

IWT Challenge Fund

Round 11

Pre-application Webinar

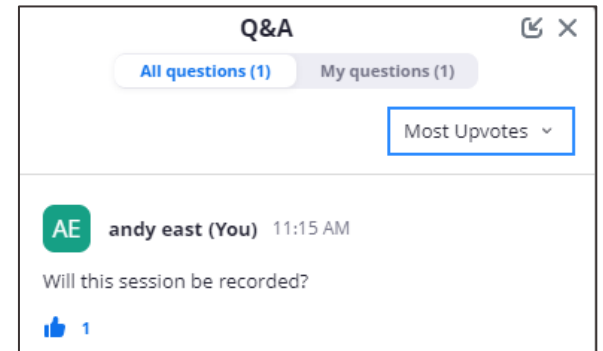
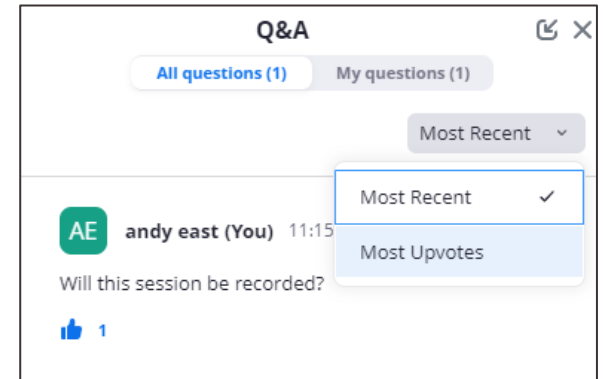
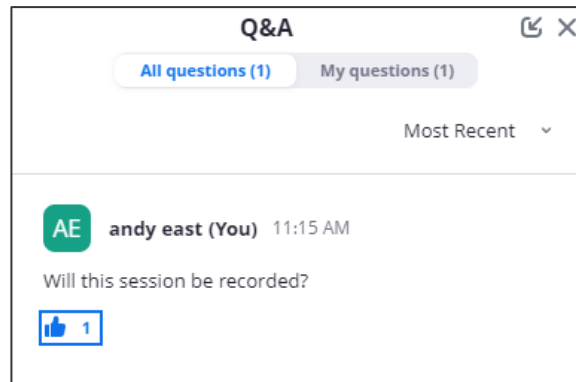
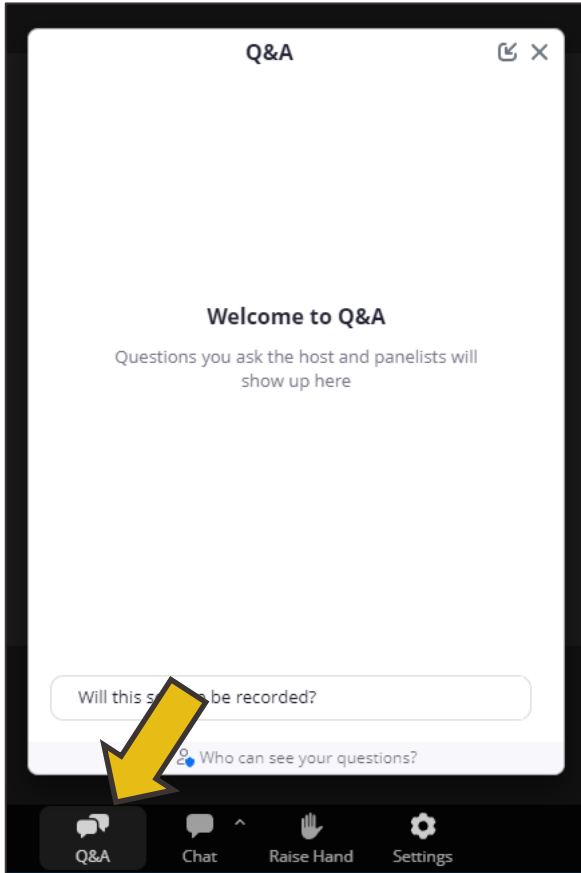


Agenda



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

Housekeeping - Q&A





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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 IWT Challenge Fund Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)
- Doug Gibbs – Head of BCFs, including Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and IWT Challenge Fund

NIRAS – Fund Administrators

- Rachel Beattie – IWT Challenge Fund day-to-day contact
- Victoria Reilly-Pinion – Biodiversity Challenge Funds Programme Manager

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

Key Changes



There are several key changes for Round 11:

- The **Evidence** scheme has changed from a two-stage process to a one stage process
- **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion** and **Safeguarding** requirements have been clarified
- An updated version of the **IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator Guidance** has been published
- The **approach to assess how projects are considering poverty reduction** has been expanded

This list is not exhaustive, and it is important you read and understand all guidance in full to ensure you meet the key fund requirements, including the eligibility requirements, and to strengthen your application.

The Schemes



Grant	Duration	Application Stages	Type of Project	Grant amount	Timeframes
Extra	2-4 years	2	Demonstrating a clear scaling pathway, building on good evidence from smaller projects to scale further	£600,000 - £1,500,000	Should last between 2 to 4 years maximum and are required to complete by 31 August 2029.
Main	1-3 years	2	Providing good evidence, expected to deliver strong results, and demonstrate the potential to scale	£75,000 - £600,000	Should last between 1 –3 maximum and are required to be completed by 31 August 2028.
Evidence	Up to 2 years	1	Focused on evidence gathering to design IWT interventions	£20,000 - £100,000	Should last up to 2 years maximum and are required to be completed by 31 March 2027.

**ILLEGAL
WILDLIFE
TRADE**
**CHALLENGE
FUND**



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Project Requirements

The application guidance outlines all key requirements including:

- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)
- Ethics
- Safeguarding
- Human rights
- Open access
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Risk Framework



Role of British Embassies and High Commissions



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

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 11?

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?

How does the IWT Challenge Fund define "illegal"?

A leopard with a distinctive spotted coat is standing in a field of tall, dry grass. The leopard is looking towards the left of the frame. Its tail is raised and curved, showing black and white rings. In the background, there are green bushes and trees. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned to the left of the leopard, containing the text "Any questions?".

Any
questions?

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

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, 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
- Ensure effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- Strengthen law enforcement
- Develop sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

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

Guidance

Before applying, you should first read the following documents:

- [Round 11 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](#)

Please refer to the application guidance for the list of countries and organisations eligible for the schemes.

Once you have read the guidance, you will be required to complete additional material as part of your application, which can be found on the respective scheme pages found in the side menu, or downloaded from Flexi-Grant.

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 Process



- Evidence (Single Stage process); Main & Extra (Two Stage process)
- Read the **8** guidance documents:
 - Guidance for applicants
 - Finance guidance
 - Flexi-Grant Guidance
 - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance
 - IWT Challenge Fund 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 28 October 2024**

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

Key Application Requirements (1)

- 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 (2)



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 (3)



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

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 February 2025**.
- 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



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?

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Make sure to follow our BCF socials:



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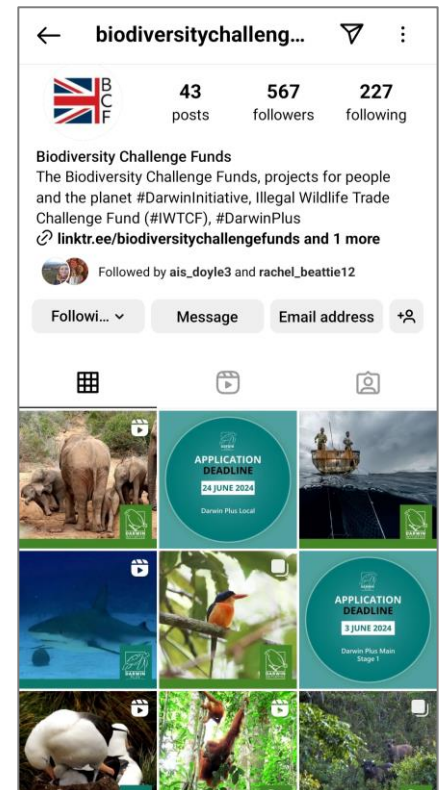
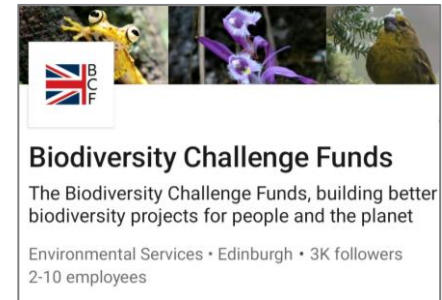
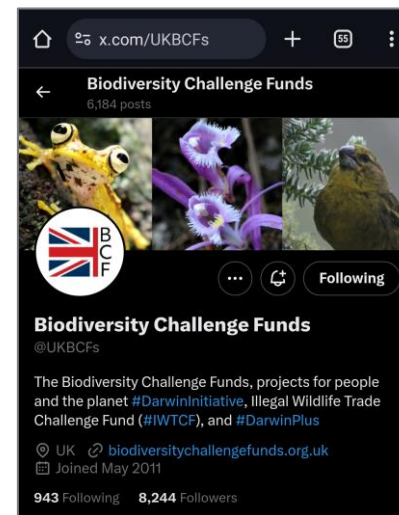
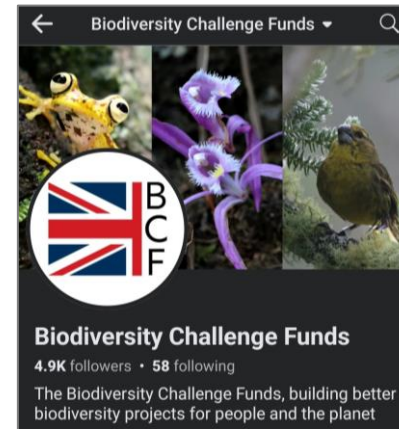
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Reminders



Evidence and Stage 1 (Main & Extra) Deadline:

22:59 GMT (23:59 BST) Monday 28 October 2024

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