

# News story: New cash to fight the illegal wildlife trade

Environment Secretary Michael Gove has announced £4.5 million for 14 new Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund projects to combat the trade in illegal wildlife at a special event to mark 100 days till the London Illegal Wildlife Trade conference.

The Challenge fund projects will act to prevent wildlife being trafficked or illegally traded through measures including demand reduction, strengthening enforcement and criminal justice, and providing alternative livelihoods.

The new funding comes as part of a [host of measures announced by the Foreign Secretary](#) in the build-up to the [London Illegal Wildlife Trade conference in October](#).

Projects that will receive funding include supporting eco-guardians and community enforcement networks to protect elephants, a 'payback' scheme for the perpetrators of IWT and the development of strong room best practice guidelines for the storage of seized illegal ivory. There will also be funding provided to disrupt the poaching affecting iconic species such as Sumatran tigers and snow leopards.

Environment Secretary, Michael Gove said:

Environmental challenges do not respect borders, and require coordinated international action. Our Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund is driving change to combat this despicable criminality. The 14 projects range across 27 countries and showcase measures from criminal justice to education. These priorities reflect our commitment in the 25 Year Environment Plan to work with other nations to stamp out this vile trade. The fund, alongside our introduction of one of the world's toughest bans on ivory sales, shows our global leadership in protecting wildlife in its natural environment.

[View the full list of projects to receive funding.](#)

Environmental Crime, which includes the illegal wildlife trade and illegal logging, is the fifth most lucrative serious organised crime and is estimated to be worth up to £17billion a year.

The criminals who run this trade do more than damage wildlife – they use networks of corrupt officials and agencies to undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, bringing misery to local communities. Money made from this trade is used by criminal networks.

This is why tackling the illegal wildlife trade is a priority for the UK government and why it's so important that at this year's conference in London we find new and effective ways of tackling this crime, by bringing global leaders together to tackle the strategic challenges of the trade.

## **Project highlights**

### **Case study 1**

ZSL Mongolia's 2018 IWT Challenge Fund project will strengthen border law enforcement by bringing specialist training for border staff and detector dog units at key points; create a multi-agency taskforce on wildlife trade for better intelligence-sharing, and by helping communities living along the borders to keep out criminal groups through the creation of surveillance networks.

ZSL Director of Conservation, Matthew Hatchwell, said:

The illegal trade of wildlife products in Asia presents enormous challenges in preventing the large scale loss of species that can only be tackled by multiple partners working together, in particular to support the conservation efforts of national governments. ZSL is very grateful for the support of the UK government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund to strengthen frontline law enforcement in Mongolia, home to highly endangered species such as the Saiga antelope, snow leopard and Bactrian camel.

### **Case study 2**

Ivory, accrued by natural mortality or seizures of illegal stock, is held in government storerooms that often lack adequate security and management procedures, and are vulnerable to corruption and theft. A robust ivory management system will keep these products from returning to and perpetuating the illegal supply chain. In partnership with national government authorities across Africa, we will develop, trial and put into practice storeroom Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), embedding this into government policy to ensure regular use.

John Stephenson, CEO Stop Ivory said:

We are delighted to have the UK Government's support for a crucial project to fight the illegal wildlife trade. By ensuring that African Governments have comprehensive stockpile storeroom security and procedures in place, this project will prevent illegal wildlife products from leaking back into the supply chain, which perpetuates the illegal trade and poaching of elephants. Through this funding, the UK Government continues to work with the African countries leading the Elephant Protection Initiative to secure a meaningful

future for elephants across Africa – the initiative the Government helped launch at the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2014. The unprecedented crisis we face – with Africa’s natural heritage being destroyed and communities put at risk due to poaching by armed gangs – will only stop when ivory is securely put beyond economic use.

### **Case study 3**

This innovative project will look at how sanctions against IWT can better reflect the injuries to society (For example on livelihoods, biodiversity, culture). It will compare international sanctions to illegal wildlife trade, and initiate international “best practices” standards. In Indonesia, it will work with experts and government officials to review sanctions, and provide expertise to quantify the costs of this illegal trade on society. The project aims to apply these to a first-of-a-kind civil liability suit to hold perpetrators of the illegal trade in wildlife financially responsible for environmental harm.

Dr Jacob Phelps, Lancaster University, said:

This new funding from the UK Government will help the Lancaster Environment Centre to tackle the real-world challenges of taking legal action against illegal wildlife trade. In collaboration with lawyers and conservationists across a dozen countries, we will explore new legal responses to wildlife trade–focused on Indonesia, but with global implications. When an oil spill devastates a coast line, we pursue the perpetrators not only with fines and jail sentences, but also with orders to restore the environment, issue apologies and compensate victims. In contrast, the perpetrators of large-scale, commercial illegal wildlife trade are rarely held accountable for the broad impacts they impose on the environment and society. In this project, we will explore new strategies to hold large-scale perpetrators legally responsible for the environmental harm they cause, including impacts on livelihoods, biodiversity and culture.

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## **Open consultation: Household waste duty of care: updating the guidance**

We want to know what you think about our updated guidance for householders on meeting the duty of care for household waste. We’re also seeking views on new guidance for local authorities on issuing fixed penalty notices for household

waste duty of care offences.

We previously consulted on [introducing a Fixed Penalty Notice for breaches of the household waste duty of care](#). If a final decision is taken to introduce the Fixed Penalty Notice, this updated guidance will be provided for households and local authorities.

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## **News story: RWM attend 2018 LGA Conference**

Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) is this week (3-5 July) attending the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference and Exhibition in Birmingham to listen to the views of community representatives and explain its role in working in partnership with communities for a safer future.

RWM's mission is to ensure radioactive waste is safely managed and packaged today ready for long-term disposal in a future geological disposal facility (GDF).

To deliver its mission RWM will work closely with Local Authorities and community representatives who are likely to play a significant role in the process to site and host a GDF.

The results of public consultations held earlier this year are now being used to help shape the policy which will outline the role communities will play in the siting process. In parallel, the government have also been developing the planning framework for what is set to be one of the largest Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ever undertaken in the UK.

Ann McCall, Siting & Engagement Director for RWM, said

A lot of progress has been made since the last LGA conference so we are delighted to be here once again, providing an opportunity for us to listen to the views of community representatives as we progress this vital programme on behalf of society.

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## Press release: The Planning Inspectorate accepts Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station application for examination

Today, (Thursday 28 June 2018) The Planning Inspectorate accepted for examination, an application by Horizon Nuclear Power for a proposed nuclear power station to be located adjacent to the existing power station at Wylfa A, on the Isle of Anglesey in Wales.

The application was submitted on 1 June 2018 and the decision to accept the application was made in accordance with section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). (The Planning Inspectorate has 28 days from the day after the date of receipt of an application to decide whether or not to accept it).

The decision and a copy of the application documents can be viewed at the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station project page on the [Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website Welsh Language version](#).

The Planning Act 2008 (as amended) sets high standards for applications and places a strong duty upon developers to involve the local community, local authorities and other stakeholders in the development of their proposal, ahead of submission.

Sarah Richards, Chief Executive of The Planning Inspectorate said: "We have considered very carefully the application submitted by Horizon Nuclear Power and decided that it meets the required tests set out in the legislation to be accepted for examination.

"Of course, this does not mean that consent will be given for the project to go ahead – acceptance of the application simply means that the Examining Authority can begin to make arrangements for the formal examination of the application".

It is now for Horizon Nuclear Power to publicise the fact that its application has been accepted to proceed to examination and invite people who are interested in the proposal to register with the Planning Inspectorate as an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation.

Interested Parties in an application can:

- Say what they agree or disagree with in the application and why
- Comment on what other people have said in their representations
- Attend a Preliminary Meeting and say how they think the application should be examined
- Request that an open floor hearing is held
- Attend an open floor or issue-specific hearing
- Request to speak at a hearing.

Sarah Richards said. "Shortly, the public will be invited to register as Interested Parties in this proposal, giving them their first opportunity to make formal representations to the Inspectorate whether they object to or support the project. Everyone who registers in the correct way can be sure that their evidence will be considered by the independent Examining Authority who will be appointed to examine the case."

Sarah added: "A major priority for us over the next few weeks is to continue our work with communities who are affected by this proposal, to ensure that the process is understood and people know how and when to register as an Interested Party."

Ends

Journalists wanting further information should contact the Planning Inspectorate's Press Office, on: 0303 444 5004 or 0303 444 5005 or email: [pressoffice@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

More information on this application, including details of the developer's website, is available in National Infrastructure's Programme of Projects. Visit: [the Projects page](#)

Notes to editors: \* The Planning Inspectorate is an agency of the Ministry for Housing, communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and operates within the policy framework prescribed in the Planning Act 2008, secondary legislation and the National Policy Statements.

There are six key stages within the process. The summary below provides examples of when and how people have an opportunity to provide evidence to the Planning Inspectorate.

## **Pre-application**

Key activities: • Project development / developer's pre-application consultation and publicity. • Environmental impact assessment preparation and scoping, where required.

Public involvement: • Have their say on the proposal to the developer through their pre application consultation

## **Acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State**

Key activities: • The Secretary of State has 28 days from the day after receipt to decide whether or not an application should be accepted for examination

Public involvement: • Details will be posted at the Planning Inspectorate's website on how to register as an interested party – if an application has been accepted for examination and publicised by the developer. • Opportunity to legally challenge a decision not to accept an application.

## **Pre-examination**

Key activities: • Single Inspector or a Panel of Inspectors appointed. • Preliminary Meeting called and held. • Procedure and timetable set for examination.

Public involvement: • Register to say what you agree or disagree with in the application • Submit your representation • View application documents submitted by the developer on the Planning Inspectorate website • Attend the Preliminary Meeting • Say how the examination should be conducted.

## **Examination**

Key activities: • A maximum of six months to carry out the examination

Public involvement: • Submit more detailed comments in writing • Comment on what other people have said • Request and attend an open-floor hearing • If being held, request to speak at open-floor and / or issue specific hearing(s) • Comment on the local authority's Local Impact Report – detailing the impact of the scheme on the local area.

## **Decision**

Key activities: • A maximum of three months for Planning Inspectorate to issue a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State, with a statement of reasons.

• The relevant Secretary of State then has a further three months from receiving the recommendation in which to issue the decision.

## **Post decision**

Key activities: • Six weeks for any legal challenge.

Public involvement: Opportunity to challenge.