

Biodiversity Challenge Funds



The United Kingdom's Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCF) support innovative projects that tackle biodiversity loss and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

These competitive funds are designed to encourage cross-sector collaboration, prioritising projects that demonstrate scalability and involve diverse partnerships

There are two applicable funds for Colombia

Darwin Initiative

Supports projects for conserving biodiversity and poverty reduction activities in eligible countries.

SCHEMES:

Capability & Capacity:

- Projects of 1-2 years
- Funding from £50,000 to £200,000
- Focused on developing the skills and capacities of local organisations.

Innovation:

- Projects of 1-2 years
- Funding between £10,000 and £200,000
- Aimed at exploring new ideas for innovative approaches.

Main:

- Projects of 1-3 years.
- Funding between £100,000 and £600,000
- Designed to deliver concrete results with robust evidence.

Extra:

- Projects of 2-5 years
- Funding between £600,000 and £5,000,000
- Intended for scalability based on previous projects.

Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWT Challenge Fund)

Provides funding for practical projects around the world that help eradicate illegal wildlife trade and, in doing so, reduce poverty.

SCHEMES:

Evidence:

- Projects with a maximum duration of 2 years.
- Grants ranging from £20,000 to £100,000
- Aimed at gathering evidence to inform the design of interventions.

Main:

- Projects of 1 to 3 years.
- Projects with funding between £75,000 and £600,000,
- Supported by solid evidence and demonstrating potential for scalability.

Extra:

- Projects between 2 and 4 years.
- Initiatives with funding ranging from £600,000 to £1,500,000
- They demonstrate a clear pathway to scalability.

What has been achieved so far?

In Colombia the BCFs has three ongoing projects through the Darwin Initiative and one through the IWT Challenge Fund:

DARWIN INITIATIVE:

- *OpEPA*: Strengthening community action for regeneration in the Colombian Caribbean.
- *Fundación Natura Bolivia*: Building capacity for reciprocal watershed agreements in the Tropical Andes.
- *CABI International*: Digital innovation to protect Colombian coffee farms and farmers.

IWT CHALLENGE FUND:

- *RUSI*: Strengthening Evidence to Counter Wildlife Laundering in Colombia and Mexico

- **Sectors:** Biodiversity, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Conservation
- **Delivery Partner:** Niras
- **Geography:** Global scope

Key Facts

More Information:

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

