

# The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund

## Communicating and Capturing Contribution to Poverty Alleviation



  
Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



## Purpose of the session

- Introduce the concept of official development assistance
- Outline the criteria used to assess the suitability of projects for funding
- Provide examples of good applications
- Emphasise the importance of establishing robust systems for evidence collection

## Official Development Assistance

Finance where the main objective is to support economic development and welfare of developing countries

- All IWT funding is ODA funding
- Projects are assessed for ODA eligibility at Stage One
- ...and also at Stage 2



## ODA funding: who is eligible?

Will the project contribute to economic development and welfare in an **eligible** developing country in a substantive way?

UMICs can receive funding but must be able to demonstrate at least one of the following:

- advancing knowledge, evidence and impact in other least developed or low income countries
- delivering global public goods benefits, for example, advancing our understanding of local - global impacts and/or strengthening understanding of/evidence for global dimensions of biodiversity conservation/sustainable use and poverty reduction
- making serious and unique research advancements on a critical issue as a result of specific circumstances of the middle income country, that could not be made elsewhere

## Assessing ODA suitability

- Have beneficiaries been identified and numbers defined?
- Have benefits for people been clearly identified?
- Is it clear how the project will measure these benefits?
- Does the application consider gender issues?
- Is the project likely to reach a sustainable end point?
- Are there sufficient skills and expertise to deliver?



## The case of demand reduction projects

- Demand reduction projects are a special case
- They are not be penalised where they do not seek to measure poverty reduction benefits in source countries:
  - to do so would often be beyond the scope and timeframe of the project
  - providing this level of evidence would often be disproportionate to the scale of funding involved.
- However, they must demonstrate a clear link between demand for particular products and illegal poaching in low income countries.

## The case of demand reduction projects an example

“Raising awareness of pangolin poaching through demand reduction activities in China and Vietnam reduced demand in the main markets, disrupts pangolin trade and ensures it’s no longer profitable to poach and trade in pangolins.

Poaching for these animals will decline throughout the 48 range states. Removing the direct threat of poaching will allow pangolin populations to rebound, helping to ensure range states maintain current levels of biodiversity.

Pangolin conservation can contribute to poverty alleviation in range states by balancing ecosystems and keeping crop-damaging pest populations in check. A single pangolin consumes up to 70 million insects annually and helps aerate soil as they dig for ants and termites. As agriculture is the main source of income for Africa’s rural population, crop losses contribute to rural poverty and food insecurity. Pangolins offer a biological control method for pest termites, lessening the need for destructive chemicals and preventing potential catastrophic crop losses caused by infestations.

Deforestation and ecosystem deterioration in African range states is linked with increased termite damage to vegetation: a depletion of termite food resources and declining predator-prey interactions triggers the proliferation of termite populations. Farmers in pangolin range states report significant termite damage to rice, maize, groundnut and sugarcane crops, particularly during droughts, times when crops are already stressed and susceptible to lower yields.

Maize is a staple for over 1.2 billion people in sub-Saharan Africa. As poaching continues to cause pangolin declines, Africa’s poor are at increased risk of losing their livelihoods, as the potential for crop losses caused by pest infestations grows.”

## M&E is vital for ODA

- A key requirement of ODA assessments is the presence of at least 1 SMART outcome indicator to measure development benefits
- Need to define baseline conditions & targets
- Applications must demonstrate how they will measure their progress and impact through appropriate means of verification

In short, indicators should be **SMART** – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound



## Common issues that reduce scores

- Country
  - # of beneficiaries unclear 'communities' vs HH or individuals or national scale for policy
  - Links to source countries not clearly articulated
  - What the benefits will be unclear i.e. income not always appropriate
  - Problems not adequately addressed by solutions i.e. ecotourism in v remote areas
- Examples:
- Beneficiaries not identified beyond "local residents" no indication of population
  - Projects aims to share the learning from work in China with LDCs, but mechanisms to do so not identified and limited analysis on the replicability of this approach in LDCs
  - Project will "bring substantial local benefits" - what this means, for whom is not explained

## Common issues that reduce scores cont.

- Lack of market analysis e.g. handicrafts, produce etc.
  - 'Alternative livelihoods' with no explanation
  - Poverty as an add-on vs integrated
  - VFM – no. of people to benefit & scale of benefit
  - Gender – can't just say 'and women'
- Examples:
- Potential value chain not yet assessed so unclear if market will support the targeted number of beneficiaries
  - Alternative livelihoods activities are proposed but how the actual benefits received by community members will be measured isn't clear
  - Training 10 enforcement officers at nearly £8,000 each does not appear to be good value for money
  - Gender only mentioned in terms of minimum number of women attending workshops

## Common issues that reduce scores cont.

- Lack of social science on team
- Low % of time allocated to key experts
- Many team members 'tbc'
- Logframe issues
  - Indicators not SMART
  - Unmeasurable indicators
  - Proposed benefits unmeasurable in the timescale
  - Weak assumptions
  - Zero baselines – risky
  - Targets with no baselines – how can you predict a change with no baseline?

## ODA - so what?

- Experience has shown that applications gaining high ODA scores go on to become high performing
- A poor ODA score may lead to caveats
- A very poor ODA score may be a deciding factor, but would not normally be the main factor to deny funding



Questions?

