

Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund Round 8 Stage 1 Webinar



Agenda



- Welcome & Introductions
- Introduction to the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund
- Role of UK Embassies and British High Commissions
- Questions
- Overview of application process
- Questions

Welcome & Introductions



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

- Leila McElvenney – IWT Team Leader and IWTCF Senior Responsible Officer (SRO)
- Doug Gibbs – International Biodiversity Challenge Funds Programme Manager, including Darwin, Darwin Plus and IWTCF
- Ben Yexley – International Biodiversity Challenge Funds Advisor
- Serene Hargreaves – International Biodiversity Challenge Funds Advisor
- Leonie Butler – IWT Policy Advisor

NIRAS-LTS International – Fund Administrators

- Kelly Forsythe – Darwin and IWTCF Analyst
- Victoria Pinion – Project Manager and Technical Advisor
- Eilidh Young – Fund Administrator

IWT Challenge Fund (1)



The **Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWTCF)** is a **competitive grant scheme**, established in 2014. It is managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and funded by Defra with contributions from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The intended impact of the IWTCF 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, IWTCF has committed £37 million to 113 projects around the world, in over 50 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 (1)



- Projects should address the illegal wildlife trade in any species of fauna, flora or fungi impacted by IWT
- Projects should work in the following geographic regions (see table of eligible countries in guidance):
 - **Sub-Saharan Africa**
 - **East and South East Asia**
 - **Latin America**
- **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

Types of projects supported (2)



Broad categories of project – all using same application form:

Evidence	£20,000 to £100,000	Projects which improve evidence base, in order to address a gap / inform the design of an intervention
Main	£100,000 to £600,000	Projects which test new and innovative interventions to provide proof of concept at a smaller scale. Applications should provide evidence for the problem the intervention addresses, the gap it fills in existing approaches, and indicate its potential to be scaled in a real-world setting.
Extra	£600,000 to £1.5 mil	Projects which have already demonstrated success at a smaller scale and can be scaled. We anticipate making only 2-3 grants of this size.

For Round 8, all projects should start on or after 1 July 2022 and ensure IWT budget commitments end by **31 March 2026** at the latest.

Size and length of project – Value for Money will be carefully considered. For example, an *evidence* project over 2 years unlikely to be funded.

Project requirements

The application guidance outlines all key requirements including:

- Gender equality
- Ethics
- Safeguarding
- Human rights
- Open access
- Monitoring and Evaluation



Role of UK Embassies and British High Commissions (1)



- We ask all applicants to engage with UK Embassies and British 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 IWTCF projects work in
- Defra will reach out at Stage 1 to check whether the project has been in contact with the Embassies/High Commission and to flag whether they can see any risks with the project (e.g. controversy or lack of political buy-in) – engagement of Posts in this process helps the overall assessment process.

Role of UK Embassies and British High Commissions (2)



UK Embassies/British 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.

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Questions

How to apply? (1)



Application guidance and application form templates can be found on:

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



Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund: Round 8

The objective of the Illegal Wildlife Trade (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 IWT Challenge Fund seeks to achieve this through support to projects that address one, or more, of the following themes:

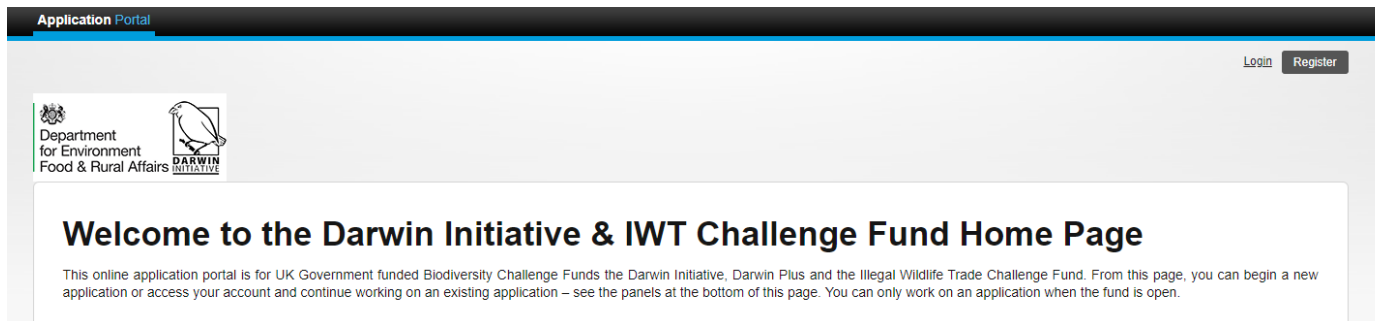
1. Reducing demand for IWT products
2. Ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
3. Strengthening law enforcement
4. Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

In supporting the IWT Challenge Fund's objectives all projects are expected to enhance the



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

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



How to apply? (2)



- Two-stage process – Stage 2 by invite only
- Read the guidance documents:
 - Guidance for applicants
 - Finance guidance
 - T&Cs
 - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) guidance
 - Risk guidance
- 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:** 23:59 GMT Monday 22 November 2021

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:**

- IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk for general queries
- Flexigrant@ltsi.co.uk for Flexi-Grant specific questions
- Phone: +44 (0) 131 440 5506

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** – 2 pages, PDF
 - Stage 1 logframe – **required** – ensure you use our template attached as PDF. Ensure requested elements (e.g. Outcome statement) copied into application form, meets word counts, and matches the attached logframe.
 - Other materials – **optional** – 5 pages only, could include a map, list of references or Theory of Change. **If you submit more your application might 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 at Stage 1 and Stage 2.

The assessment process



- Eligibility checks of all applications received
- Assessment by Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group:
 - **Technical score** – 0-6
 - **IWT and Poverty Reduction Impact score** – 0-6

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 February 2022**.
- 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.

If you are invited to Stage 2



- 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 might 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

