

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund

Round 12 Pre-application Webinar





Welcome!



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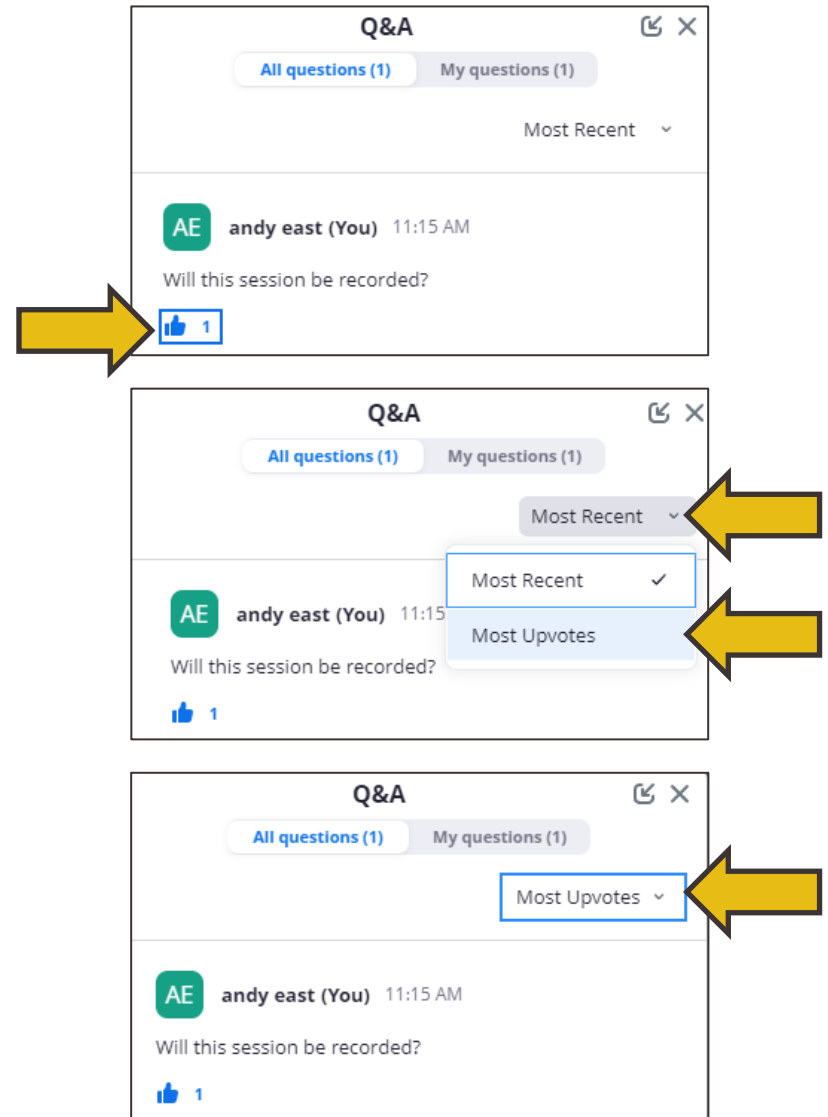
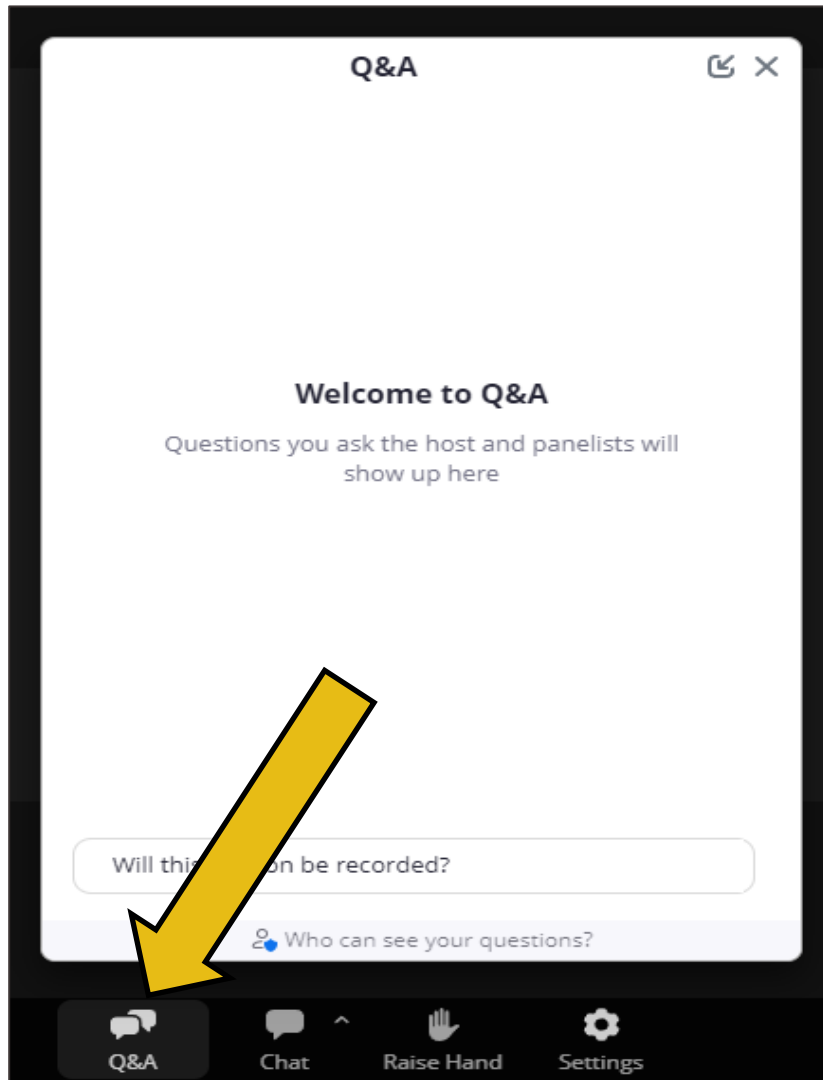
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Agenda

- Introduction to the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund
- Key Changes for Round 12
- Questions
- How to Apply
- 15-minute Break
- Application Requirements
- Questions
- Assessment Process
- Questions



Housekeeping - Q&A





Poll

Introduction and Key Updates



IWT Challenge Fund (i)



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 Fund supports innovative and scalable projects to reduce pressure on wildlife from illegal trade and wider environmental crime 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 £68 million to 187 projects around the world, in over 69 countries, since 2014.

IWT Challenge Fund (ii)

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 and other environmental crime products
- ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- strengthening law enforcement
- developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT and wider environmental crime

Key Changes for Round 12

Eligible countries have **been substantively revised from previous rounds** to focus funding on where it can have the greatest impact.

Low-Income Countries	Lower Middle-Income Countries	Upper Middle-Income Countries
Bangladesh Cambodia Democratic Republic of the Congo Guinea Lao People's Dem. Rep. Liberia Madagascar Malawi Mozambique Nepal Senegal South Sudan Tanzania Uganda Zambia	Bolivia Congo Cameroon Ghana Kenya Kyrgyzstan Nigeria Papua New Guinea Philippines Viet Nam Zimbabwe	Belize Brazil China (People's Republic of) Colombia Ecuador Gabon Guatemala Indonesia Malaysia Mexico Namibia Peru South Africa Thailand

Key Changes for Round 12

The **IWT Challenge Fund Evidence scheme** has expanded from projects solely focused on IWT to **consider applications across other types of environmental crime**.

The Main and Extra schemes remain focused on IWT.

IWT and environmental crime definitions:

- **Illegal Wildlife Trade:** The IWT Challenge Fund defines IWT as all unlawful activities associated with the commercial exploitation and trade of wildlife, including live organisms, their parts or derivatives. This includes all wild fauna, flora, and fungi and so covers illegal trade in timber and fisheries products within this definition.
- **Environmental crime:** includes illegal activities that harm nature and the sustainable use of natural resources, including IWT, illegal logging, fisheries crime, illegal mining, and waste crime.

The Schemes

Grant	Duration	Application Stages	Estimated Annual No. of Awards	Type of Project	Eligible Focus	Grant amount
Extra	2-4 years	2	1-2	Demonstrating a clear scaling pathway, building on good evidence from smaller projects to scale further	Primary focus on IWT. Project activities may also address related aspects of wider environmental crime where these support the project's IWT objectives.	£600,000 - £1,500,000
Main	1-3 years	2	8-15	Providing good evidence, expected to deliver strong results, and demonstrate the potential to scale	Primary focus on IWT. Project activities may also address related aspects of wider environmental crime where these support the project's IWT objectives	£75,000 - £600,000
Evidence	Up to 2 years	1	<15	Focused on evidence gathering to design interventions	Evidence generation on environmental crime (inclusive of IWT), to inform the design of a future intervention.	£20,000 - £150,000

Types of Projects Supported

- Projects should address the illegal wildlife trade in any species of fauna, flora or fungi impacted by IWT, or wider environmental crime
- 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
- **Poverty reduction – all projects** should clearly describe (and measure) their impact on poverty reduction

Any
questions?



How to Apply



How to Apply



Application guidance and application form templates can be found on:
<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/how-to-apply/>

How to Apply

< Back

- > Extra Applications
- > **Main Applications**
- > Evidence Applications

How to Apply

Round 12 is now open!

Introduction

The Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund is a UK government grants scheme that provides support to innovative and scalable projects to reduce pressure on wildlife from illegal trade and wider environmental crime and, in doing so, reduce poverty in developing countries.

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

- Reduce demand for IWT products and other environmental crime products
- Ensure effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- Strengthen law enforcement
- Develop sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT and wider environmental crime

The guidance documents for each scheme can be found below. All applications should be submitted via the [Flexi-Grant application portal](#).

Applications **must be submitted** via the online application portal Flexi-Grant:
<https://bcfs.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 Guidance

- Read the **9** guidance documents:

Guidance

Before applying, you should first read the following documents:

- [Round 12 Guidance for applicants](#)
- [Finance Guidance](#)
- [Flexi-Grant Guidance](#)
- [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#)
- [IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators Guidance](#)
- [Biodiversity Challenge Funds Risk Management Guidance](#)
- [Biodiversity Challenge Funds Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Biodiversity Challenge Funds Privacy Notice](#)
- [Biodiversity Challenge Funds Artificial Intelligence Policy](#)

- 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

When to Apply & Who to Contact



Deadlines for applications:

Main & Extra (Two-Stage Process) Stage 1 Deadline:

- **23:59 (UK time / GMT) Monday 23rd November 2026**

Evidence (Single Stage) Deadline:

- **23:59 (UK time / GMT) Monday 15th February 2027**

Contact us:

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

Key Application Requirements (i)

- A complete application form, which answers the questions asked, submitted via Flexi-Grant – **required for all**
- Supporting material – general principles:
 - Should be in format and within the page limit guidelines set.
 - Should use our template without any modifications if one provided – N.B. for Main and Extra, there are different logframe templates for Main and Extra at Stage 1 and Stage 2.
 - Where a template isn't provided, ensure you follow our guidance.



Key Application Requirements (ii)



Main and Extra – Stage 1

- A complete application form, which answers the questions asked, submitted via Flexi-Grant – **required**. N.B. Main and Extra applicants should apply using the same form but it is **important you select the right scheme**.
- Supporting material in format and within the page limit guidelines set. At Stage 1 this is:

Cover Letter	Required - 2 pages in PDF format
Logframe	Required - on Stage 1 template
Additional Material	Optional - 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.

Key Application Requirements (iii)

Evidence – Single Stage

- 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. Outlined in full in Section 4 of guidance but includes:
 - Full budget
 - Audited accounts
 - Workplan
 - Safeguarding and associated policies
 - CVs (or job descriptions if vacant) for all key staff
 - Letters of support from all project partners, including the lead organisation





Any
questions?

15 Minute Break

Application Requirements



Species



IWT Challenge Fund support is available to projects that relate to any species of fauna, flora, and fungi impacted by IWT.

Those applying to the Extra and Main scheme will be asked to identify the species the project is focusing on.

Q9. Species project is focusing on

Please include both the common name and scientific name.

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

*

Do you require more fields?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Area of Focus – Evidence (i)



Round 12 Evidence projects may have a non species focus depending on the type of environmental crime they are looking to address e.g. illegal mining or waste crime.

* Q6. Area of focus

Are your proposed activities primarily focused on illegal wildlife trade, including illegal logging/timber trade and illegal fishing, or on a wider environmental crime with a non-species focus?

- ☒ illegal wildlife trade, including trade in illegal timber and fisheries products
- ☐ wider environmental crime with a non-species focus e.g., illegal mining or waste crime

If illegal wildlife trade, please specify the species the project will be focused on. Please include both the common name and scientific name. Where there are more than four species that will benefit from the project's work, please add more boxes.

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

Species 1:

Species 2:

Species 3:

Species 4:

Do you require more fields?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* Species 5:

Species 6:

Species 7:

Species 8:

Area of Focus – Evidence (ii)

If selecting a focus on wider environmental crime, you will be asked to specify the crime type(s) that your project will focus on and why you consider this to be an environmental crime.

*** Q6. Area of focus**

Are your proposed activities primarily focused on illegal wildlife trade, including illegal logging/timber trade and illegal fishing, or on a wider environmental crime with a non-species focus?

- ☐ illegal wildlife trade, including trade in illegal timber and fisheries products
- ☒ wider environmental crime with a non-species focus e.g., illegal mining or waste crime

*** If wider environmental crime, please specify the crime type(s) that your project will focus on and why you consider this to be an environmental crime:**

You have entered 0 words (75 words max)

Climate Mitigation or Adaptation



Projects are encouraged to identify and explain any relevant contribution to climate change mitigation or adaption, although a direct climate link is not required.

* Q8. Contribution towards Climate Change Adaption or Mitigation

The IWT Challenge Fund is partly funded through [International Climate Finance](#) (ICF). This requires the fund to evidence how it is contributing towards climate change adaption and mitigation.

Please describe how your project may contribute to climate change adaption or mitigation.

To note, an application will not be made ineligible due to an absence of direct climate change linkages. However, should funding be limited, this information may form part of the selection process.

A large, empty rectangular text input box with a thin grey border, intended for the user to describe their project's contribution to climate change adaptation or mitigation.

You have entered 0 words (150 words max)

Eligible Countries



- Projects must primarily deliver benefits and activities in eligible countries listed in Table 4 of the Round 12 Guidance for Applicants.
- Applicants must clearly explain and justify any activities outside eligible countries and identify which funding source will support them.
- Upper Middle-Income Countries (UMICs) are eligible, however projects applying to work in a UMIC must clearly demonstrate a stronger case for support.

Q11. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? You may add more rows if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

N.B. please check the eligible countries list outlined in Table 4 of the Round 12 Guidance for Applicants. Please note that project activities can only be delivered in eligible countries found in Table 4 of the Round 12 Guidance for Applicants document.

Country 1

*

Please Select...



Country 2

Please Select...



Country 3

Please Select...



Country 4

Please Select...



Budget – General

- It is good to see a significant % of funds going directly to host country partners/costs – but no specified amount
- Consider budget spread across FYs
- % of funds on MEL (between 5% and 10%)
- Refer to Finance Guidance



Additional Materials

Methodology should be clear and link to logframe

Additional links / maps / ToC (for example) can be included as **one PDF** – but be reasonable! **5-page limit**

They must not be used as a means of providing additional information or avoiding word limits!

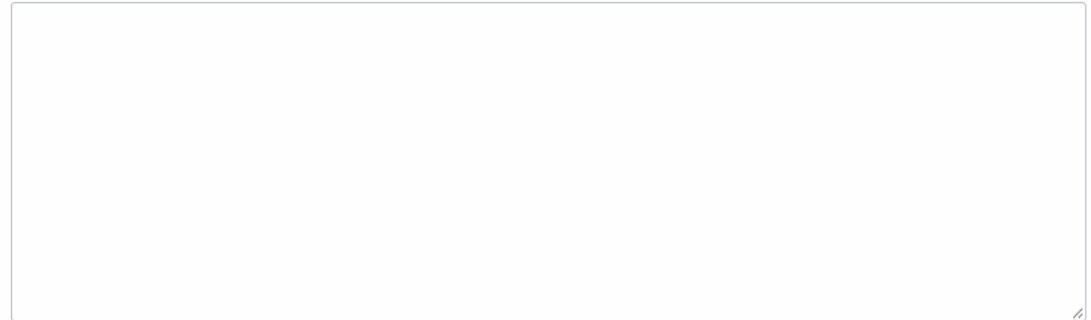
* Q17. Methodology

Please summarise the evidence and activities you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact.

17a. How have you used evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities (carried out by project partners and others) to give you confidence that you designed an effective project?

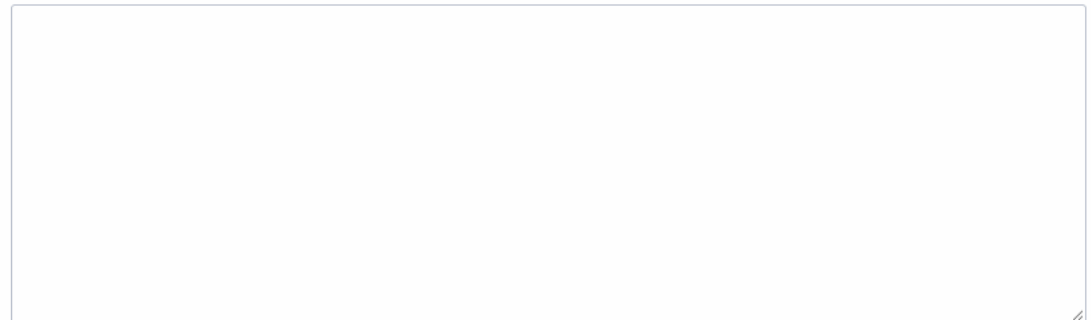
Please include reference to any ongoing or previous work within the same or related geographic/thematic area and detail how your project will build on or align with this.

Please explain how you have engaged with partners or communities involved to design the project; if this has not been done please explain why.



You have entered 0 words (200 words max)

* 17b. Provide a description on what you are planning to do, and how will activities be delivered and managed?



You have entered 0 words (400 words max)

Gender Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion Requirements

All applicants are required to consider GEDSI within the design and implementation of their project and **meet a minimum GEDSI-Sensitive standard**.

All applicants must be able to demonstrate they:

- Understand the GESI context the project is working within.
- Ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of all those engaging with the project.
- Will not contribute to or create any further inequalities.



Gender Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion – Main & Extra (i)



At Stage 1 you will be asked to indicate the steps you have taken to integrate GEDSI considerations within the development of your proposal.

Q18. Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

All applicants must consider how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics, with GEDSI considerations integrated into the design of the project.

Please indicate the steps taken to integrate GEDSI considerations within the development of the proposal. You will be asked to evidence these steps if invited to Stage 2.

Have you considered the following contextual principles when integrating GEDSI within your project design:

For more information, please see the [Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion](#) page on the IWT Challenge Fund website.

- **Rights: legal and customary** * ☐ Yes
☐ No
- **Practice: attitudes, customs, and beliefs** * ☐ Yes
☐ No
- **Environment: stressors and vulnerability** * ☐ Yes
☐ No
- **Roles and Responsibilities: division of time, space and labour** * ☐ Yes
☐ No
- **Representation: participation, inclusion, and power** * ☐ Yes
☐ No
- **Resources: access and control of assets and services** * ☐ Yes
☐ No

Gender Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion – Main & Extra (ii)



Local communities have been engaged in a participatory way when designing the project.

* ☐ Yes
☐ No

The project has been designed with meaningful participation in mind.

* ☐ Yes
☐ No

GEDSI-related risks and appropriate mitigations have been identified based on your understanding of the context.

* ☐ Yes
☐ No

Appropriate GEDSI targets been identified based on your understanding of the context.

* ☐ Yes
☐ No

* Please provide further details below if any of the responses above are 'No'.

n/a if not applicable

You have entered 0 words (200 words max)

Gender Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion – Evidence

Evidence scheme applicants are required to complete a GEDSI Analysis.

Q20. Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

All applicants must consider how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics, with GEDSI considerations integrated into the design of the project.

Please complete a GEDSI Analysis for the project. You should refer to the six principles as outlined below, providing the summary of findings and actions taken within the table below, noting we would expect this to be supported by your own more comprehensive analysis. If your project is successful, you will be asked to refer back to this analysis upon regular reporting.

For more information on how to conduct a GEDSI Analysis please see the GEDSI Analysis 'How to Guide' and fully-worked samples on the [Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion](#) page on the IWT Challenge Fund website.

Principle	Summary of findings <i>Please provide a summary of the findings under each of the six principles</i>	Action <i>Outline the action that has been taken or the decision made based on these findings.</i>
Rights	You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (50 words max)
Practice	You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (50 words max)

Risk Management - Evidence

Risk Framework

- 7 key risks need to be included in the app form table
- 4 mandatory risk categories – fiduciary, safeguarding (health, safety and security (HSS) & sexual exploitation and harassment (SEAH) and delivery chain
- 3 other risks

Q24. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 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, two Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

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

[Risk Register Template](#)

Definitions:

Fiduciary: funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated).

Safeguarding (SEAH): risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff.

Safeguarding (HSS): risk to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff.

Delivery Chain Risk: the overall risk associated with your delivery model.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
* Fiduciary You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)	You have entered 0 words (2 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)	You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)
* Safeguarding (SEAH) You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)	You have entered 0 words (2 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)	You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)
* Safeguarding (HSS) You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)	You have entered 0 words (2 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)	You have entered 0 words (50 words max)	You have entered 0 words (1 words max)

Safeguarding

Health, Safety and Security (HSS)

Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH)



Safeguarding

- Safeguarding / PSEAH Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Review CAPSEAH 6 minimum recommended actions
- Health, Safety and Security Plans / Policies



Safeguarding Further Support

- [IWT Safeguarding Resource Page](#)
- [Safeguarding Support Hub](#) –Safeguarding Essentials Pack
- [CAPSEAH](#) principles, minimum recommended actions, practical guidance
- Training: Kaya's [Safeguarding Essentials](#)
- Training: [Safeguarding in the International Aid Sector](#)

Impact Evaluation (i)

Where a project is testing a new, innovative or under-evidenced approach, applicants should consider at an early stage whether a formal impact evaluation would add value.

This should form part of project design, rather than being added after the intervention has begun.



Impact Evaluation (ii)

Applicants should explain whether they propose to undertake a formal impact evaluation and the reasons for their decision, setting out the following:

- The outcome or impact to be evaluated and the questions the evaluation will answer;
- How the intervention is expected to produce change;
- The proposed evaluation approach and why it is appropriate and proportionate;
- The data, expertise and capacity required;
- How the findings will support learning, adaptation, scaling or future investment;
- Any ethical, practical or operational considerations.

Impact Evaluation (iii) – Main & Extra



At Stage 1, Main and Extra applicants will be asked to identify whether they are planning to evaluate the impact of their intervention.

*** Q21. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)**

Are you planning to evaluate the impact of your interventions?

☒ Yes

☐ No

*** If so, please provide details.**

You have entered 0 words (200 words max)

Impact Evaluation (iv) – Evidence

* Q28. Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL)

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

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. MEL is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact.

Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on MEL. As a guide, we would normally expect to see MEL costs of between 5-10% of your total budget cost (see Finance Guidance).

Projects are not expected to undertake formal impact evaluation in all cases. All projects should, however, report on outcomes and, where relevant, higher-level impacts through the Standard Indicators and their project indicators. More robust research-oriented impact evaluation approaches should only be proposed where they are likely to add clear value, are feasible within the project design, and are supported by sufficient capability, capacity and resources. Where these conditions are not met, the focus should be on strong monitoring of Standard Indicator and project indicators, learning, and adaptive management.

If planning to, expand on how the project will evaluate the outcome or impact of its interventions including:

- the main impact/outcome question or hypothesis,
- the evaluation method you would use including
 - the minimum data you will collect (and what you already have),
 - the proposed evaluation approach category (for example theory-based, counterfactual, or hybrid),
 - ethical and operational constraints.
- evidence that the proposed evaluation is feasible, proportionate, and adequately resourced

Overly complex or under-resourced evaluation plans may reduce confidence in the feasibility of the proposal.

You have entered 0 words (500 words max)

Standard Indicators - Evidence

- New version of Standard Indicators guidance launched – version 2.2.1
- Ideally select 3 indicators – explain why not if you can't
- No longer need to map in your logframe



Embassies & High Commissions (i)



We ask all applicants to engage with British Embassies and High Commissions in their target countries.

* Q24. 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.

Please note that some embassies or high commissions may not be able to respond to you but your project will not be penalised for a lack of response.

☒ Yes

☐ No

* If yes, please provide the name of your contact.

You have entered 0 words (10 words max)

Embassies & High Commissions (ii)



- 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 / Evidence.
- At Stage 2 / Evidence, 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).**

Project Staff – Evidence

- Make sure that staff names here match the names and roles in the budget
- This is for project staff key for delivery – no need to list **all** staff (up to 12 slots). If more than 12 needed, provide a full table with CV pdf
- For anyone named here:
 - Max. 1 page CV must be provided
 - If funded, permission needed to change

Q37. 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?
*	Project Leader	*	☐
*	*		☐
			☐
			☐

Do you require more fields?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Project Partners



- Partners vs stakeholders – partners have explicit project governance role
- Clear evidence of buy-in from partners is needed through provision of Letters of Support
- Important that listed partners actually reflect true partnerships – are they critical to project delivery and involved in project management/decision making? (vs stakeholders who may well be involved but not actually delivering activities)
- Evidence of support from the eligible country government is particularly critical

Letters of Support



Avoid 'template' letters of support. Strong letters of support are expected to include the following elements:

- The extent to which partners have been involved in the development of the proposal
- An outline of how the proposed work aligns with organisational priorities **and** the priorities of the country
- Information on the capacity of partners to support the project
- Specify actual level of support e.g. any matched funding your organisation is proposing, either financially or in kind
- English or translation required (doesn't need to be certified)

Artificial Intelligence

Applicants asked to indicate whether AI tools were used in preparing the application. Please note a BCFs **Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy** has been introduced.

Q25. Use of Artificial Intelligence

Please indicate whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools were used in preparing this application.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools, such as tools used to check grammar, spelling and references.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please check this box to confirm that all outputs were verified and no sensitive data was entered into insecure tools.

☐

* If yes, briefly describe in the box below:

- Which and how AI tools were used including for which tasks, at what stage, and for what purpose
- How outputs were reviewed and verified to ensure accuracy and reliability.

You have entered 0 words (100 words max)

Any
questions?



Assessment Process

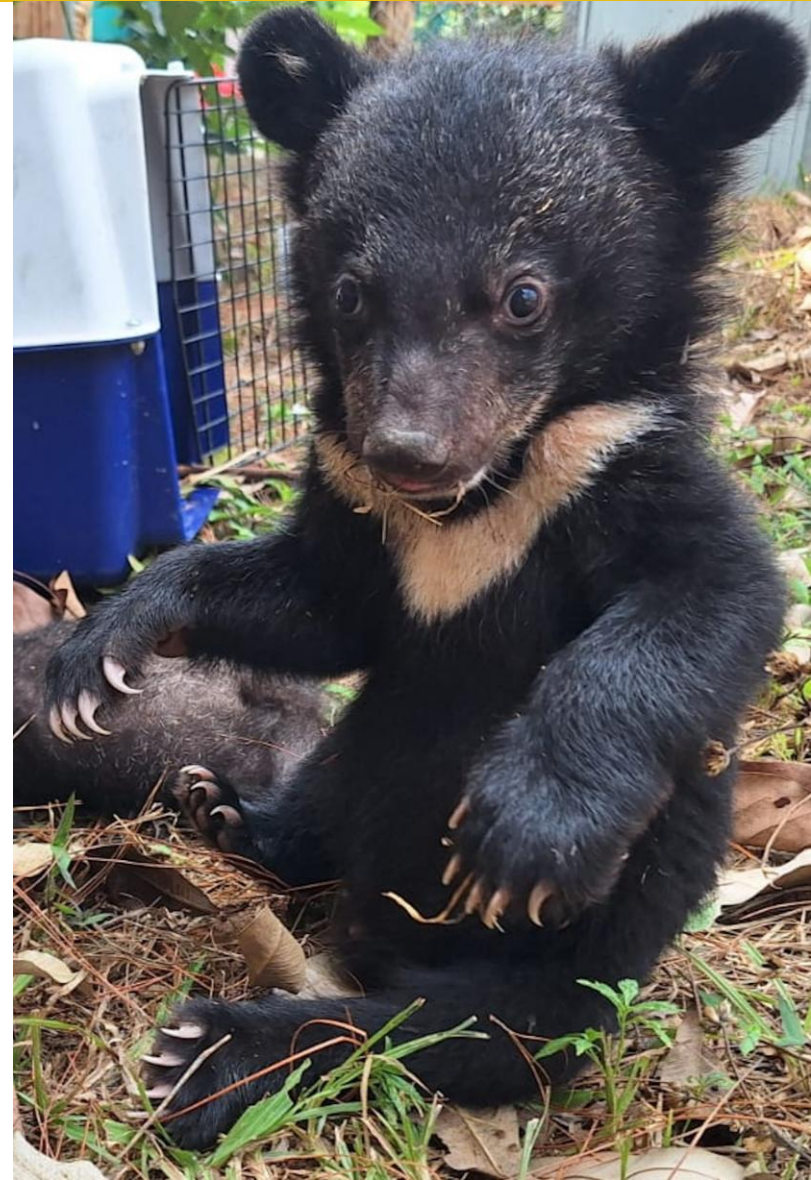


The Assessment Process

- Eligibility checks of all applications received
- Assessment by Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group:
 - **Impact and Strategic Fit** (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 MEL and anticipated poverty reduction impact – this helps inform your feedback



The Assessment Process (ii)

- Meeting where applications are discussed and recommended – Defra makes final decisions based on these recommendations
- Results letters prepared and issued:
 - Stage 1 Main/Extra Results expected by **mid-February 2027**
 - Evidence Results expected by **end of June 2027**
- Not all applications receive feedback – particularly low scoring applications may not receive feedback. We seek to provide feedback to as many applicants as possible.



Stage 2 Process for Main & Extra

- 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 in your application form
- Look at the guidance now, including **T&Cs** and **Financial Guidance** to understand key requirements



Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJAs)

- Projects operating in, or closely linked to, the security or justice sector may require an [Overseas Security and Justice Assistance \(OSJA\)](#) assessment.
- Defra will undertake this assessment at Stage 2, or at the single stage for Evidence grants.
- The assessment must be completed before a project can be approved for funding, so it may delay the project start date.
- Defra will notify applicants if an OSJA assessment is required.



Frequently Asked Questions

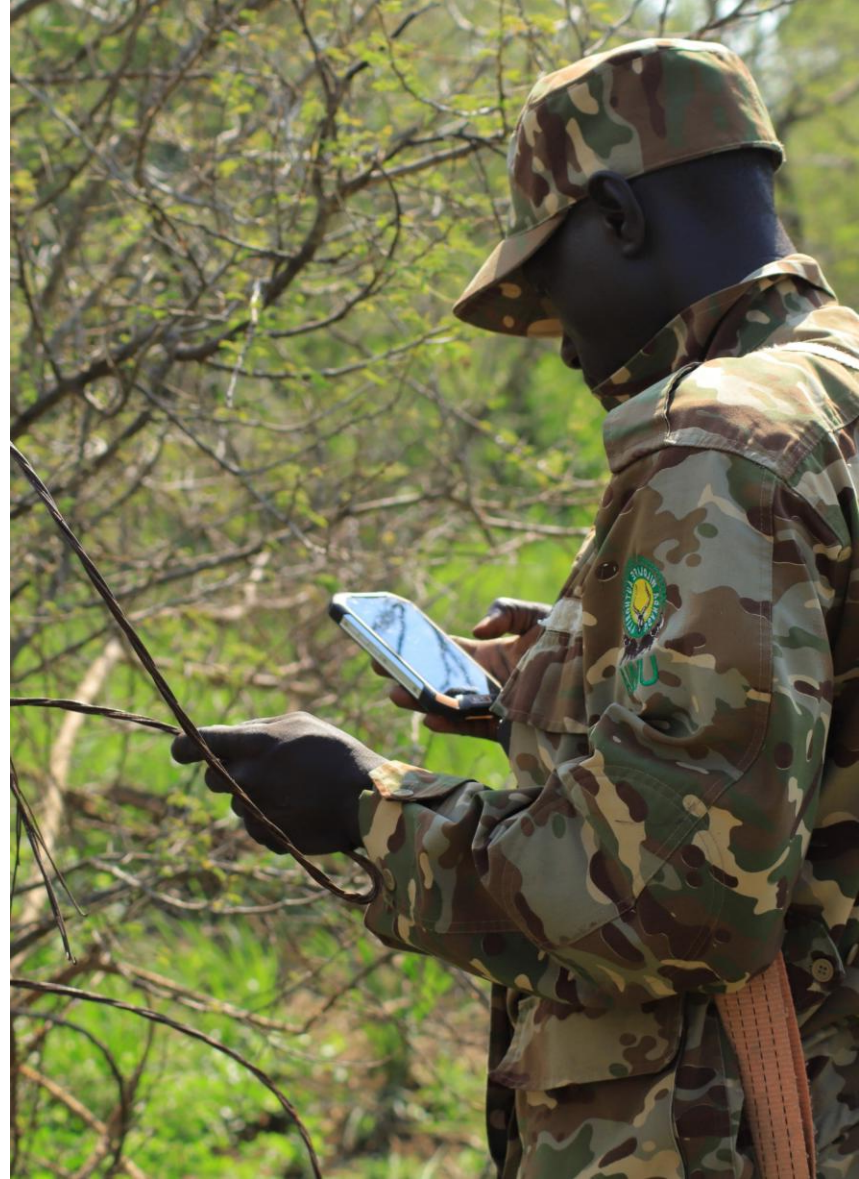
Why is the application form so long?

How can I check if I am eligible to apply?

Can an organisation submit more than one application?

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

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



Top Tips

Ensure you....

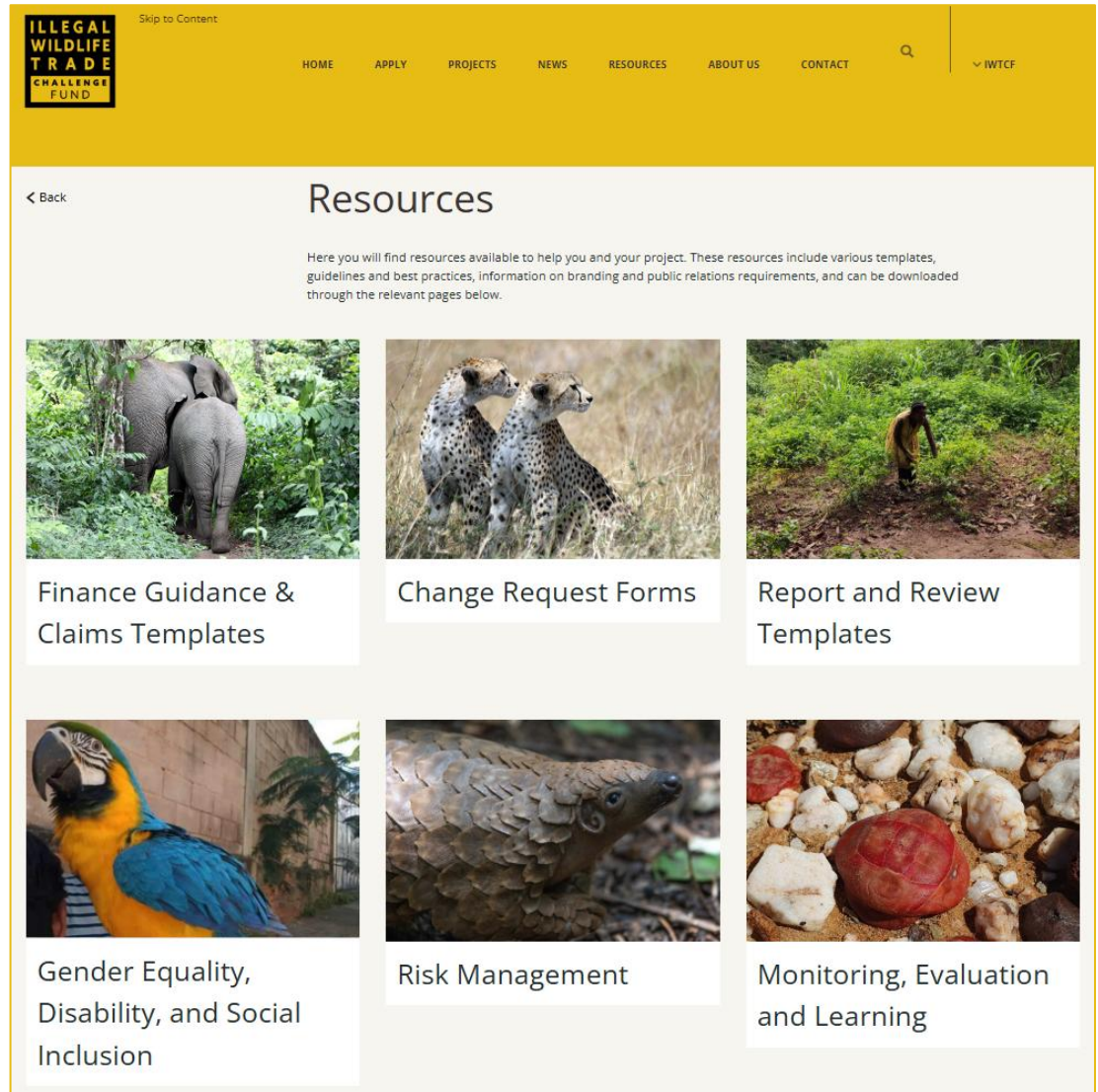
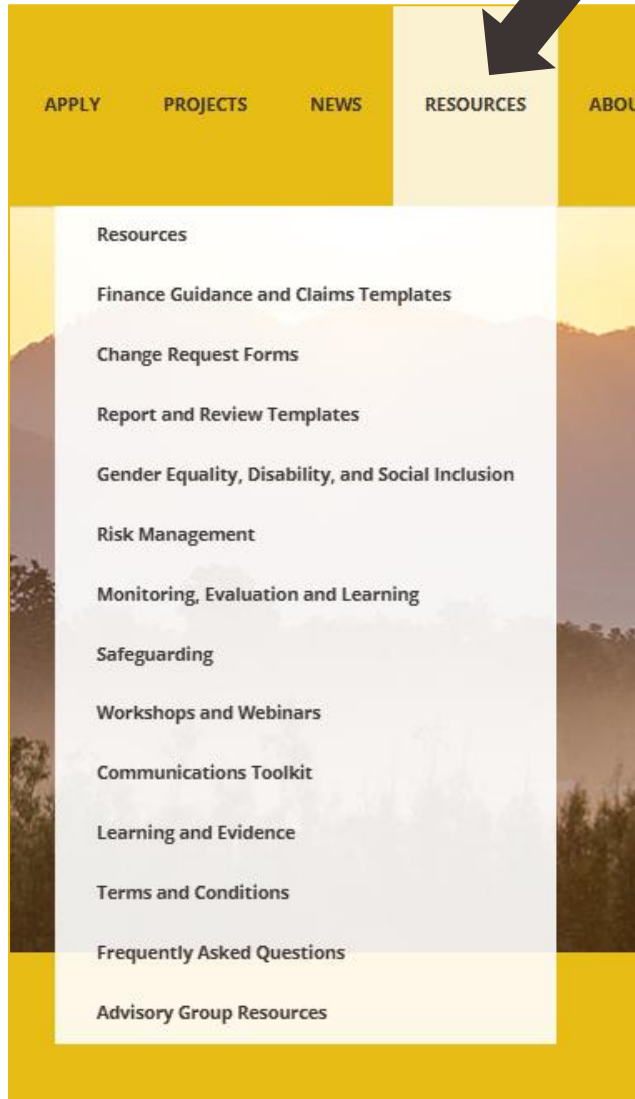
- **read the guidance** and **select the appropriate scheme!**
- **do not exceed word counts** and pay attention to basic eligibility requirements like **budget limits** and **eligible dates**
- consider how your **budget spread** is between relevant Financial Years – i.e. ensure you have budget in all 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!

Any
questions?

**ILLEGAL
WILDLIFE
TRADE
CHALLENGE
FUND**



Resources



Follow for Updates

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

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

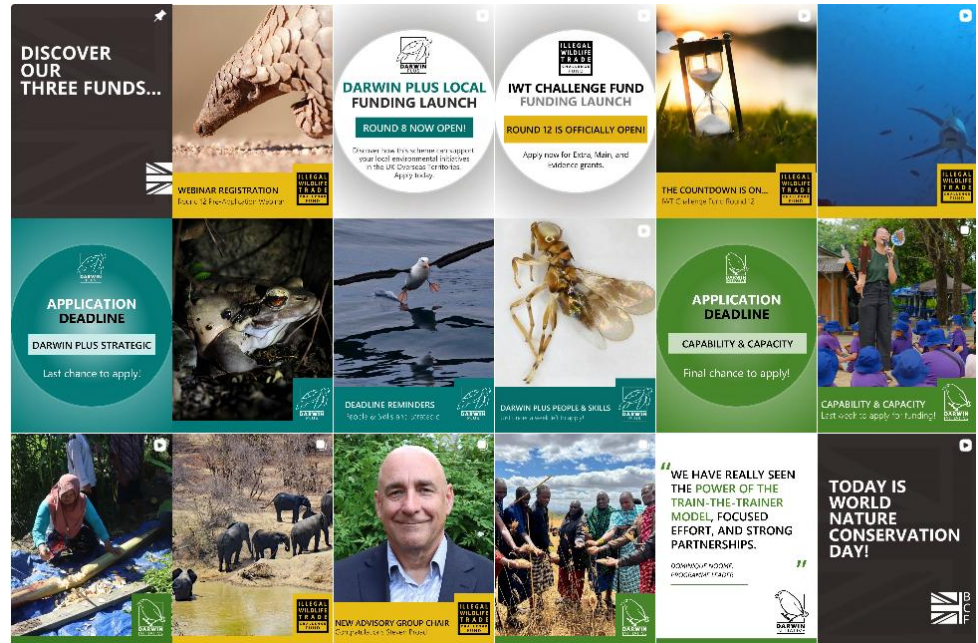
Make sure to follow for updates:

 [@Biodiversity Challenge Funds](https://www.linkedin.com/company/biodiversitychallengefunds)

 [@UKBCFs](https://twitter.com/UKBCFs)

 [@Biodiversity Challenge Funds](https://www.facebook.com/biodiversitychallengefunds)

 [@biodiversitychallengefunds](https://www.instagram.com/biodiversitychallengefunds)



Reminders



Main & Extra Stage 1 Deadline:

- **23:59 (UK time / GMT) Monday 23rd November 2026**

Evidence Deadline:

- **23:59 (UK time / GMT) Monday 15th February 2027**

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

Thanks for listening!