

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No	IWT009
Project Title	Developing Law Enforcement Capability in Malawi to Combat Wildlife Crime
Country(ies)	Malawi
Lead Organisation	RSPCA
Collaborator(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Malawi; UK Border Force; Stop Ivory
Project Leader	Donnamarie O'Connell
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	28 th October 2015, HYR1
Project website	

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).

This project started on 1st February 2015, the following is a summary of the activities delivered from inception to 31st September 2015.

- **Output 1.1: Project launch meeting.** This was held in Lilongwe in February 2015 and organised by DNPW and RSPCA. Attended by the British High Commissioner to Malawi, the (then) Principal Secretary for Tourism, members of the Inter-Agency Committee for Combating Wildlife Crime (all law enforcement agencies) and NGOs.

- **Outputs 2.1 - 2.3: UK secondment for law enforcement officials.** This was planned by RSPCA and DNPW and took place 27th September – 10th October. A welcome reception for the team was held in London, attended by the Malawi High Commissioner to the UK, representatives from Defra and FCO and all agencies hosting the Malawi delegates. The secondment included visits with the Metropolitan Police Force (Evidence Recovery Unit, Wildlife Crime Unit, Fraud Prevention, Scotland Yard), National Wildlife Crime Unit, UK Border Force CITES team, South East Serious Organised Crime Unit, Police Scotland. The Malawi team delivered two presentations on the illegal wildlife trade in Malawi. The host agencies in the UK were extremely welcoming, and the Malawi team were exposed to many areas of good practice within each agency to take back home. The team has submitted a first draft of their visit report, with detailed recommendations for policy and practice improvements across their agencies and for the development of a new National Wildlife Crime Agency in Malawi. It is hoped that the new knowledge and skills the team learnt in the UK, along with developing valuable contacts and receiving various resource material, will contribute to significant changes in practice within the Malawi agencies.

- **Outputs 2.4 – 2.6: 'Handbook for law enforcement agencies on the use of legislation in wildlife crime prosecutions'.** The brief was developed by RSPCA and DNPW, with input from Stop Ivory and two Malawian lawyers were contracted to write the Handbook. The Project Leader met with the Malawi Law Commission, which is now also involved in the development of this resource. The first draft has been received and is being reviewed by UK lawyers. A meeting with three judges to review and endorse the Handbook is planned for November/December. The Handbook drafting took slightly longer than anticipated, as the brief has been widened to ensure the resource is comprehensive, but it should be finalised within the

next quarter.

Output 2.7/2.9: Training course for Malawi Revenue Authority/Immigration/Anti-Corruption Bureau/Financial Intelligence Unit. It was decided between RSPCA, DNPW and UK Border Force that it was more logical to deliver the above course before the Malawi Police Service course (so outputs 2.7 and 2.9 have been swapped). The Project Leader met with DNPW and Malawi Revenue Authority to discuss the course content, and has met several times with the UK Border Force CITES team who will deliver the course in December. Experts from DNPW, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Malawi Police Services and the Director of Public Prosecutions office will also deliver presentations on the course. The logistics are confirmed and we are in the final stages of preparation for the four day course 7-10th December.

Outputs 3.1 – 3.5: National Wildlife Crime Database. The outline brief for the database was developed. The Project Leader held discussions with DNPW and several of the law enforcement agencies and discovered that there is a significant issue concerning the lack of sharing of data currently. We are currently working with other partners, who are also seeking to develop similar databases. This has caused some delay to this part of the project, but the proposal is now to work with several other NGOs and government agencies (in multiple countries) to jointly contribute to a single database, to be used by all. The requirements for the database are relatively simple, so development should start within the next quarter. The database for Malawi will benefit from input from additional experts and the resulting programme will facilitate exchange between agencies in-country and across borders.

Output 4.1: Inventory of Malawian ivory stockpile and destruction as part of a national awareness event. Malawi's ivory inventory was completed by DNPW in February in partnership with Stop Ivory and with support from RSPCA. A national awareness day was held in April, organised by DNPW and part funded by Stop Ivory and RSPCA, which was attended by the President of Malawi. The burning of the stockpile was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute, it is hoped that it will happen before the end of the year.

The Project Leader has visited Malawi every quarter to discuss the project delivery with DNPW and to organise the activities within the above outputs. The project has received wide spread recognition and approval within Malawi and all activities so far delivered have been successful. We are looking forward to the delivery of the first training course in December in partnership with UK Border Force.

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.

As above, the first draft of the legislation Handbook has been delivered within the timetable; but the review process will delay it slightly by one quarter. The final product will be improved by the extra time taken to include additional legislation in the Handbook. The database is slightly delayed but will be delivered within the same financial year and will be significantly improved as a result of the wider collaboration. No notable impact on the project budget or timetable is foreseen.

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:	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?

RSPCA is pleased to be delivering this project in close partnership with DNPW in Malawi, this collaboration is proceeding very well. We are also grateful to the support of UK agencies who have contributed significantly to the success of the project so far.

All communications with LTS have been extremely helpful and queries have been resolved immediately so we are most grateful for their support.

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**