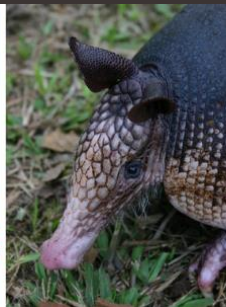




Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Refresher Webinar

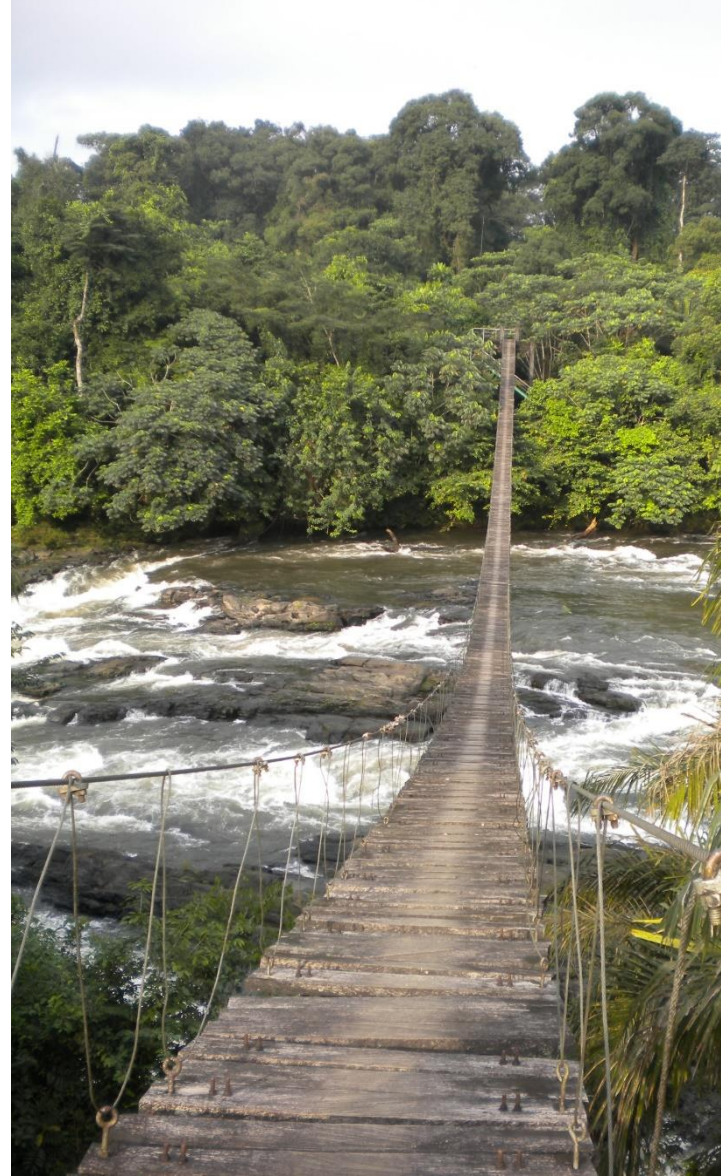
Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund,
and Darwin Plus



Objectives



- Outline key updates on recent changes
- Run through reporting requirements, with a focus on the upcoming Annual Report template
- Provide information on available resources





Andy East

BCFs Communications & Workshops Lead

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Victoria Reilly-Pinion

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Focal point for Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus

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Abida Peters

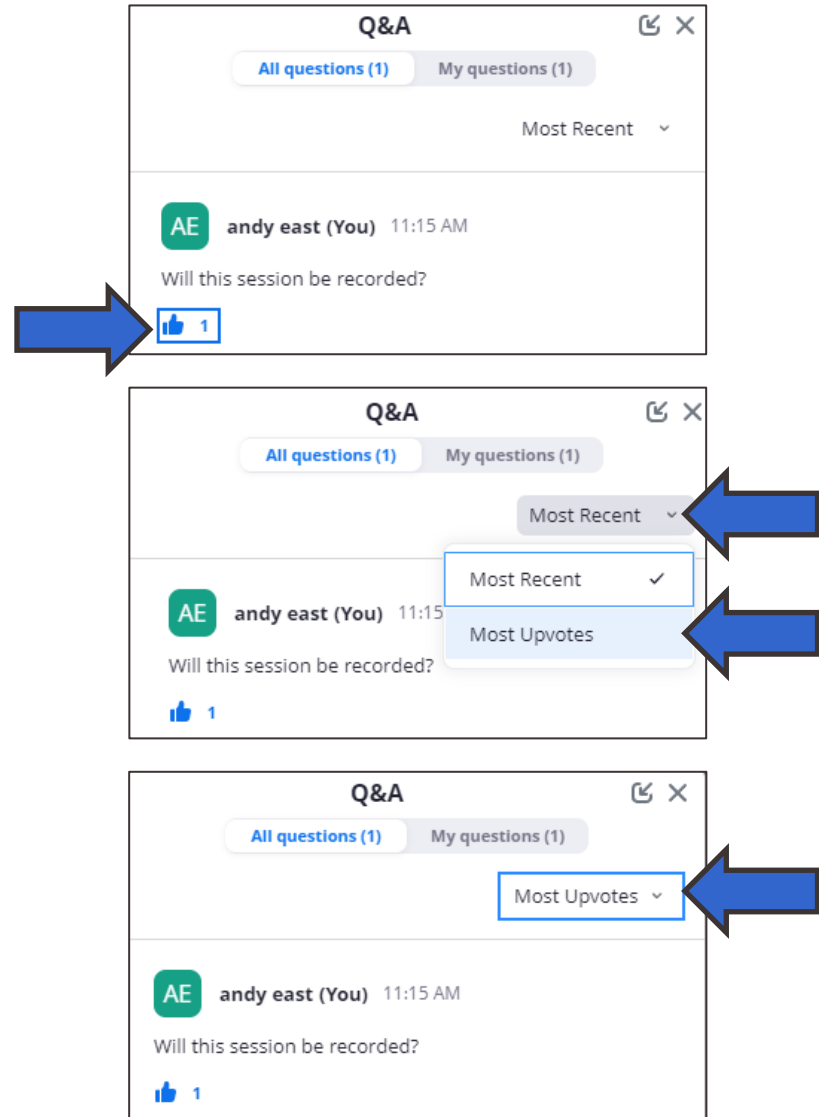
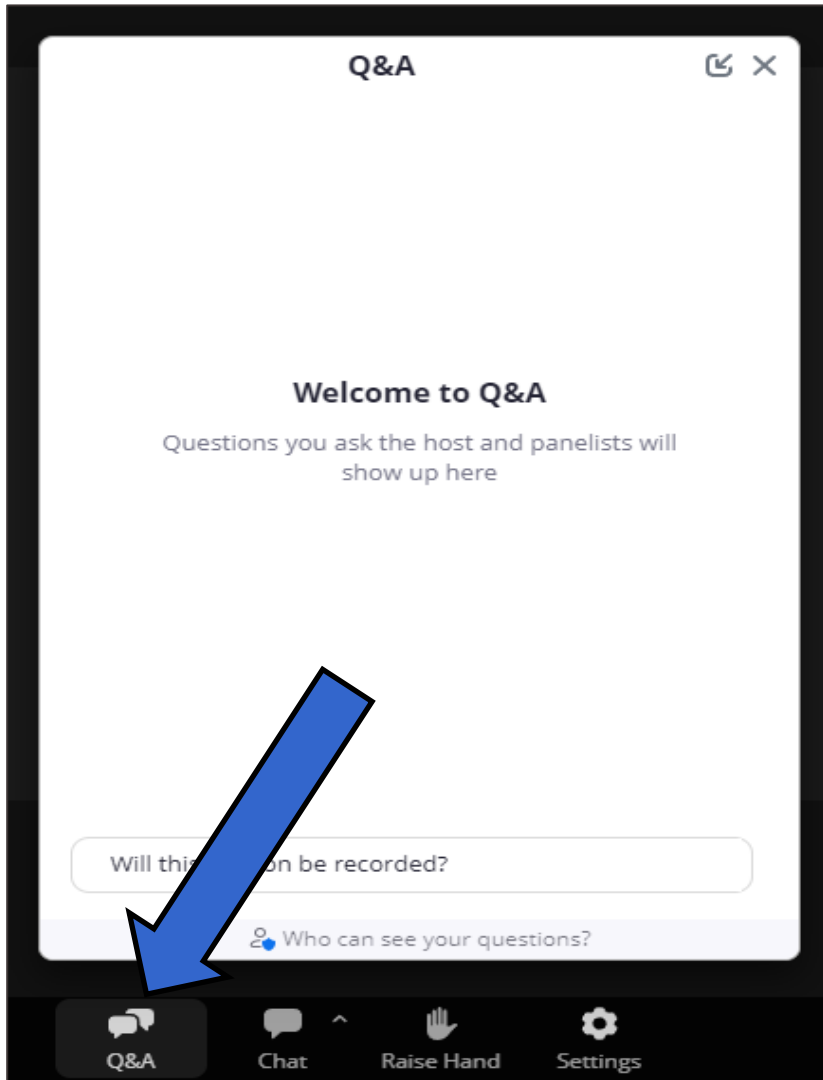
BCFs Safeguarding Manager

Agenda



- Updates / News
- Financial reporting
- High-level technical reporting requirements
- Standard Indicators
- Risk Management
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)
- Safeguarding
- Other key reminders
- Additional resources
- Communications

Housekeeping - Q&A



Poll

Updates / News



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Updates/News

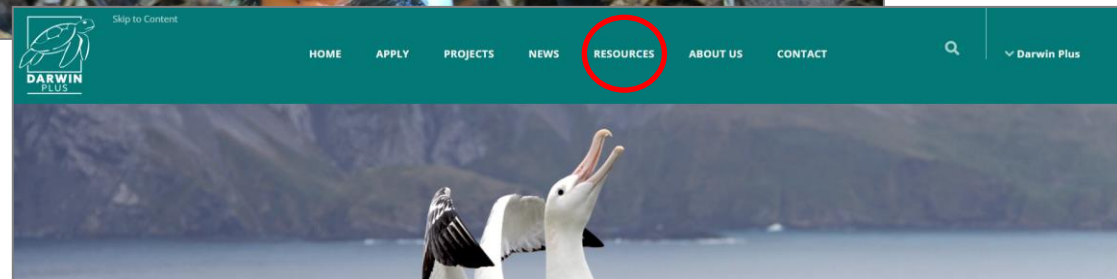
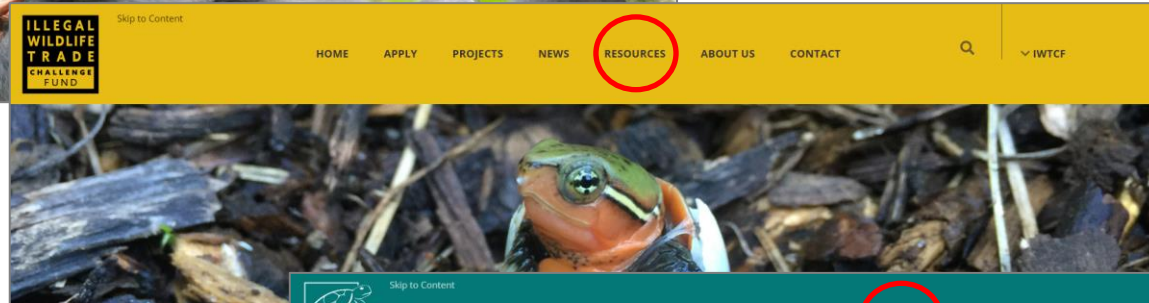
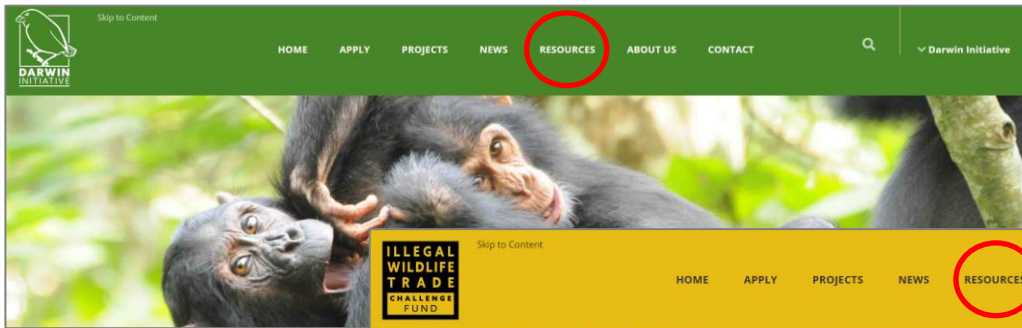


- Risk registers
- T&Cs key changes:
 - Asset registers
 - Audit requirements – cut offs have changed
 - Logo use (more later)
- Quarterly financial forecasting
- Reporting on Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (more later)
- Financial irregularities assessment and focus on fraud
- Standard Indicator Guidance (more later)
- Combined templates for some schemes
- **Upcoming – a new database**

Resources



- <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources>
- <https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources>
- <https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources>



Financial Reporting



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Reporting & Accountability



- There are a number of requirements to ensure the high standard of projects is maintained
- These can be divided into:
 - Project technical reporting
 - Project financial reporting
- Broadly consistent process between schemes



Reminder of key requirements



- Annual awards
- Quarterly forecast advance claims, with Q4 claim based on actuals and in arrears
- Advanced Actuals for selected projects
- Defra retain the right to spot check
- An audit at closure of project (annually for Extra & Strategic projects)
- Reporting concerns / fraud notification



Claims Process



- Electronic claims with a clear signature, which should match the signatory panel provided in your Grant Acceptance Form
- NIRAS checks claim, project forecasting and that related reporting has been received
- Eligible claims are sent for second approval
- Approved claims then sent for payment
- You will be informed when to expect payment to your account



Financial Forecasting



- Forecast figures rather than % splits
- Supports Defra's financial requirements and therefore funding of BCFs
- Information provided in Grant Acceptance Forms (GAFs) on award and annually
- Updates through Advance Claim forms

2025-26	Estimated spend - GBP	Comment if relevant
Q1 April – June		
Q2 July – Sept		
Q3 Oct – Dec		
Q4 Jan – March		
Total*	£xxxxxxx	

Claims Conditions and Deadlines



- Quarter 1 (Q1) Advance Claim
Grant Acceptance Form
Deadline: 30th April
- Quarter 2 Advance Claim
Annual Report and Q4 Actual
claim (from Y2)
Deadline: 31st July
- Quarter 3 Advance Claim
Annual Audit for Extra projects
(from Y2).
Deadline: 31st October
- Quarter 4 Actual Claim
(claiming actual expenditure)
Annual Report (from Y2)
Deadline: 15th May from 2025
- Final Claim
(Retention pending a satisfactory
Final Report and audit/statement)
Final Report, Final Report Review
and Audit/Grant statement
**Deadline: Claim within 3 months
of project end date Audit/Grant
statement not later than 6
months from project end date**

Conditions for Payment



Claim Period	Deadline	Financial Evidence	Technical Evidence
FY Q1 1 st April – 30 th June Advance Claim	15 th March – 30 th April	Year 1: Grant Acceptance Form From Year 2: Annual Grant Acceptance Form Advance Claim	n/a
FY Q2 1 st July – 30 th September Advance Claim	15 th June – 31 st July	Year 1: n/a From Year 2: Verified Q4 Actual Claim (from previous FY) even if no outstanding funds to claim	From Year 2: Annual Report Due by 30 th April
FY Q3 1 st October – 31 st December Advance Claim	15 th September – 31 st October	From Year 2: Extra & Strategic Projects – annual audit	From Year 2, prior year Annual Report Accepted
FY Q4 1 st January – 31 st March Actual Claim	15 th May	Confirmation of Actual spend across the FY even if no outstanding funds to claim	Annual Report due by 30 th April
Final Actual Claim, less retention	<3 months of project end	Verified Final Actual Claim	Final Report Received
Retention	<6 months of project end	Verified Audit Statement where required	Final Report Accepted

Change Requests (CRs)



For any significant changes (both technical and financial) you need a Change Request. Guidance is within the template.

Key changes include:

- Re-budgets – carry-forwards/no cost extensions language

- Virements – movement of money between budget lines

- Changes to logical framework (logframe)

- Staff changes (senior technical staff) including CV

- Timing changes (e.g. extensions)

Let us know ASAP (even if you can't complete a CR yet)

There are annual deadlines for financial requests (now passed for 24/25).

Key resources



- Claim forms and guidance on websites – **check regularly for updates!**
 - **Resources > Finance Guidance and Claims**
- New resources, including videos



Technical Reporting Requirements



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Reporting requirements



- Projects required to report twice per year for the duration of their grant:
 - Half Year reports
 - Annual reports
 - Final reports
- Project reports are posted on the website (minus contact details & financial details)
- Templates on websites
- Information note available



Darwin Plus Fellowships

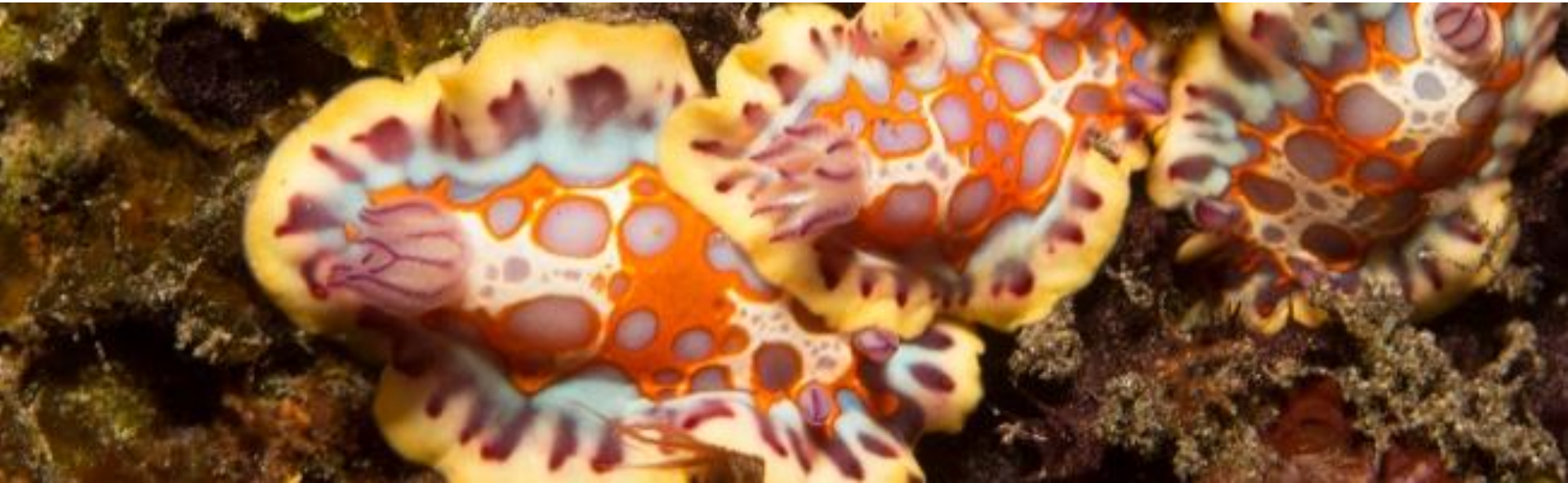


Fellowships are required to submit:

- Interim report
- Final report

Interim reports are submitted 1 month after the halfway point.

And final reports within 1 month of the end date.



Half Year Reports



- Provide a brief update on project progress
- Opportunity to discuss queries/issues (also available all year round)
- Submitted by **31st October** annually
- Respond to feedback from Experts and issues raised in Annual Reports



Annual Reports



- To detail progress against planned activities, Outputs & Outcome
- Good use of indicators & evidence (means of verification) reduces reporting burden
- Respond to feedback where previously indicated
- Due **30th April** annually – this year's templates available shortly!
- All have an independent review



Annual Reporting Requirements



- Scoring approach – achievement as well as quality of reporting and evidence provision
- Ensure you respond to previous feedback received – either in feedback letter at funding or previous reports
- Newer questions to pay close attention to:
 - GESI
 - Safeguarding
 - Standard Indicators



Final Reports



- Provide information on the *overall* success of the project against its proposed outcome, outputs and activities
- Good use of indicators and evidence (means of verification) reduces reporting burden
- Also gives you chance to respond to feedback
- Also reviewed independently



Reporting – Do's!



- Report clearly and concisely
- Report against original application unless changes have been made to logframe. Make sure you are reporting against the latest (and approved) version of your logframe
- Use your project reference not your application reference – if not sure please ask your Project Leader
- Report against Standard Indicators as much as possible
- Involve project partners where possible
- Ensure that you check the correct website prior to submitting your report to ensure that you **are using the latest version of the template** – reporting templates are updated regularly
- Ensure evidence submitted is clearly labelled and sign-posted in narrative report and logframe – ensure all easily downloadable via one link

Reporting – Do's!



- **Provide evidence to demonstrate where claims come from**, for example:

"We are making good progress towards our goal, as demonstrated by data provided in table x"

"Focus groups with local residents about we believe this to be true because [insert quote as evidence]"

- **Move beyond reporting on Outputs** - include evidence on what has changed

"The workshop provided X community members with knowledge about sustainable pest management. Evidence from a follow-up survey indicated that chemical pesticide use has declined by 50%, which is expected to have positive impacts in local biodiversity (FAO, 2013). Crop yields for previously affected crops have increased by between 10-30%; thus demonstrating a contribution to poverty reduction."

Reporting – Don'ts!



- Write general statements without evidence, for example:
 - "we are making good progress"*
 - "we believe this is true"*
 - "we think that this progress is adequate"*
- Only list activity outputs e.g. no. of workshops, plans, maps.
- Forget about higher level outcomes and impacts – what has changed and how in terms of biodiversity conservation or poverty reduction?

Key resources



- Templates updated regularly – ensure you use the latest versions which can be found here on each fund website:
Resources > Report & Review Templates
- Reporting Information note provides more info on reporting requirements as well as hints and tips:
Resources > Information Notes

The screenshot shows the 'Project Reporting' section of the Biodiversity Challenge Funds website. It includes the BCF logo, a photo of two people on a beach, and a list of key messages. On the right, there are three boxes with logos and descriptions for the Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus.

INFORMATION NOTE

Project Reporting

Key Messages

- All projects that receive funding from the Biodiversity Challenge Funds are required to write reports.
- This information note is a guide to the different technical reporting requirements under each of the schemes.
- The specific reporting requirements for your project depend on the scheme it is funded under, as the templates and timing for the reports can vary.
- It is important to check the relevant website regularly as all templates are periodically updated. Please ensure that you are submitting your report using the latest available template covering the correct reporting period.
- Some reports such as the Annual and Final Reports are subject to independent reviews. The review templates can be found on the fund websites alongside the report templates. You might find it helpful to consider these when writing your own reports to help you understand how your reports will be assessed.
- The final section of this information note highlights what to do and what to avoid to help you produce strong reports for your project.

The Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and Darwin Plus are UK government grant schemes, collectively known as the Biodiversity Challenge Funds.

DARWIN INITIATIVE
The Darwin Initiative is a UK government grants scheme that helps conserve biodiversity and support the communities that live alongside it through locally led projects worldwide.

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CHALLENGE FUND
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.

DARWIN PLUS
Darwin Plus is a UK government grants scheme that helps deliver long-term strategic outcomes for the unique biodiversity, the natural environment and improving resilience to climate change within the UK Overseas Territories.

Image Credit: Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources - Anguilla



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Standard Indicators



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Standard Indicators



- In 2023, the BCFs launched a pilot phase in the roll-out of Standard Indicators.
- Introduced to allow data to be aggregated across all BCFs projects to help us understand impact of the funds
- We have used feedback from applicants and grantees to develop a second version of the Standard Indicator menu for all three funds.
- Key Changes:
 - The number of Standard Indicators has been reduced.
 - The 'Core' Standard Indicator designation has been removed.
 - All discontinued Standard Indicators have been preserved in the BCFs Indicator Library
 - A minimum requirements to report against three Standard Indicators.



Project vs Standard Indicators



Project Indicators should be SMART and enable rigorous project-level Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.



Standard Indicators are more general. Standard Indicators allow us to aggregate the results of a diverse array. In sacrificing some of specificity and relevance of Project Indicators, of projects.

Frequently Asked Questions



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

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

3. Can I edit the fund specific Standard Indicators to be more tailored to my project context?



Reporting on Standard Indicators



Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men	20	10		30	60
E.g. DI-A01	E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women	30	5		35	60
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New	1	0		1	2
E.g. DI-B01	E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Improved	1	1		2	3

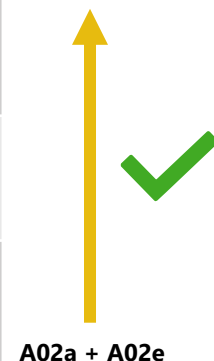
1. Please report whole numbers, rather than % change
2. Provide numbers for each year in each annual report and always report the total-to-date and total planned during the project
3. Disaggregation plays a central role in our reporting requirements. Please ensure you clearly disaggregate, for all years and total-to-date / planned
4. If you introduce a Standard Indicator after Y1 (e.g. in Y2), please ensure this is clearly stated and accurately reported if backdated (e.g. to Y1)
5. Avoid double counting!

Reporting on Standard Indicators



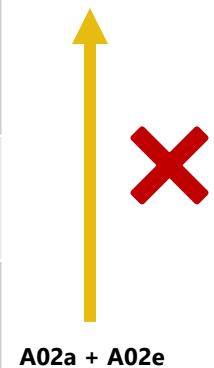
Example 1: Different interventions: [different beneficiaries](#).

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
IWTCF-A02: Number of people with reduced multi-dimensional poverty.	0.2	100	40F of which 20 IPLC 60M of which 30 IPLC
IWTCF-A02a: Number of people with improved food security.	0.2	60	20F of which 12 IPLC 35M of which 20 IPLC
IWTCF-A02e: Number of people with improved social relations.	0.2	40	15F of which 8 IPLC 25F of which 10 IPLC



Example 2: Different or same interventions: [same beneficiaries](#).

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
IWTCF-A02: Number of people with reduced multi-dimensional poverty.	0.2	100	40F of which 20 IPLC 60M of which 30 IPLC
IWTCF-A02a: Number of people with improved food security.	0.2	100	40F of which 20 IPLC 60M of which 30 IPLC
IWTCF-A02e: Number of people with improved social relations.	0.2	100	40F of which 20 IPLC 60M of which 30 IPLC



Resources > Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Resources

< Back


- > Resources
- > Change Request Forms
- > Finance Guidance and Claims Templates
- > Workshops and Webinars
- > Report and Review Templates
- > Risk Management
- > Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- > Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- > Safeguarding
- > Terms and Conditions
- > Information Notes
- > Project Publicity
- > Expert Groups Resources
- > Frequently Asked Questions


Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Guidance

- [BCFs Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#)
- [Darwin Initiative Standard Indicators Guidance](#)

Template

[Biodiversity Challenge Funds Stage 2/Single Stage logframe](#) 

[Simplified Logframe \(only for use by Capability & Capacity projects\)](#) 

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Guidance

- [BCFs Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#)
- [IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators Guidance](#)

Template

[Biodiversity Challenge Funds Stage 2/Single Stage logframe template](#) 


[Simplified Logframe \(only for use by Evidence projects\)](#) 

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Guidance

- [BCFs Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#)
- [Darwin Plus Standard Indicators Guidance](#)

Template

[Biodiversity Challenge Funds Stage 2/Single Stage logframe template](#) 

Risk Management



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Risk Registers



- Provide updated risk register
- Respond to questions in reporting template:
 - Have any new risks arisen in the last 12 months that were not previously accounted for?
 - Has the project made any significant adaptations to the project design this year to address risk?
- Consider all risk categories

Risk type	Description
Contextual	In-country socio-political events or unrest, or natural disasters
Delivery	Associated with achieving the aims and objectives of the project
Safeguarding	'doing harm' including sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) and health, safety and security of beneficiaries, the public, partners and staff
Operational	Related to capacity to manage the project
Fiduciary/ Financial	Funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (including fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriation)
Reputational	Interventions or project partner actions which risk project partner or Defra's reputation

Key Resources



Resources > Risk Management

Resources

< Back


- > Resources
- > Change Request Forms
- > Finance Guidance and Claims Templates
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- > Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- > Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- > Safeguarding
- > Terms and Conditions
- > Information Notes
- > Project Publicity
- > Advisory Group Resources
- > Frequently Asked Questions

Risk Management

Guidance

- [Risk Management Guidance](#)

Template

[Risk Framework Template 2024](#) 

Resources

< Back


- > Resources
- > Change Request Forms
- > Finance Guidance and Claims Templates
- > Workshops and Webinars
- > Report and Review Templates
- > Risk Management
- > Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- > Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
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- > Advisory Group Resources
- > Frequently Asked Questions

Risk Management

Guidance

- [Risk Management Guidance](#)

Template

[Risk Framework Template 2024](#) 

Resources

< Back


- > Resources
- > Change Request Forms
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- > Expert Groups Resources
- > Frequently Asked Questions

Risk Management

Guidance

- [Risk Management Guidance](#)

Template

[Risk Framework Template 2024](#) 

Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI)



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BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS

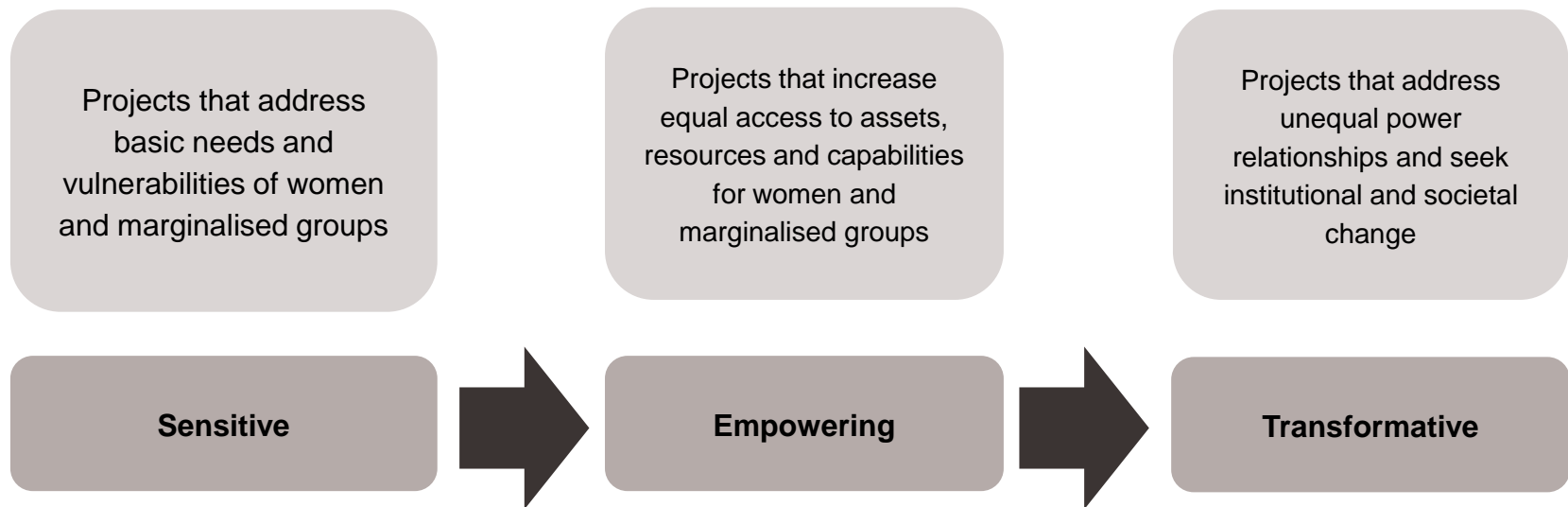
GESI in the BCFs (i)



All BCFs projects are required to meet a minimum standard of GESI Sensitive.

A **GESI Sensitive approach** is understood to demonstrate programming will “do no harm”, not exacerbate inequality and ensure meaningful and context appropriate engagement and participation of those involved in the project.

From April 2024, all BCFs projects have been asked to self-assess against the GESI scale within their Annual and Final Reports.



GESI in the BCFs (ii)



From April 2025, all BCFs projects will be asked to consider the principles of a GESI Analysis within their Annual Reports.

Resources > Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Reminder: GESI in the BCFs webinar on 20 March 2025



Safeguarding



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Safeguarding



- Health, Safety and Security
- Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH)



Who Should Be Safeguarded?



All projects are expected to provide a **safe and trusted environment** which safeguards anyone who the organisation has contact with.

This includes:

- Beneficiaries
- The public
- Project staff including partners
- Volunteers

This includes where **downstream partners** are involved in project delivery.



Commitment to PSEAH



- [IASC 6 Principles](#)



- Relevant [CHS standards on PSEAH](#)



- [CAPSEAH](#)



Common Approach to Protection from
Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

What We Want To See



- **Policies & procedures** - Safeguarding, Code of Conduct & Whistleblowing
- **Demonstration of commitment** - senior leader buy in and designated team member to support PSEAH initiatives
- Strong **Complaints and Feedback Response Mechanism** - stakeholders are aware of how to give feedback and raise concerns
- **Community sensitisation** - communities understand the feedback / complaints mechanism and their rights
- Prevention through **risk identification and mitigation**
- **Incident log** and improvements based on feedback



What We Want To See



12. Safeguarding	
<p>The BCFs are committed to supporting projects develop and strengthen their safeguarding capabilities and capacity to prevent, listen, respond and learn. Defra will not automatically penalise projects where safeguarding concerns are identified but will help projects respond and learn from the experience. We are committed to helping project strengthen their safeguarding approach and if you have any sensitive questions around safeguarding please contact NIRAS separately.</p>	
Give the date of your last safeguarding or Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) policy update	
Give the date of your next planned safeguarding or Protection from SEAH policy update	
Have any concerns or allegations relating to sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment been reported in the past 12 months?	Yes/No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes/No [If yes, please provide their name and email]
Has the focal point attended any formal training, in addition to annual mandatory safeguarding training, in the last 12 months?	Yes/No [If yes, please provide date and details of training]
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding or protection from SEAH?	Past: % [and number] Planned: % [and number]
<p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Provide details on what those lessons or challenges are and how the project plans to address this. Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.</p>	
<p>Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding or protection from SEAH in the coming 12 months? If so, please specify.</p>	
<p>Please describe any community sensitisation on SEAH or rights of project participants that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and SADD (sex, age, disability disaggregated) data of participants.</p>	
<p>Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.</p>	

- Answer all questions in full
- Remember to have staff safeguarding training numbers ready to complete this section
- We are looking to understand what actions have been taken over the previous year to protect all stakeholders from SEAH.
- Upload any updated Safeguarding or Protection from SEAH policy

Reporting Cases



- What must be reported:
 - Allegation of SEAH where a community member has been harmed by project or partner staff
 - SEAH alleged against any senior staff within a project organisation
- Oda.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk
- Reporting form
- Advice and guidance

Further Support



- BCFs Safeguarding: **Resources > Safeguarding**
- [Safeguarding Support Hub](#) – Safeguarding Essentials Pack
- [CAPSEAH](#) principles, minimum recommended actions, practical guidance
- Training: [Kaya's Safeguarding Essentials](#)
- Training: [Safeguarding in the International Aid Sector](#)
- NIRAS Safeguarding Manager

Communication









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Fund Identity



Optimal	Good	Required
<p>Fund Logo + UK Dev Logo (especially where other donor logos used) + Written Statement: "Funded by the UK Government through..."</p>	<p>Fund Logo + Written Statement: "Funded by the UK Government through..."</p>	<p>Written Statement: "Funded by the UK Government through..."</p>
 <p>Funded by the UK Government through Darwin Initiative.</p>	 <p>Funded by the UK Government through Darwin Initiative.</p>	<p>Funded by the UK Government through Darwin Initiative.</p>
 <p>Funded by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.</p>	 <p>Funded by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.</p>	<p>Funded by the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.</p>
 <p>Funded by the UK Government through Darwin Plus.</p>	 <p>Funded by the UK Government through Darwin Plus.</p>	<p>Funded by the UK Government through Darwin Plus.</p>



Funded Activities



CERTIFICADO

TALLER DE CAPACITACIÓN SOBRE ESPECIES INVASORAS MARINAS EN LA RESERVA MARINA DE GALAPAGÓS
 15 - 16 DE JULIO, 2014
 PUERTO AYORA, GALAPAGÓS

PRISCILLA MARTÍNEZ
 INVESTIGADOR PRINCIPAL
 FUNDACIÓN CHARLES DARWIN

INTI KEITH
 INVESTIGADOR PRINCIPAL
 FUNDACIÓN CHARLES DARWIN

Workshop: "Cooking for Tourists and Hygiene"

Developing new livelihoods for Myitkangyi Village Community:

မြစ်ကမ်းကြီးကျေးရွာ လူမှုဘဝ မြှင့်တင်ရေးနှင့်
 ရောဂါကာကွယ်ရန် သန့်ရှင်းစွာချက်ပြုတ်နည်း သင်တန်း

Date: 6 December, 2016

Place-Myitkangyi

Manshaly University



ula Mountain Camp

Overview

- Mountain biking
- Hiking
- Food
- Accommodation
- Bird watching

Trip Advisor

Accommodation

7 comfortable rondavel huts, 4 with 5 beds (2 bunk beds and a double in each) and 3 on-suitte huts which can sleep 3 people each with a total of 31 people. Ideal for families groups and self drives. All buildings are made of local stone and thatch. A boma (open communal area) with a fully equipped kitchen and dining area, store room and a separate ablution facility with flush toilets and hot showers. Paraffin lanterns to light the darkness of the night. The camp chooses to leave the rondavels without electricity to enhance the traditional Swazi experience. Comfortable bedding for a good night's sleep.

New to Izele?
 Sign up to comment and create pages
[Sign up](#)

Izele is supported by

Social Media



Make sure to tag our BCFs socials:



[@Biodiversity Challenge Funds](#)



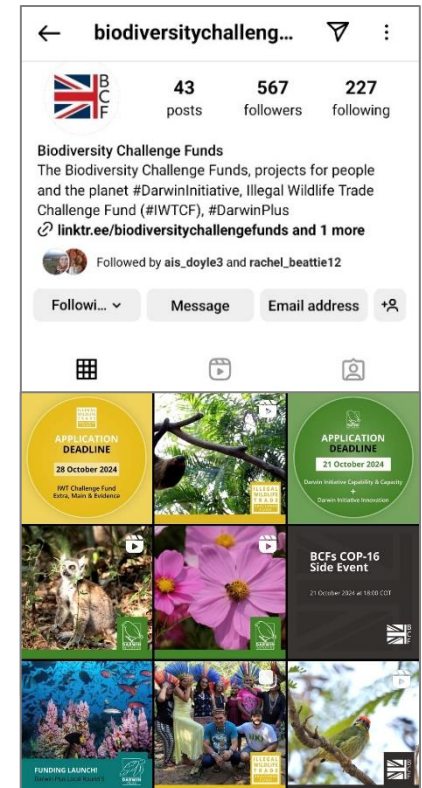
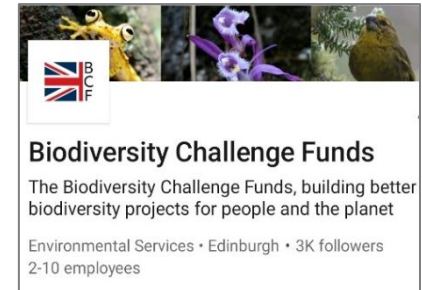
[@UKBCFs](#)



[@Biodiversity Challenge Funds](#)



[@biodiversitychallengefunds](#)

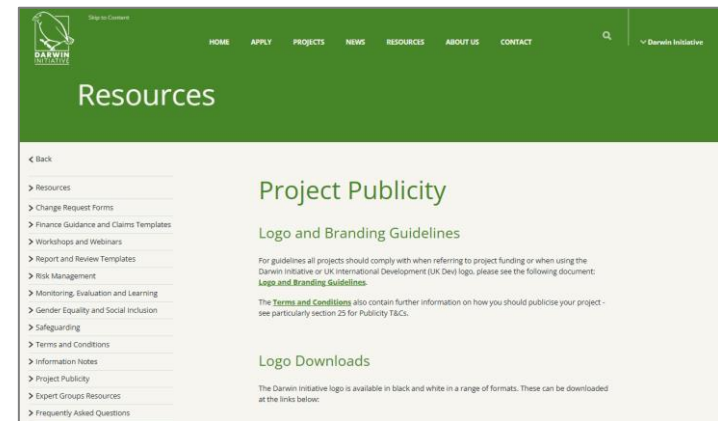
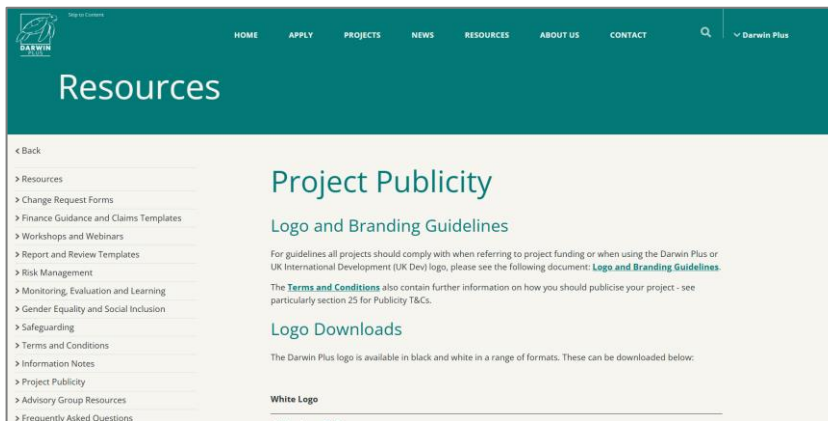
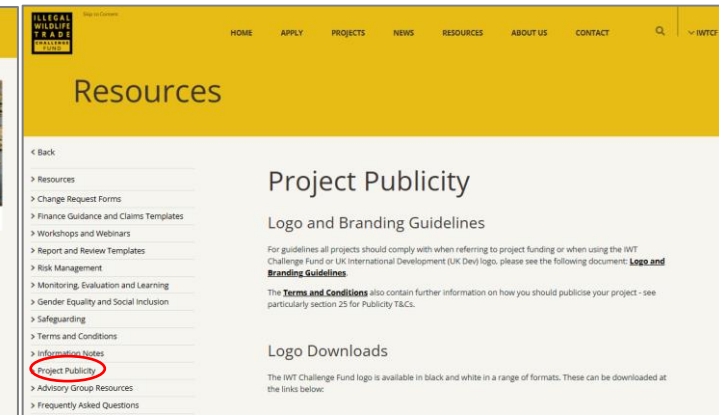
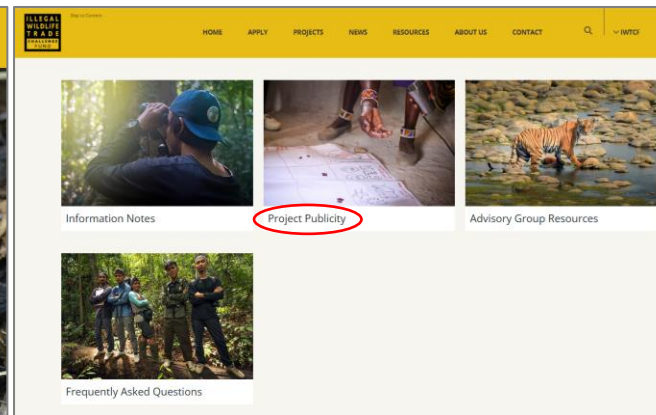
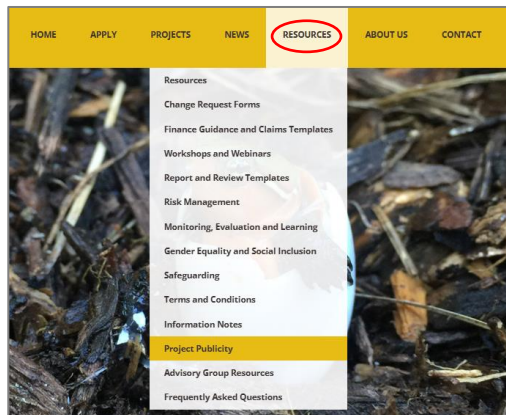


Project Publicity



Resources > Project Publicity

For copies of the UK International Development (UK Dev) logo, contact us on BCF-Comms@niras.com



Project Progress & Achievements



For published articles:
Resources > News

For previous newsletters:
Resources > News > Newsletter

The screenshot shows the Darwin Initiative website's 'News' section. The navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'APPLY', 'PROJECTS', 'NEWS' (highlighted), 'RESOURCES', 'ABOUT US', and 'CONTACT'. Three news items are displayed:

- 24 September 2024**: **Beekeeping revives forests in Ghana**. Nature-based beekeeping is helping communities restore forests, protect biodiversity, and create sustainable livelihoods through honey production. [Read Article >](#)
- 23 September 2024**: **Safeguarding marine resources**. Empowering Cabo Verde's fishing communities to actively engage in marine conservation, reducing bycatch and protecting vulnerable species. [Read Article >](#)
- 22 September 2024**: **Youth empowerment for lemur conservation**. A participatory approach actively involving local communities and youth in sustainable farming, lemur conservation, and community development in Madagascar. [Read Article >](#)

The screenshot shows the Illegal Wildlife Trade website's 'News' section. The navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'APPLY', 'PROJECTS', 'NEWS' (highlighted), 'RESOURCES', 'ABOUT US', and 'CONTACT'. Three news items are displayed:

- 25 September 2024**: **Empowering the women for parrot protection**. The Green Sky campaign showcases how involving local communities can effectively combat wildlife trafficking and protect endangered species through innovative conservation strategies. [Read Article >](#)
- 23 September 2024**: **The transformative power of local engagement**. Community engagement in the Palawan pangolin conservation project transformed livelihoods, reduced poaching, and empowered local governance. [Read Article >](#)
- 20 September 2024**: **Strengthening law enforcement capacity**. Criminal networks in Mozambique fuel wildlife trafficking, leading the Wildlife Justice Commission to support law enforcement training and empower local women. [Read Article >](#)

The screenshot shows the Darwin Plus website's 'News' section. The navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'APPLY', 'PROJECTS', 'NEWS' (highlighted), 'RESOURCES', 'ABOUT US', and 'CONTACT'. Three news items are displayed:

- 12 January 2024**: **Understanding increased seal bycatch**. This project aims to understand the surge in seal fishery interactions in the Falkland Islands, informing a bycatch action plan. [Read Article >](#)
- 11 January 2024**: **Using corals to protect coastal infrastructure**. Living Reefs Foundation's Coral Garden Initiative aims to use corals as a nature-based breaker to protect coastal infrastructure from storm waves. [Read Article >](#)
- 10 January 2024**: **Pathogen threat to seabirds**. Monitoring avian influenza: Research assesses potential threat of pathogens to seabirds in the Falkland Islands, focusing on wildlife health. [Read Article >](#)

The following articles were shared by **Darwin Initiative** projects:

- Protecting orangutans and forest communities**
Discover how genuine, long-lasting relationships with forest-edge communities in Sumatra, Indonesia, is the key to securing a future for Sumatran orangutans. [Read more...](#)
- Showing innovative agricultural solutions**
Seed exchange fairs, Farmer Field School, and the introduction of climate-resilient crops are some of the innovative ways farmers in Morocco are being supported. [Read more...](#)
- Living in harmony: Stories from Nepal**
From community banking to habitat restoration, discover how these sustainable initiatives are helping communities live harmoniously alongside wildlife. [Read more...](#)
- African-led solutions to human-elephant conflict**
Elephants can devastate a crop and leave villagers destitute overnight. Kenyan wildlife authorities are learning innovative conflict mitigation strategies for coexistence. [Read more...](#)

The following articles were shared by **IWT Challenge Fund** projects:

- How pet parrots are now flying free in Venezuela**
From household pets to a preserved species – discover how the women of Macanao have become guardians of the Yellow-shouldered Parrot. [Read more...](#)
- Fostering relationships to protect marine life**
More than 50% of the shark and ray species in Mozambique are now listed as globally threatened. This project unites local community groups to protect them. [Read more...](#)
- Conserving succulents in South Africa**
Illegal plant trade of succulents is rampant in the Karoo, but listening to people in the surrounding communities could be the key to tackling the issue. [Read more...](#)
- Where communities and pangolins can thrive**
An inclusive project for the conservation of pangolins in the Philippines demonstrates how biodiversity conservation and social well-being can go hand in hand. [Read more...](#)

The following articles were shared by **Darwin Plus** projects:

- Embracing the concept of co-designed solutions**
Empowering communities in Turks and Caicos by bridging the gap between fishing authorities and local fishing communities through improved language inclusivity. [Read more...](#)
- Collaborating with farmers to enhance conservation**
Discover how a project to protect the vulnerable St Helena's Wirebird fosters relationships with local farmers to improve conservation efforts. [Read more...](#)
- Wildfire response training in the Falkland Islands**
Learn how delivering crucial vegetation fire training courses to farmers, landowners, and Government officials helps to enhance climate resilience. [Read more...](#)
- Knowledge-sharing to determine ant biodiversity**
Cyprus is a biodiversity hotspot, but little is known about its ant population. One fellow aims to change this using citizen scientists and local participants. [Read more...](#)

Other key reminders



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Other key reminders



- Communication with us more generally
 - Use project references
 - To let us know about changes to project as soon as possible
- Deadline for Annual Report is 30th April
- Reminder that new database coming!
- Reminder of key mailboxes



Mailboxes



Please just email one mailbox / only add one email address – if you include more than one it may take longer to respond.

- BCFs Finance: BCF-Finance@niras.com
- BCFs Reporting: BCF-Reports@niras.com
- BCFs Communications: BCF-Comms@niras.com
- Darwin Initiative: BCF-Darwin@niras.com
- IWT Challenge Fund: BCF-IWTCTF@niras.com
- Darwin Plus: BCF-DPLUS@niras.com

Additional resources



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Additional Resources



Resources > Information Notes

- Deep Dive Reports - Building and Applying Evidence Study Reports
- New Information Notes
 - IWT Poverty Reduction Strategies (IWT Challenge Fund website only)
 - BCFs Reporting

Information Notes

- [Project Reporting Information Note](#)
- [Poverty and the Darwin Initiative Information Note](#)
- [Key Lessons from Annual and Final Reports in 2016/17 Information Note](#)
- [Key Lessons from Belize Mid Term Reviews Information Note](#)
- [Key Lessons from Nepal Mid Term Reviews Information Note](#)
- [Understanding Poverty and Biodiversity Links Information Note](#)
- [Indian Ocean Cluster Information Note](#)
- [Logical Frameworks Information Note](#)

Building and Applying Evidence Study Reports

These reports are a result of studies and reviews carried out by a range of specialists and consultants on the Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) including the Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the fund administrator NIRAS, in consultation with wider stakeholders as relevant, are considering all findings and recommendations emerging from these reports in how they manage the BCFs.

- BCFs - [Application scores vs project performance](#)
- BCFs - [Review of the BCFs MEL systems: Standard Indicators and reporting](#)
- BCFs - [Gender Equity and Social Inclusion](#)
- BCFs - [Evidence use and generation](#)
- BCFs - [Evaluation of livelihoods](#)

Information Notes:

- [Project Reporting Information Note](#)
- [Poverty and the Darwin Initiative Information Note](#)
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- Darwin Plus - [Review of the Darwin Plus Fellowships scheme](#)
- BCFs - [Application scores vs project performance](#)
- BCFs - [Review of the BCFs MEL systems: Standard Indicators and reporting](#)
- BCFs - [Gender Equity and Social Inclusion](#)
- BCFs - [Evidence use and generation](#)

Information Notes

- [Project Reporting Information Note](#)
- [Illegal Wildlife Trade and Poverty Information Note](#)
- [Logical Frameworks Information Note](#)

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- IWT Challenge Fund - [Poverty Reduction Strategies Phase 1 Report](#)
- IWT Challenge Fund - [Poverty Reduction Strategies Phase 2 Report](#)
- IWT Challenge Fund - [Transboundary IWT Projects](#)
- BCFs - [Application scores vs project performance](#)
- BCFs - [Review of the BCFs MEL systems: Standard Indicators and reporting](#)
- BCFs - [Gender Equity and Social Inclusion](#)
- BCFs - [Evidence use and generation](#)
- BCFs - [Evaluation of livelihoods programming](#)



Any
questions?