

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2014)

Project Ref No	IWT-04
Project Title	Building Capacity for Pro-Poor Responses to Wildlife Crime
Country(ies)	Uganda
Lead Organisation	IIED
Collaborator(s)	Imperial College, Wildlife Conservation Society – Uganda, Uganda Wildlife Authority
Project Leader	Dilys Roe
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	HYR1 October 2014
Project website	http://www.iied.org/building-capacity-for-pro-poor-responses-wildlife-crime-uganda

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Progress against the project workplan is currently on track for the first six months of the project.

Recruitment of personnel

A post doctoral researcher – based at Imperial College - was recruited In May 2014. **Henry Travers** joins the project with experience of similar issues from his PhD research and from subsequent work with WCS in Cambodia. His work entailed exploring the effectiveness of different interventions to promote forest management, using similar methods to those planned for the fieldwork component of this project. Henry started with the project on 1st October 2014. We also recruited a research assistant, **Mariel Harrison**, to work on Outputs 1 and 2 from July to December 2014. Mariel worked as a Masters student with the project team on the Darwin-funded Research to Policy project, and hence had a strong existing understanding of Ugandan context. Mariel and Henry are working closely with WCS-Uganda project officer **Geoffrey Mwedde**. Geoffrey was awarded a DFID Commonwealth Shared Scholarship to undertake an MSc in Conservation Science at Imperial College London from October 2014 to September 2015. He will continue to work as part of the project team and write his Masters dissertation based on research carried out for the project.

Meetings and dissemination

A project inception workshop was held in Kampala on 16 and 17 June 2014. The meeting provided an opportunity for the project team to review the planned outputs, to develop a detailed workplan, to discuss research methods for the fieldwork and to identify existing sources of information and activities with whom we can develop links. A full report of the meeting is available at: <http://pubs.iied.org/G03810.html>

Following the meeting, a project flyer was developed, a blog was posted and a website established in order to disseminate information about the project and the outputs produced. The flyer is available at: <http://pubs.iied.org/G03814.html>, the blog at <http://www.iied.org/how-best-deal-wildlife-crime-while-protecting-poor> and the website at: <http://www.iied.org/building-capacity-for-pro-poor-responses-wildlife-crime-uganda>. Progress against each of the five project outputs is summarised below.

Output 1: Evidence review of drivers and impacts of wildlife crime:

Mariel Harrison, went to Uganda in September and worked with Geoffrey Mwedde and UWA to source and review evidence. They have also worked closely with the Uganda Poverty and Conservation

Learning Group (U-PCLG) which is a key partner in our other Darwin project *Research to Policy*. Mariel gave a presentation to U-PCLG on this project at their quarterly meeting¹. Their work then included searches of online bibliographic databases; searches of websites of key Ugandan NGOs; interviews with journalists; interviews with Conservation Area Managers; and interviews with UWA's law enforcement department. Dilys Roe is complementing the Uganda review with an overview of international evidence. Writing up of the report will start by the end of October 2014 with a view to completing by end of December 2014.

Output 2: Analysis of conservation – development – wildlife crime interactions

During our inception workshop discussions we decided that the best approach was to produce a database of sources of information for each of Uganda's 22 National Parks and Wildlife Reserves on relevant indicators including wildlife population data, community development initiatives, law enforcement effort and wildlife crime incidences. The aim is to bring together in one place the metadata for this information, and to carry out a gap analysis of where information is and is not available to understand trends in wildlife crime, conservation targets and conservation-relevant development activities. Mariel Harrison and Geoffrey Mwedde (WCS) have developed a database and started to populate it with this information. Requests for information were sent out to park managers via Aggrey Rwetsiba (UWA), but to date the response rate has been low. Information was also gathered via WCS and U-PCLG, as well as individual interviews with UWA staff and other relevant people. The collation of information is ongoing, and we anticipate that it will generate useful contextual information for the fieldwork findings. It seems likely that one key finding will be that there is a lack of information on many aspects, which needs to be addressed if the interactions between conservation, development and wildlife crime at the national level are to be robustly dissected.

Output 3: Spatial analysis of wildlife crime incidences

WCS is collaborating with Colin Beale at the University of York to look at probability of occurrence of different types of illegal activity in protected areas using MIST data. This is based on a spatial analysis of arrest data and co-variables such as proximity to the park, proximity to roads etc. The analysis has been for the first case study site – Queen Elizabeth National Park – and will take place for the second site – Murchison Falls – in November. This analysis will then be supplemented with fieldwork in 2015 led by Henry Travers, including socioeconomic surveys and indirect questioning. By overlaying the spatial data we will collect from this fieldwork on prevalence of and motivations for poaching onto the estimates of snare prevalence generated from the MIST data, we will be able to gain deeper understanding of the spatial dynamics of wildlife crime. We will triangulate this with data from arrests and hence build up a coherent picture of the spatial distribution of different types of wildlife crime.

On 18th July the research team met with Joanne Hill (PhD researcher from University College, London). Joanne is studying poacher behaviour at Murchison Falls National Park, and the meeting was a useful opportunity to discuss synergies between the two research projects and share lessons learnt on the challenges to studying wildlife crime.

Henry Travers will undertake a scoping visit to Uganda in November 2014 to start planning the practical aspects of the fieldwork component in detail.

Output 4: Local perceptions of wildlife crime and crime responses

The methodology for the fieldwork for this outputs was discussed in detail at the inception workshop and will entail the use of choice experiments or scenario modelling to explore people's perceptions of the current situation and how that would change under different response interventions. Further planning of the fieldwork for this component will be carried out when Henry Travers visits Uganda in November.

Output 5: Wildlife crime database

Jan Kirstein from Jayksoft who had programmed the basic components of the Wildlife Crime database for WCS Uganda and UWA was contracted to add in a few modifications to the database, as well as to develop the module for fingerprint analysis with Darwin Project funding. The modifications include: 1. The improvement of data entry in tables by making the online access easier; 2. Improving security of the database to make hacking very difficult; and 3. Ensuring that records are kept of deleted suspects and that when this happens the database manager is alerted to the fact. In addition Jan Kirstein will be migrating in records that UWA had inputted into an Access database established by Andrew Lemieux for

¹ <http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/u-pclg-quarterly-meeting-september-2014>
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Queen Elizabeth National Park and which will be halted now as the online database is now in use.

Data are being entered by the UWA legal staff at each Conservation Area. By the end of September 2014 records had been entered of 222 suspects, 193 people arrested, and 92 cases taken to court. The database was available online in only May 2014 so the take up by UWA has been rapid.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

No notable problems

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Nothing so far thank you