



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund
Standard Indicators 2.1
Guidance

September 2024

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1. Introduction to Version 2.1 of the Standard Indicator Menu

In 2023, the Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs¹) initiated a pilot phase in the roll-out of Standard Indicators. These were intended to facilitate aggregated reporting across the portfolio of funds. During the first year of the pilot phase, applicants and grantees have provided us with much appreciated feedback on their experience of using the Standard Indicators. We have used this feedback to develop a second version of the Standard Indicator Menu.

Major updates between Version 1.0 and Version 2.0

1. Version 1.0 of the Standard Indicators included 75 Standard Indicators. For Version 2.0, the number of Standard Indicators were reduced substantially, from 75 indicators down to 50.
2. Only the previous 'core' Standard Indicators were retained, with some exceptions, allowing for the 'core' designation to be removed from Version 2.0.
3. All discontinued Standard Indicators have been preserved in the [BCFs Indicator Library](#). This Library includes the current range of Standard Indicators, the indicators previously included in Version 1.0 (with some exceptions), as well as an extended array of indicators that can be adapted to be used by applicants and grantees as specific project indicators.

In September 2024, we published Version 2.1, with the following minor updates:

1. All references to the word *indigenous* have now been replaced with *Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)*. We define IPLCs in line with IPBES (2020)²: The term "Indigenous Peoples and local communities" and its acronym "IPLC" are widely used by international organizations and conventions to refer to individuals and groups who self-identify as indigenous or as members of distinct local communities. We adopt this terminology with particular emphasis on those who "maintain an inter-generational historical connection to place and nature through livelihoods, cultural identity, languages, worldviews, institutions, and ecological knowledge".
2. Indicator IWTCF-A01 has been moved to Group D, and now has the reference IWTCF-D02. The reference numbers for all indicators in Group A and Group D have subsequently changed.
3. Updated link to BCFs Indicator Library to direct readers to the most recent version of this library.

¹ The Biodiversity Challenge Funds is the collective name for Defra's Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and Darwin Plus.

² See <https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities>

Project Indicators and Standard Indicators

Project Indicators are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) – see our BCFs MEL Guidance, available on our website, for more details <https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/monitoring-evaluation-and-learning/>.

Project Indicators enable rigorous project-level MEL, with each project team being required to select their own highly specific and relevant Project Indicators.

Standard Indicators are more general. In sacrificing some of the specificity and relevance of Project Indicators, Standard Indicators allow us to aggregate the results of a diverse array of projects. This enables a better understanding fund-level contributions to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, and to facilitate a collective contribution to the global

The Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Standard Indicators are closely linked to the Outcome and Outputs in IWT Challenge Fund’s own fund level Theory of Change and Logframe and are set out against the funds four thematic areas. Some indicators will be used across the BCFs i.e. you will also find them in the Darwin Initiative Standard Indicators and Darwin Plus Standard Indicators.

The diagram below provides an outline of an idealised process of indicator selection, and shows that your selection of Standard Indicators should be done as the final step in this process.

1. Using the MEL Guidance available on our website, First develop your project logframe (including your Impact statement, your Outcome, Outputs and Activities)
2. Next, we recommend consulting the [BCFs Indicator Library](#) and other sources for inspiration and to assist you with developing SMART Project Indicators (see the MEL Guidance available on our fund websites).
3. Finally, we recommend that you select Standard Indicators using this guidance note and menu.

While we have presented these steps sequentially here, it can be helpful to revisit your Logframe following your selection of Project

Indicators and Standard Indicators, to ensure that you have alignment between the indicators and your Outputs and Outcome.



2. How to select IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators

The IWT Challenge Fund menu of Standard Indicators is **designed to help you to select appropriate indicators according to the nature of your project**. The menu also provides guidance on which methodology, units and disaggregation measures to use to **help you plan your monitoring and evaluation** more effectively.

Browse the menu below: The menu is grouped by IWT Challenge Fund thematic area.

Group A: Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Development Measures

Group B: Law Enforcement and Legal Frameworks Measures

Group C: Behaviour Change for Demand Reduction Measures

Group D: Cross Cutting Measures

- **Select at least three Standard Indicators:** IWT Challenge Fund projects are required to report against a minimum of three Standard Indicators. You should select Standard Indicators that are appropriate and relevant for your project, these can be selected from any of the groups but should ideally align with the IWT Challenge Fund thematic areas selected in your application form (noting that Group D includes cross cutting measures which are more likely to be widely relevant). It may also be helpful to use the Standard Indicators to help inform your selection of the thematic areas your projects will be working on at the design stage. We understand that certain types of projects, including those funded under the Evidence Scheme, may find it impracticable to meet this requirement. If this is the case please include an explanatory note in the relevant section of your Application and Reporting Documents (see the FAQs in [Section 5](#) for more detail).
- **Specify the means that you will use to disaggregate your reporting:** Each of the indicators has either obligatory or optional means of verification suggested in the tables below. You must disaggregate your reporting against the obligatory indicators (for example, gender for many indicators). In addition, we encourage you to disaggregate in whatever ways are meaningful in your project context and learning objectives (for example, you may be interested to demonstrate the participation of youth through age disaggregation).
- **Ensure that you put in place appropriate plans to monitor these indicators:** Develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan to ensure that you are monitoring your Standard Indicators alongside your Project Indicators (see the MEL Guidance on our website detailed guidance). In many cases you can use the same Means of Verification for both.

3. How to report on IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators

Reporting process: You will report your progress against all indicators in your Annual Reports and Final Report. The report templates will include tables for you to report your progress on indicators (see Table 1 below for an example).

Table 1. Example reporting table showing disaggregated reporting of results and planned figures

Ref No.	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. IWTCF-A01	E.g. Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training	Number of People	Kenya, Men, non-IPLC	20			20	60
E.g. IWTCF-A01	E.g. Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training	Number of People	Kenya, Women, non-IPLC	20			20	60
E.g. IWTCF-D12	E.g. Number of new or improved site management plans available and endorsed	Number of plans	Cambodia; New	1			1	3
E.g. IWTCF-D12	E.g. Number of new or improved site management plans available and endorsed	Number of plans	Cambodia; Improved	1			1	3

Timeframe: All indicators under IWT Challenge Fund should be reported in line with the standard reporting timeframe of UK financial years (April-March).

Indicator number: Where IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators are used, you must always reference the indicator number e.g. [IWTCF-A02]. Please note that we have a few umbrella-type indicators which serve to aggregate a number of sub-indicators (see IWTCF-A03 and IWTCF-A04 for examples). For these indicators, we ask that you try to report against the individual sub-indicators (e.g. IWTCF-A03a or IWTCF-A03b), as well as provide an aggregate figure. In doing so, be careful to avoid double-counting. For example, in the table below the project team has reported that 30 people have improved food security as a result of the project. Additionally, the same 30 people also have enhanced access to water. For the aggregate number of people with enhanced wellbeing, we only sum the number of people reported in the sub-indicators when the people included are different. If you are reporting gains across multiple areas of wellbeing for the same people, then the aggregate figure is not the sum and therefore does not include double-counting. However, if the people with improved food security are different to the people with enhanced access to water, then you can add them together to calculate the aggregate figure.

Table 2. Reporting against sub-indicators

Ref No.	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. IWTCF-A03a	E.g. Number of people with improved food security	Number of people	Zambia, Women, non-IPLC	30			20	60
E.g. IWTCF-A03b	E.g. Number of people with enhanced access to water	Number of people	Zambia, Women, non-IPLC	30			30	60
E.g. IWTCF-A03c	E.g. Number of people with improved health	Number of people	Zambia, Women, non-IPLC	30			30	60

Units and disaggregation: The menu provides guidance on what units to use when reporting your progress, and disaggregation measures. You do not need to use all disaggregation measures listed, only those that are feasible and relevant within your project. **You must disaggregate by gender and indigenous status** in all relevant indicators.

Results in annual increments: Reporting against quantitative results should be in annual increments (i.e. Separate results reported for Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, etc.).

Table 3. Example of how to report results in successive years

Ref No	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. IWTCF-A01	E.g. Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training	Number of people	Nicaragua, Men, non-IPLC	20	20		40	60

No double-counting: We ask that you pay close attention to the wording of the indicators. For example, for indicators that measure the number of people who have received training, do not include the same person more than once, even in cases where they have received multiple trainings on different topics. During instances where you are reporting improved capability and capacity, you may report on both the number of people as well as the number of organisations that have benefited. This is not considered double-counting.

4. The IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator Menu

Group A: Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Development Measures

Ref. No.	IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator	Units	Compulsory Disaggregation
IWTCF-A01	Number of people with enhanced livelihoods	Number of people	Aggregates the indicators below
	a Number of people with Sustainable Livelihoods created or protected	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ³ status (IPLC, other)
	b Number of people with improved income		
IWTCF-A02	Number of people with reduced multi-dimensional poverty	Number of people	Aggregates the indicators below
	a Number of people with improved food security	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ⁴ status (IPLC, other)
	b Number of people with enhanced access to water		
	c Number of people with improved health		
	d Number of people with improved security		
	e Number of people with improved social relations		
	f Number of people with improved freedom of choice and action		
IWTCF-A03	Number of people whose climate and disaster-resilience has been improved	Number of people	Aggregates the indicators included below
	a Number of people supported to cope with the effects of Climate Change	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ⁵ status (IPLC, other)
	b Number of people with improved resilience		

³ Per IPBES (2020) <https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities>

The term “Indigenous Peoples and local communities” and its acronym “IPLC” are widely used by international organizations and conventions to refer to individuals and groups who self-identify as indigenous or as members of distinct local communities. We adopt this terminology with particular emphasis on those who “maintain an inter-generational historical connection to place and nature through livelihoods, cultural identity, languages, worldviews, institutions, and ecological knowledge”.

⁴ See footnote 2 for definition

⁵ See footnote 2 for definition

Ref. No.	IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator	Units	Compulsory Disaggregation
IWTCF- A04	Number of people reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ⁶ Status (IPLC, other)
IWTCF- A05	Number of cooperatives, enterprises, and credit and savings groups established	Number of organisations	Country; Gender of members or owners (men, women, other); IPLC ⁷ status (IPLC, other)
IWTCF- A06	Number of cooperatives, enterprises and credit and savings group established that are functioning at project end (at least a year after establishment)	Number of organisations	Country; Gender of members or owners (men, women, other); IPLC ⁸ status (IPLC, other)
IWTCF- A07	Number of loans provided to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	Number of loans	Country; Gender of members or owners (men, women, other); IPLC ⁹ status (IPLC, other)
IWTCF-A08	Total value (£) of loans provided to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	GBP Sterling	Country; Gender of members or owners (men, women, other); IPLC ¹⁰ status (IPLC, other)

⁶ See footnote 2 for definition

⁷ See footnote 2 for definition

⁸ See footnote 2 for definition

⁹ See footnote 2 for definition

¹⁰ See footnote 2 for definition

Group B: Law Enforcement and Legal Frameworks Measures

Ref No.	IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator	Units	Compulsory Disaggregation
IWTCF- B01	Number of criminal networks and related trade routes identified	Number	Country; Type (criminal network, trade route); Estimated scale of network (small, medium, large)
IWTCF-B02	Number of illegal wildlife products/shipments detected	Number of products	Country; Kingdom (plant, animal, fungus)
IWTCF-B03	Number of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project	Number of patrols	Country; Should be used in conjunction with IWTCF-B04
IWTCF-B04	Cumulative duration of all patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project	Hours	Country
IWTCF-B05	Number of wildlife crime-related arrests facilitated by the project ¹¹	Number of arrests	Country
IWTCF- B06	Value of illegal wildlife commodities and products seized through law enforcement action facilitated by the project	GBP	Country
IWTCF- B07	Number of wildlife crime cases submitted for prosecution ¹²	Number of cases	Country; Case type (illegal extraction, illegal trade, other)
IWTCF-B08	Number of people charged for wildlife crime	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ¹³ Status (IPLC, other)
IWTCF-B09	Number of people successfully prosecuted for wildlife crimes	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ¹⁴ Status (IPLC, other)
IWTCF-B10	Number of charges brought for wildlife crime offences using non-wildlife crime specific legislation	Number of charges	Country
IWTCF-B11	Number of wildlife crime cases handed to a relevant agency	Number	Country; Case status (handed over; followed-up with action)
IWTCF- B12	Value of assets seized through non-wildlife crime specific legislation ¹⁵	GBP	Country

¹¹ For these indicators, project teams are not required to set targets at the project design stage. Project teams can choose to provide anticipated numbers in their logframes, but only where there is a clear rationale for these and a high degree of confidence that the project team will be able to facilitate them in accordance with appropriate legal and ethical standards.

¹² For example custom agencies, you should consider the number of cases handed to police for investigation.

¹³ See footnote 2 for definition

¹⁴ See footnote 2 for definition

¹⁵ This should not include fines or similar punitive penalties.

Ref No.	IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator	Units	Compulsory Disaggregation
IWTCF-B13	Number of intelligence reports fed into management decisions on species protection	Number of reports	Country
IWTCF- B14	Number of intelligence or information reports exchanged with INTERPOL or the World Customs Organisation	Number of reports	Country
IWTCF-B15	Number of amendments to national laws and regulations in project country(ies)	Number of amendments	Country; Area of law (wildlife legislation, trafficking legislation, organised crime, livelihoods-related, land tenure, other)
IWTCF-B16	Number of policies and frameworks ¹⁶ developed or formally contributed to by projects and being implemented by appropriate authorities	Number	Country; Policy change (New; Amended); Area of policy (wildlife legislation, trafficking legislation, organised crime, livelihoods-related, land tenure, other)
IWTCF-B17	Number of databases established that are used for law enforcement	Number of databases	Country

¹⁶ This includes national and international laws and regulations.

Group C: Behaviour Change for Demand Reduction Measures

The focus of IWT Challenge Fund projects which are working towards demand reduction should be on affecting behaviour change rather than simply increasing awareness. For that reason, the measures below seek to capture actual behaviour change or indicators of behaviour change.

Ref No.	IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator	Unit	Compulsory Disaggregation
IWTFC-C01	Number of unique IWT behaviour change material messages distributed ¹⁷	Number	Country; Language; Media type (print, radio, television, internet, social media, other)
IWTFC-C02	Number of communication channels carrying campaign message	Number of channels	Country; Media type (print, radio, television, internet, social media, other)
IWTFC-C03	Number of partners with influence on target audience that have distributed campaign message(s)	Number of partners	Country; Organisation (local, national, international)
IWTFC-C04	Number of people reached with behaviour change messaging	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ¹⁸ Status (IPLC, other)
IWTFC-C05	Number of government institutions/ departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues ¹⁹	Number	Country; Govt. Organisation Type (local, national, treasury, planning, environmental, agricultural, forestry, other)
IWTFC-C06	Number of consumers that have demonstrated desired behaviour change	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ²⁰ Status (IPLC, other)
IWTFC-C07	Number of consumers targeted in demand country(ies)	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ²¹ Status (IPLC, other)
IWTFC-C08	Number of markets trading in IWT products closed	Number of markets	Country; Market type (local, national, international)

¹⁷ Please note two numbers should be provided. The first should be a count of the different types produced, with the second number indicating distribution volume (i.e., 2 billboard posters with 50 copies each).

¹⁸ See footnote 2 for definition

¹⁹ A scorecard approach could be used to guide the assessment of this based on pre-defined criteria.

²⁰ See footnote 2 for definition

²¹ See footnote 2 for definition

Group D: Cross Cutting Measures

Ref No.	IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator	Units	Compulsory Disaggregation
IWTCF-D01	Number of people from eligible countries who have received structured and relevant training	Number of People	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ²² Status (IPLC ²³ , other); Focus area (livelihoods, legal frameworks, enforcement, demand reduction)
IWTCF- D02	Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ²⁴ Status (IPLC, other) ; Focus area (livelihoods, legal frameworks, enforcement, demand reduction)
IWTCF-D03	Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ²⁵ status (IPLC, other) ; Focus area (livelihoods, legal frameworks, enforcement, demand reduction)
IWTCF-D04	Number of local or national organisations ²⁶ with enhanced capability and capacity	Number of organisations	Country; Organisation Type (local, national, international) ; Focus area (livelihoods, legal frameworks, enforcement, demand reduction)
IWTCF-D05	Number of species reference collections made available (known to science, new to science)	Number of collections	Country; Kingdom (Flora/Fauna/Fungi) ²⁷ .
IWTCF-D06	Analytics for funded project-specific social media posts ²⁸	Number	Country; Analytic type (reach, impressions, engagement, other)
IWTCF-D07	Number of webinar attendees ²⁹	Number	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ³⁰ status (IPLC, other)

²² See footnote 2 for definition

²³ See footnote 2 for definition

²⁴ See footnote 2 for definition

²⁵ See footnote 2 for definition

²⁶ Ensure no double counting.

²⁷ Please note double counting risk around specimen duplications.

²⁸ Potential metrics could include Engagement (including post likes, comments and shares as well as link clicks)/ Impressions

²⁹ Please see our website for more focused guidance on how to communicate the findings of your project

³⁰ See footnote 2 for definition

Ref No.	IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator	Units	Compulsory Disaggregation
IWTCF-D08	Number of decision-makers attending briefing events	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ³¹ status (IPLC, other)
IWTCF-D09	Number of Media related activities	Number of activities	Country; Media type (Internet, Print, Radio, Television, Podcast, other)
IWTCF-D10	Number of records added to accessible databases	Number of records	Country
IWTCF-D11	Number of threatened species with improving conservation status	Number of taxa	Country; Kingdom (Animal, Plant, Fungi); Scale (Local/ Global)
IWTCF-D12	Number of new or improved approaches and tools developed for addressing IWT	Number of tools	Country; Type (new, enhanced)
IWTCF-D13	Number of new or improved site management plans available and endorsed ³²	Number of plans	Country; Type (new, improved)
IWTCF-D14	Number of new or improved species management plans available and endorsed*	Number of plans	Country; Type (new, improved)
IWTCF-D15	Number of new or improved community management plans available and endorsed*	Number of plans	Country; Type (new, improved)
IWTCF-D16	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products ³³ (i.e. product identification etc.) ³⁴ published and endorsed ³⁵	Number of products	Country; Type (Best practice guide, knowledge product); Language
IWTCF-D17	Number of people with increased participation in local communities or local management organisations	Number of people	Country; Gender (men, women, other); IPLC ³⁶ Status (IPLC, other); type of participation (Governance, Citizen engagement)

³¹ See footnote 2 for definition

³² *Endorsed by a third party to demonstrate an independent assessment has been made, and the plan is considered viable and ready for implementation.

³³ Technical/programmatic guides, for example: working with marginalised communities, gender best practices, etc. Can include written and verbal best practices guides, webinars, briefings.

³⁴ Only final versions are to be included. Manuals produced in more than one language may be counted once per language.

³⁵ Endorsed by a third party to demonstrate an independent assessment has been made, and the plan is considered viable and ready for implementation.

³⁶ See footnote 2 for definition

5. Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I use IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators?

Our indicators have been designed to help you effectively monitor and report on the progress of your projects. They are aligned with globally recognised standards, and provide guidance on the most appropriate units and disaggregation measures to use. The data generated will feed into the global evidence base on the impact and effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction interventions.

I cannot find three Standard Indicators that are relevant or feasible in my project – what should I do?

There are some projects teams who may not be able to find three relevant Standard Indicators to report against. If this is the case, please include a note to alert us in your Application Form, or in your Annual Report or Final Report, in the section where you are required to specify which Standard Indicators have selected/report progress against them.

I was reporting against Standard Indicators that have now been removed from the menu – should I continue reporting against them?

If it is clear that these indicators help you to monitor the progress of your project, then we suggest that you continue to report against them as Project Indicators in your Logframe. However, you do not need to include the reference (e.g. IWTCF-A10) and you should not report on them in the dedicated section of the AR and FR where we ask you to report against Standard Indicators.

Can I edit the IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators to be more tailored to my project context?

We previously did encourage project teams to do this, but no longer. We now require you to have two separate classes of indicator: Project Indicators and Standard Indicators. While the wording for these two indicator classes may be aligned, Standard Indicators should be worded exactly how they are in this guidance. Project Indicators, however, should be developed and worded specifically for your project.

Can I use my own disaggregation measure(s) if there is not an appropriate one listed in the IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicator?

Yes. Please specify them in your reporting.

I plan to use the same indicator and same data across two different BCFs projects. How do I report without double counting?

Consider if the change expected is really attributable to the activities of both projects. It may not be the right indicator to use for both, or it might differ in how it is disaggregated between the two projects. If the indicator is applicable to both projects, be clear on the proportion of the result that is attributable to each project in your reporting.

My project was developed before the Standard Indicators were introduced. Do I have to change my indicators?

For those projects that were funded prior to the introduction of Standard Indicators in 2023, there is no need to report against them, unless it is easy to do so anyway. For those projects funded in 2023 or later (i.e. Rounds 9 and 10), we require you to report against a minimum of three Standard Indicators. See the table below for a breakdown of the requirements by Round.

Round	Need to report against Standard Indicators?
8 and earlier	Encouraged to
9	Required to
10	Required to

If you have any questions not covered in this section, please do not hesitate to contact the BCFs team at BCF-IWTCF@niras.com.