

## Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	IWT009
<b>Project Title</b>	Developing Law Enforcement Capability in Malawi to Combat Wildlife Crime
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Malawi
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	RSPCA
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Malawi; UK Border Force; Stop Ivory
<b>Project Leader</b>	Donnamarie O'Connell
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR1)</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2016, HYR2

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**Output 1.2 -1.4:** This workshop will be held in Q4 of FY3. The course has been discussed with and received the full support of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Registrar of the Judiciary. This is a short delay but we look forward to a successful course in early 2017.

**Outputs 2.4 – 2.6: 'Handbook for law enforcement agencies on the use of legislation in wildlife crime prosecutions'.** The final draft has been approved by RSPCA International and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and has been formatted by RSPCA International. DNPW and RSPCA International agreed to delay printing of the Handbook as a new Bill on the National Parks and Wildlife legislation is tabled before Parliament this November. The penalties section in the Act has been revised, so the Handbook will be updated and printed immediately after the hearing in Parliament. This delay is beyond the control of this project and it is essential to ensure that the hard copies are not printed before this important change is agreed.

**Output 2.8: Training course for Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), Department of Forestry (DoF) based at borders and airports.** The Project Leader met with DNPW and UKBF separately several times to plan the logistics and content for this course, which was delivered by UK Border Force and Malawian trainers in October 2016. RSPCA and DNPW shared the management of the logistics for this course. The Project Leader and UKBF official visited the Malawi/Mozambique border at Dedza before the training course to meet with all law enforcement agencies. The visit facilitated an appreciation of the current protocols, procedures and challenges to inform delivery of the training course.

One of the barriers to the successful deployment of DNPW officials at airports was that they had not completed basic training for working in the airport environment. The Malawi Police Services and Civil Aviation Authority therefore requested that a day was added to the course to cover e.g. security threats and emergency procedures. These modules were delivered by Commissioners from the Malawi Police Service and were an important addition to this course.

Several logistical issues were discussed during the course such as multi-agency collaboration at borders for searching and processing passengers. It is hoped that this course not only improved awareness of illegal wildlife trade issues and transferred skills such as identifying false permits, searching techniques etc, but also resolved some of the barriers to an effective

multi-agency approach to detect wildlife trafficking at border posts. Following this course, the Malawi Police Service and Civil Aviation Authority will approve the full deployment of DNPW officials for all appropriate airport duties. The course was reported in The Times newspaper, two radio stations and the national TV station MBC.

**Outputs 3.1 – 3.5: National Wildlife Crime Database.** The training course ‘Demonstration and training in the use of the Online Offenders Database used by Uganda Wildlife Authority’ was delivered 27-28<sup>th</sup> April by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Uganda Wildlife Authority in Kampala, Uganda. This project covered the participation of the Deputy Director (Research), DNPW and a DNPW law enforcement officer. These two DNPW staff members will co-ordinate the training of other DNPW staff and the Deputy Director will be the Database Administrator.

Since the start of this project, African Parks (AP) have taken over two more National Parks in Malawi. It was therefore essential for the optimum effectiveness of the database for African Parks to be a major partner. The Project Leader met with the Country Director for AP in October, and it was agreed that AP will be a partner in this work. As detailed in previous reports, we are grateful that the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Uganda Wildlife Authority have agreed to share their database template with this project. Following advice from the WCS, and discussions at the training course held in Kampala, the database requires some modifications. WCS and RSPCA are working on this and we expect the new template to be available within the next month. A joint training course, potentially with a trainer from UWA as well as DNPW staff is planned for Dec/January. This output has been delayed, as it is highly technical and involves multiple partners, but the on-going support from WCS and the involvement of African Parks is key to the long-term effectiveness of this tool.

**Output 4.2 – 4.5 Community awareness programme.** As agreed through a Change Request, RSPCA International partnered with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Lilongwe Wildlife Trust to undertake a community survey around Vwaza Marshes National Park. The survey has been completed and initial analysis submitted. Over 380 questionnaires were completed and 16 Focus Group Discussions were held with community members (including two women-only groups), rangers and Village Natural Resource Committees. The messaging for the radio jingle has been drafted and the recording and broadcast is planned for December. This collaboration is an excellent example of IWTCF projects working together to maximise impact and ensure effective use of funding.

### **Capacity building**

The key component of this project is to ensure capacity building within law enforcement agencies. We have focused on this throughout the project. All of the officials who were seconded to the UK have delivered modules on the training courses in Malawi and participants from earlier courses have become key trainers on subsequent courses. There is now a core team of 8 trainers who are experienced in delivering training on illegal wildlife trade, across multiple agencies; a key impact and assurance for the sustainability of this project. Two of this team were last month elected as Chair and Vice Chair of Malawi’s Inter-Agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime. The DNPW official who was seconded to the UK and has worked with this project throughout, now heads the newly established Wildlife Crime Unit within DNPW. The PL and the Director of DNPW participated in the Regional Judicial and Prosecutorial Workshop on Illegal Wildlife Trade held in Lusaka in June, along with Malawi’s Director of Public Prosecutions, the Registrar and several high level prosecutors. This was an invaluable opportunity to discuss with the sentencing guidelines and judiciary workshop planned in the next phase of this project with these esteemed officials.

### **Responses to external annual review comments**

**1. Communications** - The Project Leader visits Malawi every quarter to discuss the project delivery with DNPW and to organise the activities. The PL is in regular contact with DNPW through email and phone calls in addition to the face-to-face meetings; meetings and phone calls with Stop Ivory, UKBF, NWCU are held to plan all activities these technical partners are

involved in. The project progress is presented at all Inter-Agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime meetings as well as through regular meetings with all agencies when the PL is in Malawi.

**2. Ivory burning** – the ivory burning in Mzuzu in March 2016 was not directly related to this project, it was the result of a court order. However, the PL did attend as part of wider work in Malawi. An event to burn the national stockpile was arranged for April 2015, and the PL was directly involved in the planning. The event went ahead with several activities, significant national and international media, but unfortunately the President cancelled the burning of the ivory the night before. There is an on-going national discussion on the ivory stockpile and this project and others are continuing to work with DNPW on this issue.

**3. Community awareness programme** – the first phase of this work has been completed as above. African Parks are a key partner on several components of this project and we will discuss with them the potential to repeat the survey around the Parks that they now manage. Following the changes in circumstances during the lifetime of this project and approval through a Change Request, our survey area no longer includes Nkhotakota, but as above it may be possible to collaborate with African Parks for them to repeat the survey in that area.

**4. Collaboration with the IFAW IWTCF project** – as above, we have collaborated with IFAW to deliver the community survey. We are in close contact with IFAW and their partner Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and regularly meet to share information and update each other on both projects. Additionally, RSPCA International was approached by TRACES, which is also delivering an IWTCF project, which includes Malawi. RSPCA International undertook to hold a meeting with DNPW to support information gathering for the TRACES project during the recent visit by the PL.

**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 final draft of the legislation Handbook has been delivered and it will be printed following the announcement of approval of the new Wildlife Bill. The database is slightly delayed but will be significantly improved as a result of the wider collaboration.

**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 - in previous reports
Formal change request submitted:	Yes re community awareness programme
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes

**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 continues to proceed very well. We are also grateful for the support of UK agencies who have contributed significantly to the success of the project so far and are delighted to now be working closely with African Parks as a key organisation managing Parks in Malawi.

We are proud that this project has been included in briefings for the upcoming G7 Roma-Lyon Group meeting. It is presented as a case study of a multi-agency approach to IWT and of the support provided by the UK to Malawi, through the collaboration with UK Border Force and the National Wildlife Crime Unit. RSPCA International submitted a brief on the project activities and their impact, which forms part of the UK's updates.

We would like to highlight the excellent support received by LTS throughout the administration of this grant, their team are incredibly helpful and this is very much appreciated.

**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 eg Subject: 001 IWT Half Year Report**