



 **JNCC**

Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund

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Committee member



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Funded by
UK Government



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IWTCF

Advisory Group

The 11 Members are from Defra, other Government agencies, NGOs, academia, consultants with a wide range of expertise on IWT

Sift meetings are chaired by Defra International team and supported by LTS

Assessment Process: Stage 1

- 3 reviewers (c. 30 applications each)
- Scored against published assessment criteria
 - Eligibility criteria (Yes or No)
 - Technical criteria (score 0-6)
 - Addressing the priorities (score 0-6)
- Observations / Queries
- LTS collate the scores and comments
- AG Sift meeting
- Conflicts of interest identified
- (c.40% go through to second stage)



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Assessment Process: Stage 2

- 4 reviewers per application
- Assessment criteria: eligibility, technical, priorities, logframe, budget, LoS, CVs
- LTS collates scores & comments
- AG Sift meeting
- Conflicts of interest identified
- Priority projects agreed
- Final approval rests with SoS

What makes a good application?

- Title – clear / interesting (10 words)
- Each reviewer gets c30 St1 applications (30 - 60mins) and c20 St2 (1+hr each)
- Make it easy for the reviewer to read your application
- Avoid too many acronyms - explain them at 1st mention
- Answer the question(s) and follow the rules!
- Read the criteria and make sure your application addresses all of them
- Clear & concise summary showing full understanding of the issues to be addressed, aims and key activities (200 words)
- Don't assume prior knowledge of your work



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What makes a good application?

- Link your application to the relevant Convention – flag links to relevant targets – especially Aichi targets / SDGs
- Use diagrams or maps & weblinks – they don't add to word count
- ask a critical (not a polite) colleague for independent view



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What makes a good application?

- Strong partnerships & evidence of demand from the host / target country (role for scoping visits)
- Letters of Support
 - partners & beneficiaries
 - sufficiently high-level
 - avoid templates

What makes a good application?

A Strong Project Team

- Project Lead – CV must demonstrate capability to run a project & sufficient time
- Put together the right team – e.g. bring in social science expertise from other partners
- Credibility - articulate how your organisation (& partners) have relevant experience
- Avoid submitting project teams with too many 'TBC' posts



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What makes a good application?

- **Innovation**
 - where feasible
 - less well studied species, etc
 - new methodologies
 - new technologies
 - why?
- Respond to **feedback** at Stage 2
- **Budgets** only assessed in detail at Stage 2, but need to provide realistic budget at St1 – £100k each year for 3 years is not convincing!
- Value for Money e.g. how much funding is spent in country v. retained by lead organisation



Log frames

- Critical part of the application
- Strong & compelling
- Clear & convincing impact and outcome statements
- Ensure SMART outcome indicators
- Activities match scale of intent (& budget)
- Assumptions demonstrate awareness of underlying uncertainties
- *Does it make sense? i.e. will the activities result in the proposed outputs & lead to proposed outcomes*



Critical factors

- Sound problem statement showing full understanding of the issues to be addressed
- Methodology indicates fit between problem and scale/type of interventions proposed
- Demonstrable understanding and engagement of beneficiaries
- Clear & appropriate roles & budgets for partners
- Builds on past and parallel efforts
- Appropriate and authentic letters of support
- Value for money

Good Luck!



Stay connected

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