Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No	IWT008
Project Title	Technology and Innovation Against Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking
Country(ies)	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Stimson Center
Collaborator(s)	Kenya Wildlife Service, Linkoping University, iHub
Project Leader	Johan Bergenas
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	HYR1 October 30, 2015
Project website:	

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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).

As of September 30, 2015 a first version of the smartphone-and tablet based control, command and communication (C3) system was up and running at the Ngulia Rhino sanctuary. Based on early feedback from rangers, commanders and researchers, Kenyan based developers (iHub) and Linköping University were working on a second version of the C3, which is common in software development. The following steps were taken to achieve this goal:

1. February 2015: Stimson brought together over 20 organizations, including technology and conservation experts, technology companies and government actors for a two-day workshop to form a strong implementation consortium. The outcome was commitments from a dozen organizations to support the project at the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary. The meeting took place at Kolmården Wildlife Park in Sweden, which agreed to serve as the technology test centre prior to any technology being launched in the field (which is important in order to not make preventable mistakes in the field).

2. February 2015: Stimson organized, with project partners iHub, Linkoping University, the Borders Institute (Kenya-based border security expert group) and HiQ (ICT specialists), a user experience field trip to Ngulia to determine the specifications for the C3 system. This was completed through interviews, exercises and interactions with the park rangers, officers, and researchers in Ngulia. The outcome was a clear development plan for the C3, which Linkoping and iHub subsequently began to work on.

3. May 2015: A beta version of this C3 system was deployed in the field to a selected pilot group of rangers, commanders and researchers. The project team also ran tests on the software and examined and analysed the hardware needs of the rangers in order to make cost-effective decisions on which smartphones and tablets to procure based on the conditions in the field.

4. August 2015: The first full version of the C3 system, including hardware was launched in the field.

These four steps were successfully completed on time and the goals were met as compared against the agreed upon timeline. In addition to the formal timetable, the Stimson Center would like to report the following positive outcomes from the project:

1. The KWS has requested we scale the C3 system throughout the entire Tsavo West area, which is an endorsement of the product, the process and the broader project.

2. In February 2015, Project Leader Johan Bergenas was invited to speak about the project during a private luncheon at the Clinton Global Initiative featuring President Bill Clinton and Secretary Hillary Clinton.

3. In March 2015, the Stimson co-hosted, with National Geographic, a high-level event in Washington, D.C. featuring U.S. Senator Chris Coons and a panel including representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of State, the Clinton Global Initiative, and Palantir Technologies.

4. In Spring and Summer 2015 Project Leader Johan Bergenas was invited to assist U.S. Congressional legislative efforts to draft a new wildlife crime bill that more holistically addressed global illicit trafficking of endangered species.

5. The project team is pleased to see the unexpectedly expansive number of project partners, now including a dozen public and private sector partners, contributing in different manners to the project, including technology, financial resources and awareness raising assistance. While this will result in a larger role for Stimson staff as coordinators and managers of the project, and as such a larger work burden, this positive development puts us on a course to successfully execute the project.

6. By engaging Airtel, one of Kenya's telecommunications companies, and negotiating a memorandum of understanding, Stimson has been able to improve connectivity in Tsavo West to the benefit of our and other projects. This has been a major challenge for many capacity building projects and serves as an interesting model for other initiatives.

7. In phase 2 of this project, project partner organizations will embark on connecting radar surveillance and sensors to the C3 system. This is very complex and could be costly, but we are well on our way to success. In Kolmarden Wildlife Park, which serves as the project's test center, a sensor fusion network is being planned for and a radar has already been tested. The radar was made available by a private technology company specializing in this technology and this actor has demonstrated interest in providing the radar free of charge and to closely collaborate with the project as we implement the next phase. The project has also done tests using unmanned aerial vehicles.

8. On November 3, 2015, the project consortium will gather again in Sweden to map the path forward and will include representation from the Kenya Wildlife Service.

9. Project Leader Johan Bergenas is frequently asked to brief senior government and multilateral officials on the project, including the UN CTED, Interpol and UNODC. We have also written extensively about the broader wildlife crime efforts that are underway, including for the Washington Post.

10. Finally, local ownership and buy-in is critical when executing these types of project and Stimson was pleased to see that the KWS released its own report on the project in August 2015 (which we attach to this report).

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.

One positive, yet unexpected, development has been the successful outcome of building an extensive consortium of project partners. We are now a dozen organizations (and growing) that drive this project forward. All players play significant and important roles, but it also means that the Stimson Center will be increasingly busy coordinating and managing project efforts. As such, we are requesting that some unspent resources be moved from 2015 to 2016.

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:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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:

> The Kenya Wildlife Service underwent several staffing changes at the headquarter level, which resulted in slowing us down in our field work (due to having to brief new individuals at the headquarter level before being allowed to move forward in the field). As a result, we anticipate a significant underspend for 2015. As mentioned above, our project consortium has grown significantly, which will require more management and coordination in 2016. Therefore, we wish to move the underspent funds in Year 1 to Year 2. We would be in a position to speak with someone about our options by January 2016. This will allow us time to assess spending for the current quarter and more accurately forecast anticipated expenses for the final quarter of Year 1.

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

No

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. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 001 IWT Half Year Report**