

Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund Round 10 Stage 1 Webinar



Agenda



- Welcome & Introductions
- Introduction to the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund
- Role of British embassies and high commissions
- Questions
- Overview of application process
- Questions

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Welcome & Introductions



UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

- Serene Hargreaves – IWT Challenge Fund Lead - Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs)
- Leila McElvenney – IWT Team Leader and IWTCF Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)
- Doug Gibbs – Head of BCFs, including Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and IWTCF

NIRAS – Fund Administrators

- Rachel Beattie – IWT Challenge Fund day-to-day contact
- Victoria Pinion – Biodiversity Challenge Funds Programme Manager
- Andy East – Communications and Workshops Lead

IWT Challenge Fund (1)



The **Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund** is a **competitive grant scheme**, established in 2014. It is managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and is one of the Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Initiative, IWT Challenge Fund and Darwin Plus).

The intended impact of the IWT Challenge Fund is to provide scalable, repeatable and innovative solutions to reduce pressure on wildlife from illegal trade and, in doing so, reduce poverty in developing countries.

The fund is supported through Official Development Assistance (ODA) commonly known as overseas aid.

To date, IWT Challenge Fund has committed over £51 million to 157 projects around the world, in over 60 countries, since 2014.

IWT Challenge Fund (2)

To maximise impact, the UK takes a strategic approach to tackling the IWT agreed by global leaders at the IWT Conference Series. The fund supports practical projects which address one or more of the fund pillars of action:

- reducing demand for IWT products
- ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- strengthening law enforcement
- developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT



Types of Projects Supported

- Projects should address the illegal wildlife trade in any species of fauna, flora or fungi impacted by IWT
- Projects should work in **eligible countries** as outlined in the guidance
- **Innovation and scalability** – projects should test and pilot ideas with potential to scale
- **Capability and capacity** – projects should include activities, structures and/or partnerships that will enhance capacity in eligible countries
- **Evidence and best practice** – projects should be based on best available evidence and/or seek to enhance evidence base and develop best practice
- **IWT and poverty reduction** – **all projects** should clearly describe (and measure) their impact on both IWT and poverty reduction

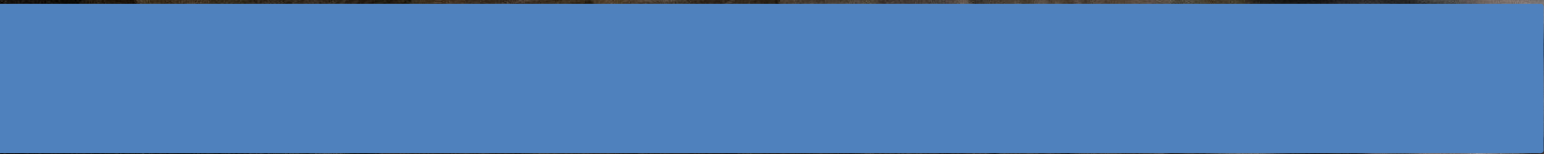
The Schemes

Grant	Amount	Duration	Estimated # award	Type of project
Extra	£600,000 to £1,500,000	2-4 years	1-2	Demonstrating a clear scaling pathway, building on good evidence from smaller projects to scale further
Main	£75,000 to £600,000	1-3 years	8-15	Providing good evidence, expected to deliver strong results, and demonstrate the potential to scale
Evidence	£20,000 to £100,000	Up to 2 years	<10	Focussed on evidence gathering to design IWT interventions

For Round 10, all projects should start from 1 March 2024 and before 30 September 2024.

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Project Requirements

The application guidance outlines all key requirements including:

- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Ethics
- Safeguarding
- Human rights
- Open access
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Risk Framework



Role of British Embassies and High Commissions (1)



- We ask all applicants to engage with British Embassies and High Commissions in their target countries. If you have not made contact before submitting your Stage 1 application you need to explain **why not**.
- Want to ensure projects engage with Embassies/High Commissions so they are aware of your proposed work and because they can provide useful national context and ensure coherence of UK Government supported programmes in the countries IWT Challenge Fund projects work in
- Defra will reach out after Stage 1 notifying Embassies/High Commissions of applicants, and may reach out with more specific queries at Stage 2.

Role of British Embassies and High Commissions (2)



British Embassies and High Commissions can support applicants:

- At Stage 1 by...**engaging with their emails** when they reach out
- At Stage 2 by...**providing written advice and a LoS** if appropriate
- Once funded by...helping **linking up with other UK Government supported programmes** and relevant in-country networks (particularly for those organisations not already based in-country)

We recognise that different Embassies/High Commissions have different capacity to engage. At Stage 2, if applicants can't get written advice or don't get a response, it can be helpful to attach evidence that this was requested to your application (**N.B. we don't ask for this evidence at Stage 1**).

For applicants who aren't sure how to contact relevant UK Embassies/High Commissions for their project country, info is provided in the guidance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the application form so long?

How can I check if I am eligible to apply?

Are there any priority areas identified for Round 10?

Can an organisation submit more than one application?

How strict in the 5-page optional additional material limit?

Are translated versions of the guidance documents and application forms available?

How does the IWT Challenge Fund define “illegal”?

Questions

How to Apply

Application guidance and application form templates can be found on:

<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/apply/>

Apply

IWT Challenge Fund: Round 10

We are now inviting applications to all three IWT Challenge Fund schemes:

- Extra
- Main
- Evidence

Please note all IWT Challenge Fund projects should address one, or more, of the following themes:

- Reducing demand for IWT products
- Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT



Applications **must be submitted** via the online application portal Flexi-Grant:

<https://itsi.flexigrant.com/>



Welcome to the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Home Page

This online application portal is for UK Government funded Biodiversity Challenge Funds the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. From this page, you can begin a new application or access your account and continue working on an existing application – see the panels at the bottom of this page. You can only work on an application when the fund is open.

Application Process

- Two-stage process – Stage 2 by invite only
- Read the **8** guidance documents:
 - Guidance for applicants
 - Finance guidance
 - Flexi-Grant Guidance
 - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance
 - Standard Indicator Guidance
 - Risk Management Guidance
 - Terms & Conditions
 - Privacy Notice
- Word application form for drafting purposes only
- Register on Flexi-Grant and confirm you have access ahead of the deadline
- Applications must be submitted by the Lead Applicant on Flexi-Grant
- **Deadline for applications:** 22:59 GMT (23:59 BST) on **Monday 19 June 2023**

If you have questions, the guidance has most of the answers. But if you can't find the answer you are looking for or are having any problems please **contact us:**

- BCF-IWT@niras.com for general queries
- BCF-Flexigrant@niras.com for Flexi-Grant specific questions

Key Application Requirements

- A complete application form, which answers the questions asked, submitted via Flexi-Grant - **required**
- Supporting material in format and within the page limit guidelines set. At Stage 1 this is:

Cover Letter	Required for all	2 pages in PDF format
Logframe	Main & Extra – required Evidence – simplified logframe required	Main & Extra – required on Stage 1 template Evidence – simplified logframe is included within the application form
Additional Material	Optional for all	5 pages only, could include a map, list of references or Theory of Change. If you submit more than 5 pages your application will be rejected as ineligible.

N.B. additional materials (e.g. letters of support, CVs, a detailed budget etc) are required at Stage 2 but these **should not** be submitted with your Stage 1 application. There are different logframe templates for Main and Extra at Stage 1 and Stage 2.

The Assessment Process

- Eligibility checks of all applications received
- Assessment by Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group:
 - **IWT Impact** (0-6 points)
 - **Technical Merit** (0-6 points)
 - **Poverty Reduction** (Qualitative Assessment)

The assessment criteria are in the [Guidance Document](#) – read these!

- Supplementary assessment on high scoring applications focused on M&E and anticipated poverty reduction impact – this helps inform your feedback
- Meeting where applications are discussed and recommended – Defra makes final decisions based on these recommendations
- Results letters prepared and issued – this includes to successful applicants invited to Stage 2. Results expected **early September 2023**.
- Not all applications receive feedback at St1 – particularly low scoring applications may not receive feedback. We seek to provide feedback to as many applicants as possible.

Stage 2 Process

- You will receive a link to start the application alongside your Stage 1 feedback letter. The Stage 1 feedback letter will be sent via email from Flexi-Grant to the Lead Applicant – ensure they have access to their emails
- Ensure you consider and respond to any feedback received – both in your application and in your cover letter
- Look at the guidance now, including **T&Cs** and **Financial Guidance** to understand key requirements



Top Tips

Ensure you....

- **read the guidance!**
- **do not exceed word counts** and pay attention to basic eligibility requirements like **budget limits** and **eligible dates**
- consider how your **budget spread** is between relevant Financial Years – i.e. ensure you have budget in all years for the dates proposed
- submit all the supporting material in format and within the page limit guidelines set and not submit things which haven't been requested as your application will be **rejected as ineligible**
- **submit by the deadline** – only the lead applicant can submit so make sure they are available!



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Final Questions

Reminders

Stage 1 Deadline: 22:59 GMT (23:59 BST) Monday 19th June 2023

All applications should be submitted via the [Flexi-Grant](#) portal.

If you have any questions, please contact us on the below:

- IWT Challenge Fund: BCF-IWTCF@niras.com
- For Flexi-Grant specific queries: BCF-Flexigrant@niras.com