CV19RR\1037

Impacts of COVID-19 on wild meat consumption in Cameroon

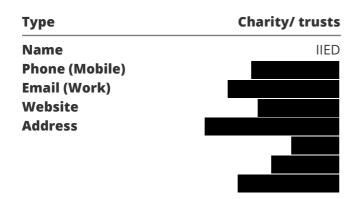
We aim to understand how COVID-19 has impacted perceptions, consumption and trade of wild meat in Cameroon. Building on an existing Oxford-led project, we will implement a large-scale mobile phone survey to address this question in urban and rural areas. We will also conduct in-person surveys in DI project sites around the DFR to explore such impacts in-depth. The results will inform local, national and international policymaking and feed into the decision-support tools we are developing in our DI project.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS



GMS ORGANISATION



Section 2 - Project Title & Previous Applications

Q3. Project Title:

Impacts of COVID-19 on wild meat consumption in Cameroon

Q4. Existing project

Q4a. Does your organisation have an existing (or recently finished) project under either Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund?

• Yes

If yes, please list the project reference and title of relevant projects (e.g. 25-001, DPLUS090, IWT099).

Reference of current/recent project:

Title of current/recent project:

Q4b. Is this proposal directly relevant to one of the projects listed above?

• Yes

If yes, please list the relevant project reference and title.

25-015 Why Eat Wild Meat?

Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary

Q5. Which Fund's objectives will your project most directly address? (please only select one)

• Darwin Initiative

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in?

Country 1	Cameroon	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

• No

Q7. Project dates

Start Date: 01 January 2021 **End date:** 31 March 2021

Q8. Budget summary

Darwin/IWT Funding Request

Total request 2020/21:

Please note all spending <u>must</u> fall between 1st January 2021 - 31st March 2021

Q8a. If any matched funding arrangements are proposed, please detail them here.

Matched funding is £ This covers the time of the co-Project Leader at Oxford (LC), and two Oxford

47,486.00

Section 4 - Project Outcome and Summary

Q9. Outcome

What is the expected Outcome of this project?

The impacts of COVID-19 on wild meat consumption and trade in Cameroon, both nationally and around the Dja Faunal Reserve (DFR), are elucidated, informing policy and decision support tool development.

Q10. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on GOV.UK.

We aim to understand how COVID-19 has impacted perceptions, consumption and trade of wild meat in Cameroon. Building on an existing Oxford-led project, we will implement a large-scale mobile phone survey to address this question in urban and rural areas. We will also conduct in-person surveys in DI project sites around the DFR to explore such impacts in-depth. The results will inform local, national and international policymaking and feed into the decision-support tools we are developing in our DI project.

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q11. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and provide a summary of their roles. Please upload letters, emails or other confirmation of support from any new partners.

Lead Organisation name:	IIED
Other partners involved:	University of Oxford Fondation Camerounaise de la Terre Vivante (FCTV) The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Summary of roles and responsibilities in project:	 IIED: Project oversight and management, including financial management and reporting. University of Oxford: Research design, analysis lead (phone survey) and research support (local survey); integration with wider project; lead on project write up; dissemination of results. FCTV: Research design and data collection (local survey); dissemination of results. TCF: Research design; dissemination of results.

If you have not provided evidence of support from the Lead Organisation or partners above, please explain why: We have provided a cover letter from IIED and a letter of support from Oxford University confirming the collaboration with the TRADE project. FCTV and TCF are already key partners in the existing Darwin project to which this links and so we assumed letters from them were not necessary

Please provide a combined PDF of letters of support from the lead organisation and partner(s) as relevant.

- A Covid Rapid Response Round Cover letter IIED
- 菌 30/10/2020
- ③ 16:30:55
- pdf 147.88 KB

- 选 COVID rrf Oxford LoS
- 菌 30/10/2020
- ③ 11:46:44
- pdf 30.56 KB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q12. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance. Please provide a 1 page CV for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader if relevant.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV attached?
Dilys Roe	Project Leader	10	Checked
Lauren Coad	Co-Project Leader	30	Checked
Fiona Roberts	Project administrator	8	
EJ Milner-Gulland	Oxford Team Leader	5	

Do you require more fields?

• Yes

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project
Dan Challender	Phone Survey Leader (Oxford)	20
Stephanie Brittain	Researcher (Oxford)	20

Kamogne Cedric Thibault	Field Team LEader	100
Mama Mouamfon	Country Lead (Cameroon)	25
Neil Maddison	Researcher	12
No Response	No Response	0
No Response	No Response	0
No Response	No Response	0

Please provide 1 page CVs for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

- 菌 30/10/2020
- ③ 11:20:44
- pdf 185.42 KB

 <u>▲ LCOAD CV 2020 short</u>
 iii 30/10/2020
 ① 11:19:33

pdf 116.08 KB

Section 7 - Problem, Method and Change Expected

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of Covid-19 and its impact on biodiversity or IWT and sustainable livelihoods. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in an additional attached PDF document).

Unsustainable hunting for wild meat is a major threat to biodiversity in Central Africa with significant implications for both human food security and public health. In Cameroon, wild meat is eaten by rural communities, but also by urban consumers. Overexploitation of vulnerable species (including dwarf crocodiles, gorillas and pangolins among many others) is a major threat. Through the Why Eat Wild Meat (WEWM) project (25-015), IIED and partners are generating an understanding of why local people choose to eat wild meat in order to develop tools that can improve the design of interventions to reduce illegal hunting of threatened species, and develop sustainable and 'safe' alternatives. However, COVID-19 is expected to be altering perceptions of wild meat among urban and rural consumers (potentially in different ways), and potentially also trade and consumption patterns. In order to understand the nature and extent of such changes (e.g., are urban consumers purchasing more or less wild meat? Is the economic shock of COVID causing urban-rural migration and increasing hunter numbers? Are people choosing or avoiding certain species implicated in COVID such as pangolins?), we will conduct a large-scale mobile phone survey, covering urban and rural settings across Cameroon. This will gather data on post-COVID changes in relationships with wildlife. We will also conduct surveys with rural communities in our study site around the Dja Faunal Reserve (DFR) to explore in-depth these changes, their mechanisms, and potential biodiversity and livelihood impacts. The findings will inform the decision-support tool we are currently preparing, and feed into a broader project being led by Oxford to give a regional picture of the impacts of COVID on wild meat consumption in Central Africa. This will inform post-COVID interventions by governments and NGOs,

through publications and briefing papers, and support broader dissemination of our DI project's findings

Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome. **Provide information on:**

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- If relevant, how this project links to an ongoing Darwin/IWT project.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

Projects should also consider how best they can address inequality, especially gender inequality, as per the existing guidance for each fund.

Please make sure you read the Guidance Notes, particularly Section 3, before answering this question.

This project will be integrated into our DI project (WEWM) focusing on wild meat consumption around the DFR. This proposal also seizes an opportunity to join with EJMG's group in Oxford, which is implementing a phone survey in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), under the GCRF-funded TRADE Hub (https://tradehub.earth/). They are carrying out an analysis of online discourses around COVID and wild meat in Central Africa, UK and China. Adding a phone survey in Cameroon and an in-depth local study would provide huge additional value, making the combined project a major contribution to understanding how COVID has influenced wild meat perceptions and consumption.

There is a strong rationale for this study: unsustainable hunting for wild meat in Central Africa is a key threat to biodiversity, but also has significant implications for food security and public health. To inform future policies, decision-making and interventions around wild meat consumption, there is a critical need to understand how rural and urban consumers perceive the consumption of wild meat, and how their purchasing and consumption behaviour have changed, following COVID-19; either due to concerns about links between disease and wild meat, or because of economic and social shocks altering the role of wild meat in diets and livelihoods. Our DI project team (FCTV) have recently completed a scoping study interviewing 23 people to understand the impacts of COVID on their lives and wildmeat use; see (https://www.iied.org/how-covid-19-affecting-wild-meat-consumption-rural-cameroon).

We will use an Interactive Voice Response (IVR)-operated mobile phone survey to conduct a questionnaire on respondents' perceptions of wild meat consumption and COVID-19, and how their meat-eating (wild and domestic) has, or may, change due to COVID-19's direct and indirect effects on their livelihoods and health. We will collect data from 1500 respondents, proportionally representative of the regions of Cameroon (our calculated statistically-adequate sample is 1,067 respondents). We will work with a proven service provider to complete this survey in English, French, and 6 local languages - Maka, Bulu, Foulbe, Bassa, Eton/Ewondo and the Bamileke language group.

Using random stratified sampling, we will conduct in-person semi-structured questionnaires with the heads of 200 households around Lomie town, eastern DFR, building on our scoping survey. We will also conduct key informant interviews with wildlife traders. Data collection will be undertaken by FCTV with support from other partners. Fieldwork will follow strict, established safety protocols modified to reflect the contemporary COVID situation in the area.

The project will have a strong gendered component; women are disproportionately traders, and will be

targeted for interview. We will analyse how female-headed households are coping compared to male-headed. The gender-specific aspects of COVID's effects on wild meat consumption will be drawn out in policy recommendations.

The results will inform the WEWM project, specifically the decision-support tool being developed to guide future interventions. However, the results will be analysed independently and disseminated to local and national policymakers in Cameroon through our established networks with the Cameroonian government; results will also feed into international policy guidance via the GCRF-TRADE project.

For project management, see Q11.

Q15. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for biodiversity/environment and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. If you are proposing building on a current or past project, be clear how additional benefits will be delivered through this project.

When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

Our WEWM project aims to improve the conceptual and operational basis for "bushmeat-alternative" interventions in sub-Saharan Africa, and the Dja landscape in particular. It is generating new information on the meat preferences of rural consumers and developing a decision support tool to ensure that future projects have a higher chance of meeting their objectives. The potential reach of the WEWM project in terms of the numbers of poor rural people who are currently the targets of conservation organisations trying to reduce wild meat consumption could be substantial (the recently launched 7.5 million euro ECOFAC 6 programme (https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files

/100417_finalpressreleasecompresse_ecofac_parcic.pdf), for example, is expected to generate >20 large-scale bushmeat-alternative projects throughout the Congo Basin). The results of this new project will feed into the WEWM decision-support tool directly, to ensure that new interventions focused on developing wild meat sustainable alternatives in the Dja region and beyond recognise COVID-19-related behavioural shifts and livelihood dynamics. This will improve the effectiveness of these interventions. Thus, it can be expected that this project will bring benefits to substantial numbers of poor, rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa, and will shape conservation interventions affecting the ~20,000 people in the Lomié region. Leveraging off the GCRF-TRADE data collection, we will develop a Central African regional understanding of the effects of COVID on people's relationships to wild meat. This could inform international responses to COVID (e.g. UK government ODA and BINGOs' plans to strengthen legislation and enforcement around wild meat markets). Finally, knowledge generated from this project will be used to guide local and national policymaking on wild meat in Cameroon directly, through dissemination of our results to key government agencies with which we have strong and established relationships (e.g., Ministry of Forests and Fauna nationally, and the Dja Actors' Forum locally of which FCTV is a member).

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

No Response

Section 8 - Aims, Objectives and Exit Strategy

Q16. Aims and objectives

Clearly outline the aim and objectives of the project and how the achievement will be measured. Use SMART objectives if possible.

The aim of this project is to understand how COVID-19 has impacted perceptions of, and consumption of, wild meat in Cameroon.

The specific research objectives are:

A: During project:

1.Understand the impacts of COVID-19 on wild meat perceptions and consumption in Cameroon (measured as successful completion of a mobile phone survey with 1,500 respondents that are proportionally representative of the geographic regions of Cameroon; by end February)

2.Explore the impacts of COVID-19 on wild meat perceptions and consumption in eastern DFR, and mechanisms behind these impacts (completion of 200 in-person surveys with household heads and 10+ key informant interviews with female traders and other stakeholders; by end February).

3.Integrate the results of objectives 1 and 2 into the outputs of the WEWM project, particularly the decisionsupport tool (revisions recommended; by end March).

4. Complete data analysis and write-up and share the results with local people, and local and national policymakers in Cameroon (dissemination records; by end March).

B Post-project:

5. Regional-level understanding of post-COVID wild meat trade gained, and disseminated to an international audience of policy-makers and donors, to inform strategies for livelihoods and food security support in the Congo basin region (briefing notes, presentations and peer-reviewed journal articles; by end May).

All these objectives are against a baseline of no data, integration or dissemination as at 1st January 2021.

Objective 5 is in collaboration with the GCRF TRADE project

Q17. Exit strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual".

The research findings will feed directly into the WEWM project, and in particular the decision-support tool, which will be used to guide improvements in existing wild meat-alternative initiatives. Guidance from the WEWM project, and thereby this project, will be produced and disseminated widely to project implementers looking to design future bushmeat-alternative initiatives, or improve existing ones, not only in Cameroon but in sub-Saharan Africa more broadly. Specifically, the decision-support tool, databases, and written materials will remain available to download from the IIED and Oxford websites beyond the life of this project, and our outputs from this project and WEWM will continue to be promoted regularly by all partners. The results of this project will also be disseminated widely through the GCRF-supported TRADE-Hub project.

FCTV and TCF are committed to ongoing work in the Dja region. In particular, they commit to working with project implementers and funders to bring to reality the bushmeat-alternative project enhancements and proposals desired by local people e.g. through the established Dja Actors' Forum.

All project partners will continue to engage with international wild meat-related processes and actions, ensuring that our findings will be taken on board as post-COVID policies around wild meat are debated and implemented.

Section 9 - Budget

Q18. Budget

Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus/IWT Challenge Fund in GBP.

See <u>Finance for Darwin/IWT</u> for which costs sit under which budget line.

Budget Line	Cost in £ (GBP)
Staff costs	
Consultancy costs	
Overhead costs	
Travel and subsistence	
Operating costs	
Capital equipment*	0
Other costs	
Total (Must be less than or equal to £60,000)	47,486.00
*If you are proposing to purchase any capital items over £1,000 please detail these here and provide justification below	No Response

Q19. Financial Risk Management

This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

IIED will take oversight of project financial management and has risk management and partner due diligence processes applied across all projects. IIED is also bound by the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010. This is reflected in sub-granting process and mandatory staff training.

IIED will issue sub-grant agreements to Oxford University and TCF and provide guidance to clarify i)

budgets, ii) the grant's financial terms and conditions and iii) reporting requirements. Oxford University and TCF are longstanding partners to IIED with existing grant agreements for the WEWM project and therefore familiar with managing finances and reporting according to Darwin Initiative regulations.

TCF will manage the impact in Cameroon of any significant currency fluctuations and discuss with the wider project team for mitigation. Given the short duration of the project we do not envisage a significant risk. The team has a COVID-19 safety protocol in place at DFR which mitigates the risk of delays to fieldwork, project outputs and related budget.

We have a quote for the mobile phone surveys, from the reputable company Oxford University is working with under the GCRF TRADE project, so we are confident that we can achieve this within the budget provided.

Q20. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin/IWT funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

This project does not include the purchase of capital items

Q21. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

The project offers excellent value for money. It builds directly on our DI-supported WEWM project and involves the same organisations and individuals. It will therefore benefit from existing infrastructure, human resourcing, and logistics in place. Similarly, nearly half of the budget will be spent in-country in Cameroon, and while there is a request for staff time and overheads outside Cameroon it is very small. There are also matched funds from all partners comprising a total of **£**

The fact that FCTV have already carried out a scoping study in the DFR means that we have accurate estimates of field costs, and are able to make best use of the funds available. It also means that we have carried out the COVID risk analysis and other field safety protocols are in place, meaning time and money will not be spent on preparatory work or pilot visits.

Additionally, the project builds on existing research as part of the GCRF-supported TRADE Hub project, specifically the research on wild meat, meaning we will be able to start the proposed activities immediately and much of the cost of the Oxford-based research team is covered from that project. It also means that we have already received ethics approvals and piloted the phone survey in DRC (our other study country), thereby avoiding the cost and time of piloting. This substantially reduces the risk to the project and provides a comparative analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on wild meat consumption beyond Cameroon.

Section 10 - Ethics and Safeguarding

Q22. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin/IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in

relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

Our activities will be subject to approval from Oxford's Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC) and IIED's Research Ethics Committee. CUREC has recently approved an application for our phone survey in DRC, and for FCTV's scoping surveys. Fieldwork will follow CUREC-approved COVID-19-safe protocols. If needed (e.g., due to COVID-19) we may change study sites within the DFR, subject to further ethics approval. We will not collect any personal data, will obtain Free Prior Informed Consent from all respondents, and ensure data storage ensures data integrity. There are no human rights/international humanitarian law implications.

Q23. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative/IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. The award Terms and Conditions set out clear requirements on safeguarding. Please confirm you have read and understand these and that you comply with them all.

Checked

Section 11 - Key Milestones

Q24. Provide an overview of your proposed project, outlining key milestones.

N.B. This should cover the period of your requested project only and the start/end dates should match with those provided in Question 7.

Date	Key Milestone
01 January 2021	START
14 January 2021	Sign contract with mobile phone service provider
31 January 2021	Complete instrument design for in-person surveys
01 February 2021	Start mobile phone survey Start in-person surveys at the Dja Reserve

28 February 2021	Complete mobile phone surveys Complete in-person surveys at the Dja Reserve
31 March 2021	Data analysed, write up complete, and results disseminated.
No Response	No Response
31 March 2021	FINISH

Section 12 - Certification

Q25. FCDO notifications

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin/IWT competition in the host country.

Checked

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

• No

Q26. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

International Institute for Environment and Development

I apply for a grant of

£47,486.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

• I have enclosed a CV for the Project Leader/co-PL and letters or confirmation of support (uploaded at appropriate points in application)

Checked

Name	Dilys Roe
Position in the organisation	Team Leader, Biodiversity
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 ☆ dilys sig iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii
Date	30 October 2020

Section 13 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Check
Checked
Checked
Checked
Checked
-

The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic Checked **or scanned signatures are acceptable).**

(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader (and co-Project Leader if relevant).	Checked
I have included a letter or electronic confirmation of support from the lead organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 11, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
l have checked the website on GOV.UK immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.	Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available <u>here</u>. This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).