

## Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

**Project Ref No: XXIWT007**

**Project Title: The Border Point Project: Stopping illegal wildlife trade in the Horn of Africa**

**Country (ies): Ethiopia**

**Lead Organisation: Born Free Foundation Ethiopia (BFFE)**

**Collaborator(s): Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA)**

**Project Leader: Fetene Hailu**

**Report date and number HYR1 30 October 2015**

**Project website: [www.bornfree.org.uk](http://www.bornfree.org.uk)**

### **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).**

The Border Point Project (BPP) document was reviewed, commented and finally signed between EWCA and BFFE as of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The signed copy was forwarded to Charities and Societies Agency (CSA) for follow up and support of the project. Accordingly a separate bank account was opened at the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

TRAFFIC hosted a workshop (14<sup>th</sup> May 2015) which was held in Addis Ababa for Chinese businesses and citizens based in Africa to address the growing issue of illegal ivory trade. The event was organized, in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy, and WCA. Some 100 Chinese nationals from State-owned enterprises operating in Ethiopia and the local Chinese community attended the meeting. The BPP Leader participated as a resource person and presented a joint paper with EWCA on wildlife trafficking and measures taken by EWCA and its partners. The collaboration between EWCA and BFFE was highlighted as well as their common interest to meet the objectives of the BPP.

BPP staff recruitment has been finalized, except a driver position which is still in progress. The purchase of major equipment (e.g., vehicle, laptops, office furniture) has been completed, with only a few items remaining (e.g., LCD projector, generator, loudspeaker, camera).

The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee (SC) have been prepared and shared with EWCA for comments, and to be approved by the forthcoming SC.

A meeting was held between EWCA and BFFE on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to agree on three key issues; i) induction workshop and participants list, ii) setting priorities to train the federal and regional police, and iii) commencement of fieldwork. It was decided by consensus to postpone the inception workshop until the new establishment of the cabinet at federal and regional level. A timeline for fieldwork was planned and agreed to commence as of 15<sup>th</sup> June, receiving transport support from EWCA.

The BFFE-EWCA team visited seven Regional States to familiarize the project, meet stakeholder on site and delivered capacity building/ strengthening training and awareness creation on wildlife crime for Law enforcement Agencies - Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA), federal and regional police and other stakeholders at 31 sites for 2,227 officers of different ranks between 21<sup>st</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> August. The seven Regional states

include Afar National Regional state (Mille, Aysaita, Dechi Oto, Galafi); Tigray National Regional State (Mekelle, Hummera, Lugdi, Mai Cadra & Dimma); Amhara National Regional State (Metema, Genda Wuha, Gonder, Bahir Dar); Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional State (Dabus River bridge, Assosa Hidase Airport, Assosa Town, Gizen, Kurmuk, Renaissance Dam Area, Bambasi, Homosha); Gambella People's National Regional State (Lare-Fegag, Baro Kella, Pugnido, Gambella Town); Oromia National Regional State (Negelle Borena, Bule Hora, Moyale, Yabello, Shashemane); and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (Aposto/Yirgalem, Omorate, Omo-Kuraz, Konso, Arba Minch, Hawassa).

Meetings on re-activating the Horn of Africa Wildlife Enforcement Network (HA-WEN) are ongoing with US Embassy Regional Environmental Office for East Africa, BFFE and Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre/Network (HoAREC/N) to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> steering committee meeting to enhance trans-border cooperation, communication, training and operations to combat illegal wildlife trade.

**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.**

The BPP project document needed further review to fit into the government plan of action and was eventually signed as of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This has impacted securing duty free status for importing the project vehicle and staff recruitment.

The induction (project inception) workshop and formation of the Steering Committee (SC) took a long time because of awaiting the establishment of the new cabinet both at federal and regional levels (due to national elections held in May 2015). This has impacted the adoption of the Terms of Reference (ToR) on roles and responsibilities of the law enforcement agencies.

**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

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £5,040

**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:

- Unfortunately due to the delayed start to the field work, while getting the project document signed by our national partners, we do not expect that we will use the entire budget for field work or consultancy within the next six months.
- In addition the spend per person on salaries may be different from that budgeted but we do not expect the overall salary expenditure to deviate more than +/- 10%.

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

None

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Joanne Gordon at [IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 001 IWT Half Year Report**