

## Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

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| <b>Project Ref No:</b>                  | IWT011  |
| <b>Project Title</b>                    | Protecting Wildlife by linking communities and conservation in Mozambique |
| <b>Country(ies):</b>                    | Mozambique  |
| <b>Lead Organisation</b>                | WWF South Africa  |
| <b>Collaborator(s)</b>                  | Southern African Wildlife College; Sabie Game Park                        |
| <b>Project Leader</b>                   | Dr Joanne Shaw  |
| <b>Report date and number (eg HYR1)</b> | HYR1 (April-September)  |
| <b>Project website</b>                  | n/a   |

### 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).

Our project aims to address the impacts of illegal cross-border trade of rhino horn upon white and black rhinoceros in Kruger National Park (KNP) in South Africa. KNP is home to the largest population of white rhino in the world as well one of the largest of black rhinos. Our work is based with Sabie Game Park (SGP), a private reserve running 40 kilometres along the eastern boundary with KNP and the five adjacent neighbouring villages of the Mangalane community. The community is primarily dependent on subsistence farming, with limited livelihood alternatives to address their socio-economic challenges. Prior to the Conservation Areas Law of April 2014, wildlife crimes were not a priority of the state, and community's dependence on natural resources grew as a livelihood substitution. Consequently, these challenges increase threats to wildlife conservation efforts, including rhinos.

Our project began on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and a launch meeting was held between the partners at the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) adjacent to Kruger National Park between 7th and 10th April. Based on an analysis of changes in project conditions between proposal development and project launch, the proposed project output activities and budget were revised (see 2a).

Our first project output is to improve economic development and livelihoods of the community. A launch event was held onsite on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015, and attracted over 100 local community members including community leaders, government officials from Police, Nature conservation, and representation from the chief de post, WWF-SA, WWF-Mozambique, SGP and SAWC. Under the "Food for Conservation Programme" (FCP) developed in response to concerns about drought and potential famine in the community, foodstuffs were allocated to households in exchange for conservation efforts such as monitoring fire breaks, improving the quality of cattle kraals and fixing roads. This first phase of the FCP commenced with 420 households translating into a total of 1800 people benefitting from the foodstuffs. The project has already contributed to mitigating potential pressure on wildlife resources as an alternative livelihood and combating wildlife crimes and cattle theft.

The second output is to improve community governance, which is recognised as a fundamental element of successful community projects. Community meetings have been held to raise awareness of the project and support the establishment of village committees in all five (Mukakaza, Ndindiza, Constine, Baptine and Mavunguana) villages in Mangalane community.

Interestingly, it appears that the project has also been instrumental in building women's capacity, as 60% of attendees are women and 40% male representatives. The villages have been assisted to consolidate constitutions and open bank accounts. In addition, one female community member, Yvonne Ubisse, from Baptine village has been appointed as a community field facilitator. As such she has received training in English language and computer skills and assigned a motorbike to support efficient activity implementation on the field.

Our third output aims to increase law enforcement capacity and legislative awareness to combat illegal wildlife trade. Therefore, twenty-one community scouts were selected, appointed and trained between 17<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The training included skills in understanding of CBNRM, forestry, fishing and general policies and laws governing natural resources in Mozambique and basic knowledge on fire management and monitoring as well as crime prevention, intelligence gathering and reporting. The community scouts have been instrumental in hindering access of poachers to SGP and several arrests have been made of those suspected of wildlife crimes.

**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.**

During a review of proposed project activities at the launch meeting at SAWC between 7th and 10th April, it was agreed by project partners that the situation on the ground was moving forward faster than anticipated. Community perceptions towards SGP and wildlife are becoming more positive and this more receptive environment meant that the project was able to move forward into more site based work sooner than originally anticipated. Therefore the third output of the project was expanded through the Community Scouts Programme (CSP) aimed at preventing and combating wildlife crimes by local intelligence gathering in the community.

In addition, the 2014/2015 farming season experienced heavy droughts – to the extent that local villagers had limited food resources and were concerned about starvation. Such a situation not only represented a human welfare issue but could have resulted in social pressure on access to wildlife resources, in conflict with our efforts to combat wildlife crimes and illegal wildlife trade. We therefore developed and implemented a Food for Conservation Programme (FCP), where local community members elected at a household level worked towards conservation efforts such as monitoring fire breaks, improving the quality of cattle kraals and fixing roads in exchange for food.

Therefore some revisions were made to both our programme of work and expenditure on activities, in response to these field circumstances. Specifically, positive outcomes of existing engagements meant there was less of a need for external advisory consultancies and more opportunity for innovative community-based activities at the project site, e.g. the Community Scout Policing programme and novel "Food for Conservation Programme" (FCP).

The above changes were approved in June 2015 by LTS resulting in some amendments to project activities and a small shift of some costs between years and budget lines. The approved changes do not affect the overall project budget or timetable.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

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| Discussed with LTS: | Yes |
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| Formal change request submitted: | Yes |
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| Received confirmation of change acceptance | Yes |
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**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?**

The time lag experienced between submissions of advance claims (sent first to LTS, then subsequently to DEFRA for approval and payment) and receipt of funds (currently approx. 4 weeks) is exacerbated by international money transfers between UK and South Africa and impacts on fund dispersal to partners and project efficiency.

It would therefore be appreciated if administration could be expedited where possible.

**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**