

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No	IWT010
Project Title	Securing rhino populations with effective law enforcement and impact bonds
Country(ies)	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	Kenya Wildlife Service; Biglife Foundation; 7Tech Group; Equilibrium Research
Project Leader	<i>Chris Gordon</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website	<i>n/a – see www.zsl.org; www.kws.go.ke</i>

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 IWT Challenge funding has helped to leverage from the UNDP-GEF towards the Rhino Impact Investment (RII) project. Of this, \$ will support rhino interventions -within Tsavo West National Park, with the aim of demonstrating regular monitoring of performance metrics (the foundations of which have been laid by the activities under this project), and to instill confidence within KWS that the Intensive Protection Zone is well monitored and protected so that this area might be re-stocked with more rhino in the future.

Objective 1: The Rhino Impact Investment project will test a new rhino-specific gap assessment tool in Tsavo, before eventual roll-out in global priority rhino areas. This gap assessment tool has been built by a panel of rhino experts over the past 6 months. A METT analysis will be conducted for Chyulu Hills at least in the final 6 months of this IWT project (Activity 1.2). This METT assessment will not be necessary for Tsavo West given the RII gap assessment.

Objective 2: A consultant has been engaged to conduct a full national rhino audit of all 18 of Kenya's rhino populations. This will be completed by February 2017 (Activities 2.1 and 2.2). Based on the national rhino monitoring plan, KWS' head of rhino monitoring will lead a workshop to train two rhino monitoring trainers from each of the rhino populations (Activity 2.3 and 3.4).

Objective 3: KWS announced in early 2016 that it would not be possible for external partners to work through the Manyani Law Enforcement training academy, as Manyani is a para-military training facility. This decision has meant that the project has had to adapt all planned training activities to be focused at a field level. Based on the national rhino monitoring plan, KWS' head of rhino monitoring will lead a workshop to train two rhino monitoring trainers from each of the rhino populations (see Activity 2.3; 3.3; 3.4). A needs assessment was performed with senior Park staff, highlighting the need for regular ongoing trainings of rangers within Tsavo on patrolling, law enforcement monitoring and rhino monitoring. All rangers have rhino ID books while on patrol. There are a number of advanced trainings planned over the coming months including on intelligence gathering and running informer networks through ZSL's Law enforcement adviser (ex-Met Police, ex-Interpol). Further training will be provided in management and operations of digital radio networks, laying ambushes, advanced patrolling,

field covert skills, and the strategic deployment and operation of Instant Detect anti-poaching systems (Activity 3.1).

Objective 4: Due to the decision between KWS and ZSL regarding working with Manyani, the activities under Objective 4 will need to be reworded. All rangers within the rhino platoons in Tsavo are now being tested regularly on their rhino knowledge against the Master ID book to identify the most proficient and reliable rhino monitors amongst the ranger cohort, with ranger knowledge evaluated on a monthly basis (Activity 4.1; 4.2; 4.3).

Objective 5: Ngulia, IPZ and Chyulu platoons have received ongoing training in rhino identification and monitoring. The 2016 annual night census of rhinos has been conducted over the full moon periods of the dry season for Tsavo West. This night census, combined with camera trapping has confirmed the population size. The Critical Sightings Interval for rhinos in Ngulia is now less than 30 days on average. Camera trapping in the IPZ is rapidly confirming a rhino population that was last audited in 2012. The Chyulu Hills recently discovered a new rhino in their population based on the monitoring efforts. The CSI in this population is less than 30 days for over 60% of the population. Work with the rhino population in Tsavo East has been severely delayed as detailed below in section 2a. The rhino platoons in the Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA) all have equipment to improve day-to-day law enforcement and monitoring effectiveness (Activity 5.1). Multiple SMART training and refresher courses have been delivered to individuals from all stakeholders and parks within the TCA – allowing easy monitoring and evaluation of law enforcement effectiveness (Activity 5.2). We have taken a progressive approach to improving law enforcement effectiveness, slowly increasing the complexity of the monitoring systems used as the rangers become more proficient (Activity 5.3). Three rhino areas are now producing monthly detailed reports on rhino monitoring, critical sightings intervals of all known rhino, ranger effort, and patrol targets and achievements. The above has resulted in consistent improvement from all ranger teams month-on-month. The research assistants attached to each rhino area are now capturing detailed KPI data to inform the financial mechanism that will be built by the RII project.

Objective 6: The ID systems have all been manufactured and shipped to Kenya. Due to the above delays on the Tsavo East rhino sanctuary, these systems will now be deployed in the IPZ area of Tsavo West, to complement the existing systems in Ngulia rhino sanctuary (Activity 6.1). Two trainers are coming to Kenya in the first two weeks of November to train the IPZ rangers on operations and maintenance of the ID systems, and to give a refresher training to the Ngulia rangers (Activity 6.3). These trainers will also work with the rangers to focus on strategic deployment of systems to maximise effectiveness with all systems deployed in the field during November 2016. Systems will be deployed based on analysis of threat hotspots as identified by law enforcement commanders and the technical ranger team (Activity 6.2). ZSL has recently employed a Tech Field Specialist (ex-British Military) to provide follow up support and deployment strategy for the period post-training until the systems have been internalised (Activity 6.4). This Field Specialist will work with KWS to provide effectiveness reviews post deployment (Activity 6.5).

Objective 7: The social survey reports have been completed for the three community areas surrounding the TCA (Activities 7.1 and 7.2). ZSL will be working with key communities around Tsavo through funding raised by the RII project. ZSL has also applied for a Darwin project grant this year for KWS and ZSL to work with these key IWT communities surrounding Tsavo.

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.

1. KWS announced in early 2016 that it would not be possible for external partners to work through the Manyani Law Enforcement training academy, as Manyani is a para-military training facility. The Government of Kenya do not want external parties influencing training courses at such facilities. The project has adapted to deliver all identified

training courses at field sites.

2. The Tsavo East rhino sanctuary has experienced further delays due to the drought conditions currently being experienced there. KWS have sensibly taken the decision to delay stocking this sanctuary until the rains, to reduce the risk of rhino losses during translocations. Due to these delays, the Instant Detect systems will now be deployed in early November in the IPZ area of Tsavo West, to complement the existing systems in Ngulia rhino sanctuary.
3. Due to the lack of community activities in this project, these social surveys will not be repeated in Year Two, to avoid community members from getting interview fatigue. Instead, these surveys will act as an important baseline ahead of community engagement activities to be delivered by the RII project.

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 will submit a change request form
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?

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**