we can offer clear value add and offer unique value.

Economy & Efficiency: WWF adheres to its rigorous Finance and Operations Standards, encompassing procurement, programme management, and M&E systems. By working with partners across all three GVL states, we ensure the most efficient means of programme delivery in a transboundary context. Regular review of results to improve efficiency are also core to WWF's approach, while project design has also considered sustainability by, for example, embedding the Taskforce in GVTC's governance structure. The budget was constructed with inputs required for implementing each activity and assigning known/estimated cost.

Effectiveness: is demonstrated through the project's design, building on the existing Zero Poaching Framework of GVTC, and through the development of the dashboard and MEAL system that will allow for up-to-date data analysis and interpretation to inform decision making.

Equity: WWF's interventions are designed to ensure local ownership, embedding comprehensive social, gender, and indigenous peoples' policies. Training, for example, will take a flexible approach to ensure that capacity is built equitably across the various project stakeholders based on initial capacity needs.

Q32. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with IWT Challenge Fund 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.

Two laptops will be purchased. One will be assigned to the Project Officer (WWF UCO Staff to be hired) for the duration of the project and subsequently handed over to GVTC, the lead governmental partner, and chair of the Transboundary Taskforce. The other one will be purchased and immediately provided to GVTC to be used for the MEAL database and dashboard management.

Lastly, 90 smartphones will be purchased for use by the protected area authorities (30 per country) to facilitate data collection and 90 tents will also be purchased for use during monitoring missions in the field. All items will be formally handed over to the respective protected area authorities.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q33. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.

Please upload the following required policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy**: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy:** which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct**: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

WWF believes anyone who is involved in our work or connected to it should be safe from harm.

(a) Beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are informed about WWF's safeguarding commitment and how to raise concerns confidentially. We ensure clear communication of policies, conduct training sessions, and establish confidential reporting channels. Stakeholders receive comprehensive information and training to identify/report concerns effectively, and policies and appropriate contacts are listed publicly on our website.

(b) Safeguarding issues are thoroughly investigated, recorded, and addressed. We maintain detailed records and follow impartial investigation procedures overseen by WWFs ombudsperson. Upheld allegations and complaints are dealt with through appropriate disciplinary procedures, adhering to legal and organisational guidelines. Disciplinary actions may include warnings, suspension, termination, or legal interventions, depending on the severity of misconduct.

(c) Project partners uphold safeguarding policies by incorporating requirements into partnership agreements (e.g. MOUs and subcontracts), providing guidance and training, monitoring compliance, and establishing reporting and feedback mechanisms. Non-compliance by partners can result in consequences such as funding loss or termination.

Robust reporting mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives, and regular monitoring ensure the protection of vulnerable individuals and maintain a safe environment throughout the program.

Q34. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the meeting the <u>key principles of good ethical practice</u>, as outlined in the guidance.

WWF Environmental and Social Safeguarding (ESS) policies require activities to meet a set of standards and uphold cross-cutting principles, which reflect key ethical principles, and mandate the following:

Participation: WWF engages stakeholders in planning and implementation, with an emphasis on women, rights-holders and vulnerable groups. Locally appropriate grievance mechanisms are agreed.

Consent: FPIC is one of our mandatory Standards; through stakeholder engagement, consent regarding the activities is sought. The rights of community members to be consulted, photographed, quoted or to participate in monitoring are part of WWF's guidance documents.

WWF Code of Ethics: Our staff, partners and consultants are contractually bound by this.

Human Rights: WWF is a founding member of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights and is active in updating the framework. Any potential human rights risks, ██████████████████████ are mitigated through analysis with stake/rights-holders, ensuring support for capacity assessments, appropriate training and explicit conditionalities on respect for human rights and dignity, along with inclusive engagement in project co-development.

Sub-landscapes within the GVL have undergone initial ESS screening. A draft ESS mitigation framework for one Ugandan sub-landscape is currently under-review which will further guide project implementation and alignment with good ethical practice.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q35. British embassy or high commission engagement

It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies. Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British 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.

  ⤓ [FW EXTERNAL VS Invite to Stage 2 Application fo r IWTCF Main](#)

  📅 27/10/2023

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q36. 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?
Dervla Dowd	**Project Leader**	10	Checked
Paul Hatanga	Lead Partner -GVL Coordinator - Tranboundary oversight	10	Checked
TBD	IWT Project Officer - Project Focal Point	100	Checked
Fidele Ruzigandekwe	GVTC project focal point / GVTC Deputy Executive Secretary for programs	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⊙ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Simon Takozekibi Nampindo	WCS project focal point / Country Director (WCS Uganda)	10	Checked

Jean-Paul Hiwira	IGCP project focal point/ Deputy Director IGCP	10	Checked
Inoussa Njumboket	WWF DRC project focal point / Virunga Landscape Lead DRC	10	Checked
Drew McVey	Technical Support / East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub Lead	10	Checked
Henry Mukiibi	MEL Specialist	10	Checked
Catriona McLean	M&E Oversight	5	Checked
Daniel Ndizihiwe	WWF UCO Project Focal point / Wildlife and Protected Areas Manager	10	Checked
No Response	*No Response*	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.

    ⊟ Combined CVs_IWTCF_GVL

    🗓 30/10/2023

    🕙 11:43:29

    🗎 pdf 114.81 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

  ⊙ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q37. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including <u>the extent of their engagement so far.</u>

Lead partner name:	WWF-UK
Website address:	www.wwf.org.uk

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	In 2019, WWF-UK made a commitment to the UK Government that it will be the lead organisation for all grant proposals from the global WWF Network, taking on the responsibility for overall programme oversight, financial and quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation, and safeguarding. WWF-UK has worked in close collaboration with all project partners to co-develop this proposal and will continue to provide support throughout implementation. It will be responsible for overall programme, financial and quality assurance management for the project; ensuring that financial, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning, safeguarding, and project outcomes are achieved. Supporting WWF-Uganda Country Office, who will be leading the project implementation in the region, WWF-UK will be responsible for supporting strong working & collaborative relationships, organising monthly calls and grant payments, etc. Key roles include a project lead, responsible for overall programme management and coordination at 10% time, an M&E specialist at 5%, and a grants specialist officer at 10%.
International/ In-country partner	International
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:	WWF Uganda Country Office (UCO)
Website address:	https://www.wwfuganda.org/

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	WWF established an office in Uganda in 2009 though has been working in Uganda since 1992. WWF UCO has a large programme of work within the Greater Virunga Landscape. The office also hosts the WWF GVL Coordinator, responsible for ensuring the development of transboundary landscape approaches to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of GVL.

WWF UCO is responsible for national level coordination of project delivery and management, and is responsible for delivery of the project on the ground. WWF UCO will lead on coordinating activities with all project partners and stakeholders; technical and financial reporting; data collection for monitoring and evaluation; procurement of services from third parties, and ensuring safeguarding and other related policies and standard operating procedures are adhered to. WWF UCO is responsible for ensuring open and regular communication with partners and stakeholders.

They will lead on the delivery of setting up the MEAL Dashboard and developing associated capacity through various training programmes.

WWF UCO will provide key staff for the project including: a full-time project officer, the GVL landscape coordinator, technical advisors and Monitoring and Evaluation support. Support will also be provided from the finance, administration, and communications teams. |
Allocated budget:	£███████
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

2. Partner Name:	WWF Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Website address:	https://www.wwfdrc.org/en/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	WWF has been working in DRC since the mid 1980s and set up its country office in 2004, with the Virunga Landscape as a key area of intervention. Working closely with local authorities and communities, on various aspects of conservation and sustainable development, WWF DRC is also implementing a large programme of work aimed at addressing IWT, focused on ivory, great apes and bushmeat.

WWF DRC will be responsible for national level coordination of project implementation in DRC, in close collaboration with partners. They will organise in country specific activities, liaise with GVTC and park authorities, support the Taskforce and capacity building activities, and provide input into regular reporting, reflection, learning and adaptive management.

WWF DRC will provide key staff for the project including: the Virunga landscape Coordinator, and support from the finance/administration teams. |

International/ In-country partner	In-country
Allocated budget:	£▓▓▓▓▓▓
Represented on the Project Board	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

3. Partner Name:	International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)
Website address:	https://igcp.org/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	IGCP was formed in 1991 to address the long-term conservation of the mountain gorilla and its regional afromontane forest habitat in the GVL. Their aim is to work together as a single gorilla conservation program in order to expand and consolidate the successes of the Mountain Gorilla Project and other initiatives at a regional level.

IGCP's head office is based in Rwanda, but have field offices in Uganda (hosted by WWF UCO) and DRC (hosted by WWF DRC), and therefore already take a transboundary approach to their work.

IGCP will be responsible to facilitate activity implementation in all three GVL countries, support reporting, and provide technical support for training and mountain gorillas data collection.

IGCP will provide support and oversight from technical experts (Director, Deputy Director and Field Officer) as well as support from their finance team. |
International/ In-country	In-country
Allocated budget:	£▓▓▓▓▓▓
Represented on the Project Board	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

4. Partner Name:	Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC)
Website address:	*No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration is a mechanism for strategic, sustainable transboundary collaborative management of the Greater Virunga Landscape. It was initially set up by the ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) in the DRC, RDB (Rwanda Development Board) in Rwanda and UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority) in Uganda with their partners in the region, as a collaboration between rangers to protect mountain gorillas. Since then, it has expanded its mandate to ensure the overall sustainable conservation of the wider Landscape, working on tourism development, Community conservation, landscape management and Law enforcement.

The Taskforce that will be set up under this project will form part of GVTC's official governance structure, reporting up to the Law Enforcement Technical Advisory working group.

GVTC will lead on liaison with the relevant law enforcement authorities, including park authorities, developing the data sharing protocol, hosting the database and MEAL system; engaging with TRAFFIC on support for TWIX training and promoting the work through engagement with CITES, CBD, CMS, etc.

GVTC will provide key staff for the project including: the Executive Secretary , their deputy Executive Secretary and programme coordinator. |
International/ In-country partner	In-country
Allocated budget:	£▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

5. Partner Name:	Wildlife Conservation Society Uganda
Website address:	https://uganda.wcs.org/

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	WCS has been supporting conservation in Uganda since 1957, making WCS the oldest organisation supporting conservation in Uganda. GVL is one of the 3 landscapes of intervention, and a lead programme of work to address many challenges including poaching, habitat loss due to agriculture and competing land uses. WCS implements a number of related programs namely 1) USAID/Combating Wildlife Crime Activity, 2) the lion recovery program in Ishasha sector, Queen Elizabeth National Park that involves strengthening law enforcement, lion monitoring and research, in collaboration with ICCN and Virunga Foundation, and 3) a pipeline project titled "Countering Wildlife Crime in the Transfrontier Conservation Area of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda" submitted to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs that will focus on strengthening regional collaboration to combat nature crime in the same landscape. WCS will use its experience in Uganda to lead the set up of a transboundary Taskforce, in collaboration with GVTC. Key staff for the project will include: the Uganda Country Director, as well as the Africa Regional Director for Partnerships and Policy (based in Rwanda), and finance and IT support.
International/ In-country partner	In-country
Allocated budget:	£█████████
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

6. Partner Name:	East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub - WWF Kenya
Website address:	https://www.wwfkenya.org/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	World Wide Fund for Nature Kenya (WWF-Kenya) is a locally registered non-governmental conservation organisation; an affiliate of World Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF). It hosts the East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub (EAWCH) which acts as a support hub to country level programmes in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania and transboundary links to Mozambique, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo, to ensure "People and nature at local, national and global levels gain benefits from improved natural resource governance and the elimination of wildlife crime linked to East Africa". For this project, the EAWCH will provide technical support and advice on the Zero Poaching Framework and the Taskforce, support training design and implementation and provide ad hoc support as needed.
International/ In-country partner	In-country

| Allocated budget:	£█████
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

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 combined PDF of all letters of support in the order they are presented in the table.

⤓ Combined LoS_GVL
📅 30/10/2023
🕐 16:07:13
📄 pdf 2.12 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q38. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade 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
DIR29S2\1011	WWF-UK	Reviving Trans-Himalayan Rangelands: A community-led vision for people and nature
DIR29S2\1010	WWF-UK	Strengthening communities' livelihood and stewardship to conserve Otters in Karnali
IWTR9S2\1027	WWF-UK	Breaking the illegal wildlife trade chain in Bagmati Province, Nepal.
IWTEVR9S2\1001	WWF-UK	Women and IWT: Understanding Gender Dynamics in Pakistan's Wildlife Trafficking
IWTEVR9S2\1003	WWF-UK	Closing the evidence gap on the role of Community Rangers
DIR29IN\1050	WWF-UK	Wildlife Credits: Launching a Conservation Performance Payments Scheme in Tanzania

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

⊙ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q36. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

WWF-UK

I apply for a grant of

£599,907.00

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, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, safeguarding and associated policies and workplan (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) or other financial evidence (see Finance Guidance) are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	KATE AKHTAR
Position in the organisation	Director of Public Sector Partnerships, WWF-UK
Signature (please upload e-signature)	⬇ Kate A signature1 (002) 📅 26/10/2023 🕐 18:14:32 🖼 jpg 8.29 KB
Date	30 October 2023

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

⬇ WWF-UK-Annual-Report-and-Financial-Statements-2021-22
📅 26/10/2023
🕐 18:15:07
📄 pdf 5.86 MB

⬇ WWF-UK Annual Report and Financial Statements 2020-21_web
📅 26/10/2023
🕐 18:14:59
📄 pdf 2 MB

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

⬇ CORE STANDARD - Discrimination and harassment vJun2018 📅 26/10/2023 🕐 18:18:58 📄 pdf 649.91 KB	⬇ CORE STANDARD - Human Rights v2023 📅 26/10/2023 🕐 18:18:54 📄 pdf 163.33 KB
⬇ CORE STANDARD - Gender Equality vJun2023 📅 26/10/2023 🕐 18:18:49 📄 pdf 160.94 KB	⬇ WWF UK Safeguarding Policy September 2022 - internal-4 📅 26/10/2023 🕐 18:15:33 📄 pdf 223.57 KB
⬇ WWF UK Safeguarding Code of Conduct - September 2022-1 📅 26/10/2023 🕐 18:15:28 📄 pdf 110.03 KB	⬇ Whistleblowing Policy 📅 26/10/2023 🕐 18:15:23 📄 pdf 118.04 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, **including the "IWT Challenge Fund Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator 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 <u>actual start and end dates</u> **for the project.**	Checked
I have provided my <u>budget based on UK government financial years</u> **i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.**	Checked
I have checked that our <u>budget is complete</u>**, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.**	Checked
The application been <u>signed by a suitably authorised individual</u> **(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).**	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: • **a** <u>cover letter from the Lead Partner</u>**, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.**	Checked
• **my** <u>completed logframe</u> **as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".**	Checked
• **my** <u>budget</u> **(which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a signed** <u>copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years)</u> **for the Lead Partner, or other evidence of financial capacity as set out in the Financial Guidance, or provided an explanation if not.**	Checked

• my completed <u>workplan</u> as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the <u>Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct</u> (Question 33).	Checked
• <u>1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff </u>identified at Question 36, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a <u>letter of support</u> from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 37, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
I have <u>been in contact with the FCDO</u> in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	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 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 <u>Forms and Guidance Portal</u>.

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 IWT Challenge Fund including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: **Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape**

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: (Max 30 words) By 2035, the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) has stable iconic wildlife populations and improved well-being for communities living alongside wildlife.			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) By end of year 3, government bodies responsible for tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in Greater Virunga Landscape have enhanced capacity, capability and coordination, leading to a reduction in IWT.	0.1 By end of year 3, 4 government bodies (GVTC, ICCN, RDB, UWA) responsible for tackling IWT in GVL have improved their measures for institutional capacity and strengthened coordination and cooperation by at least 15% when measured against the Wildlife Crime Prevention Framework, in comparison to the baseline **[IWTCF-D03]** *(Baseline: 2021- QENP capacity 77%, cooperation 80%; BINP capacity 97%, cooperation 80%; VINP capacity 37%, cooperation 33%; VNP capacity 43% cooperation 60%; remaining baselines to be established at start of project; Target: average increase by 5%)* 0.2 By end of year 3, management effectiveness scores of at least 5 protected areas (PAs) under 3 different authorities in GVL increase by an average of 5%	0.1 Wildlife Crime Prevention Framework assessment. Disaggregated by PA/organisation and country. Annual meetings will also be held to review and report on changes in capacity, cooperation and coordination (qualitative feedback). 0.2 METT (Management Effective Tracking Tool) Capacity Assessment Report compared to baseline. Data will be disaggregated per authority and location.	Geo-political situation remains stable for project duration and beyond There are no external shocks (e.g. economic, climate-related) which lead to a significant increase in IWT activities The Governments of all 3 countries remain committed to the GVL Zero Poaching Strategy

	(Current baselines per PA; 2018: Rwenzori 70%; Bwindi: 65%; Queen Elizabeth: 53%; Unknown baselines will be collected at start of project; Target: average increase by 5%)	
	0.3 By end of year 3, zero poaching of at least 2 iconic species (mountain gorillas and elephants) across the landscape over a 12-month period **[IWTCF-D25]** *(Baseline Mountain Gorillas: to be determined at start of project, Target Mountain Gorillas: 0.* *Baseline Elephants: to be determined at start of project, Target Elephants: 0; known examples per protected area are 2021: Virunga NP, 11 Elephants poached, Queen Elizabeth NP, 2 elephants poached)* (NB. Due to the high cost of species monitoring data collection across the project area , poaching data is taken as a proxy to species population data).	0.3 Poaching data collected through SMART Connect from protected area authorities, disaggregated by site and type; GVTC conservation status reports; Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) databases
	0.4. By end of year 3, IWT incidences are reduced by 15% across at least 5 protected areas	0.4 Poaching data collected through SMART Connect from protected area authorities, disaggregated by site and type

	in the GVL. *(Baseline: TBD at start of project; Target: 15% reduction)* 0.5. By end of year 3, seizures of IWT products reduced by 15% **[IWTCF-B07]** *(Baseline: Seizures in Uganda 2018-2023 = 332; Seizures in DRC 2018 – 2023 = 155; Seizures in Rwanda 2018-2023 = 0; Seizures of products originating in these countries but seized elsewhere to be confirmed at start of project; Target - 30% reduction).*	and GVTC Conservation status reports and MIKE databases 0.5. WWF/TRAFFIC Wildlife Trade Information System (WITIS) database	
Outputs: 1. By end of year 3, an integrated and robust monitoring and learning system is in place for monitoring IWT activities within the Greater Virunga Landscape.	1.1 By end of year 3, 25 key stakeholders in GVL government bodies report understanding and ability to use Regional IWT dashboard **[IWTCF-D02]** (Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 25) 1.2 By end of year 3, Regional IWT dashboard is operational for monitoring IWT activities and sharing across the GVL **[IWTCF-D26]** (Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 1)	1.1 Pre and post training surveys. Disaggregated by gender, country and organisation of participant. 1.2 Dashboard with data updated on a regular, periodic basis.	The geopolitical situation remains constant so that the three governments in the landscape remain committed to sharing information and to working together. Trained staff available are incentivised to use the improved data.

	1.3 By end of year 3, a Regional IWT data sharing framework used by at least 4 government bodies is in place in GVL **[IWTCF-B21]** *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 1)*	1.3 Established Regional IWT data sharing framework and protocols; training records	
	1.4 By end of year 3, the Regional IWT data sharing framework enables integration and reporting of IWT metrics in the GVTC Annual Conservation Status Report to inform resourcing decisions. (Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 1)	1.4 GVTC Annual Conservation Status Report integrating IWT metrics	
2. By end of year 2, 4 responsible government bodies within the GVL have respective workforces that are appropriately equipped and trained with standardised equipment, tools and practices.	2.1 By end of year 2, at least 4 government bodies have increased capacity to consistently use Ranger Based Monitoring (SMART) to monitor IWT incidents in GVL, with 25 targeted PAA & GVTC staff reporting improved ability to interpret and use SMART reports **[IWTCF-D02]** *(Baseline: to be collected at start of project; Target: 25 targeted stakeholders are using SMART data to inform management decisions/actions)*	2.1 Pre and post training surveys. Disaggregated by gender, country and PA/organisation of participant.	Responsible bodies have the capacity and capability to take part in training and to use assets provided by the project Use of standardised equipment, tools and practices facilitate better coordination across the Greater Virunga Landscape

Project Title: **Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape**

	2.2 By end of year 2, at least 15 trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project **[IWTCF-D01]** (Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 15)	2.2 Training programmes and end of training surveys and follow on surveys disaggregated by gender; country; site	
	2.3 By end of year 2, 1 best practice guide produced and endorsed by all 3 governments for the sharing of and use of IWT relevant data **[IWTCF-B05]** *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 1)*	2.3 GVTC website, documentation of government endorsement	
	2.4 By end of year 2, at least 25 staff members of 4 government bodies responsible for GVL benefit from training on Ranger Based Monitoring Data Analysis **[IWTCF-D02]** *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 24)*	2.4 End of training surveys and project data, disaggregated by gender, country and relevant protected area of participant.	
	2.4 By end Year 3, at least 1,000 rangers receive training on IWT from trainers trained through the project **[IWTCF-D02]** *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 1,000 rangers receive training)*	2.4 End of training surveys and project data, disaggregated by gender, country and relevant protected area of participant.	
	2.5 By end of year 2, estimated value of £24,846 of physical assets (smartphones, rain	2.5 Project accounts; handover documentation	

	jackets, tents, laptop for database management) handed over to 3 countries and 1 multinational organisation **[IWTCF-D15]** *(Baseline 2023: £0; Target: £24,846)*		
3. By end of year 3, a Regional Task Force to improve transboundary coordination on IWT is established and functioning effectively in line with the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks	3.1 By end of year 3, 100% of Regional Task Force meetings are attended by at least 4 pre-determined relevant bodies and 3 local community representatives *(Baseline 2023: 0. Targets: year 1: 50%; year 2 75% year 3 100%.)*	3.1 Data to be collected from Task Force meeting minutes, interpreted as a count of the number of different organisations represented at that meeting and disaggregated by PA and country. To be defined against a list of all relevant bodies in the landscape to be drawn up by the GVTC at project inception.	Responsible bodies continue to see the value in taking part in a coordinating Task Force, are incentivised to do so and have the capacity to do so

Government authorities identify and nominate appropriate delegates to the Regional Task Force in line with the guidance set out in the The Memorandum of Understanding. |
| | 3.2 By end of year 3, at least four Regional Task Force meetings have been held *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 4)* | 3.2 Regional Task Force minutes | |
| | 3.3 By end of year 2, at least 75% of meetings are attended by i) the official designate of their organisation; *and* (ii) the same | 3.3 Regional Task Force meeting minutes. Disaggregated by gender; country and protected area. | |

	individual that attended the previous meeting; *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target:75%)*		
	3.4 Proportion of actions from previous meeting's minutes that have been implemented **[IWTCF-B18]** *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target:75%)*	3.4 Regional Task Force minutes	
	3.5 By end of year 3, at least 3 policies and/or frameworks developed or formally contributed to by the project are being implemented by appropriate authorities regarding data and IWT coordination **[IWTCF-B21]** *(Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 3)*	3.5 To be interpreted as policies/frameworks generated as an action of the Regional Task Force and being implemented by the relevant bodies (as per minutes) - e.g ZP framework, information sharing protocols, amendments to GVTC governance structures	
	3.6 By end of year 3, at least 25 staff members of Law Enforcement Agencies report improved ability to use the online Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX) tools and data to monitor IWT incidents in GVL **[IWTCF-D02]** *(Baseline: to be established at outset of training Target: x many staff members)*	3.6 TWIX capacity needs assessment; pre and post training surveys. Disaggregated by gender, country and relevant protected area/organisation of participant.	

Project Title: **Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape**

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.)

0.0 Inception workshop/meeting.
0.1 Baseline data consolidation on - METT for at least 5 PAs; levels of capacity, collaboration, and coordination of GVTC, RDB, UWA, ICCN; and on IWT incidences, with specific focus on domestic use of wildlife and timber products of concern in the GVL.
0.2 Conduct endline assessments on - METT for at least 5 PAs; levels of capacity, collaboration, and coordination of GVTC, RDB, UWA, ICCN; and IWT incidences.

By end year 3, an integrated and robust monitoring and learning system incorporating an interactive dashboard is in place for monitoring IWT activities within the Greater Virunga Landscape.
1.1 Develop MEAL plan and dashboard to support streamlined/integration of IWT data collection and reporting at regional level through GVTC Centre of Excellence.
1.2 Dashboard validation workshop and launch of dashboard.
1.3 Conduct training for protected area authorities and other key stakeholders to use the integrated MEAL dashboard in each GVL partner state.
1.4 Develop, produce and distribute GVL Annual Conservation Status Report (ACSR) each year.

By end year 2, 4 responsible bodies within the GVL have respective workforces that are appropriately equipped and trained with standardised equipment, tools and practices.
2.1 Rollout of training on SMART:
    2.1.1 Conduct needs assessment.
    2.1.2 Conduct training of trainers on ranger-based monitoring analysis (SMART) - use and analysis of SMART data.
    2.1.3 Support trainers to conduct site level trainings for rangers in pilot PAs to reach 1,000 rangers (Bwindi, Queen Elizabeth NP and Volcanoes).
    2.1.4 Conduct pre and post training surveys (for Training of Trainers and site level ranger training).
2.2 Produce best practice guidelines on key trainings and subject matter.
2.3 Procure and distribute essential tools and equipment to enhance workforce performance in the GVL (smartphones, tents, rain jackets).

By end Year 3, a Regional Task Force to improve transboundary coordination on IWT is established and functioning effectively in line with the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks

Project Title: **Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape**

3.1 Conduct meetings with relevant organisations in each partner state to identify individuals/ officers to formally constitute a regional IWT Task Force.
3.2 Establish IWT Task Force, support bi-annual meetings and action planning of the regional Task Force.
3.3 Develop and support the roll-out of regional information sharing protocols and databases to enhance decision making and collaboration.
3.4 Rollout of Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX) to Task Force members, supported by TRAFFIC
3.5 Conduct meetings to promote and popularise relevant CITES, CBD and CMS decisions at regional level so they are incorporated into planning.
3.6 Support Task Force members to conduct self-assessments against Zero Poaching Framework.