

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

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| Project Ref No | IWT011 |
| Project Title | Protecting Wildlife by linking communities and conservation in Mozambique |
| Country(ies) | Mozambique |
| Lead Organisation | WWF South Africa |
| Collaborator(s) | Southern African Wildlife College; Sabie Game Park |
| Project Leader | Dr Joanne Shaw |
| Report date and number (eg HYR1) | HYR2 (April-September) |
| Project website | 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 first project output is to improve economic development and livelihoods of the community. We have been involved in collaborative research and knowledge sharing with colleagues in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) to determine baseline for hunting prices and operational costs for community conservancy. We are also conducting a feasibility analysis for small-scale agriculture / community irrigation scheme using small grants which will be implemented in January 2017 during high rainfall season. Although the drought continues, South African National Parks (SANParks) has recognised the role of our project in reducing unauthorised entry into Kruger National Park (KNP) and has volunteered to help provide support for the Food for Conservation programme for the community prior to the rainfall season. At a village level, land-use planning has been combined with developing village constitutions to ensure that this work is participatory and inclusive of all members of the community. Land-use plans will be guided by the outcomes of the village constitutions finalised during the next quarter.

The second output is to improve community governance, which is recognised as a fundamental element of successful community projects. The concept of village constitutions has been introduced to the community through roles play, allowing people to visually engage with the content and for the inclusion of those with low literacy levels. Subsequently, the Bill of Rights have been completed and translated in the local vernacular, Shangaan. In addition, financial management training has been provided to the community emphasising good budgeting practices, book keeping and recording keeping. The community displayed good grasp of content during a practical budgeting exercise. During community meetings, we continue to see strong participation of women aspiring to gain more knowledge on best practice for managing

community benefits. SGP has been engaging with the Mangalane community three times per month to discuss problem animals, mainly lions and elephants. Based on these positive engagements, Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC) will be supporting SGP and the community to develop a wildlife management strategy. In addition, the community has benefited from meat distribution plan initiated by SGP.

Our third output aims to increase law enforcement capacity and legislative awareness to combat illegal wildlife trade. The Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS) to capture, analyse and evaluate natural resource monitoring data has been co-developed and tested by village police (VP) and translated into Shangaan language. The data tool includes information on fence patrols, records of incursions into SGP, livestock theft, charcoal and fire monitoring, and community welfare issues. The tool design also enables strategic planning for natural resource monitoring and auditing applications. In addition, 22 bicycles were procured for the village scouts to facilitate field operations. Furthermore, several workshops were held in southern Mozambique with different stakeholders to discuss illegal wildlife trade issues. The workshops brought together representatives from police services, Attorney-General, Customs and ANAC. Communications material relating to illegal wildlife trade was agreed to be displayed at international airports in Mozambique translated into Portuguese (for local people) and Asian language (to accommodate Asian consumers). Through combination of efforts on the ground, including village police, SGP has observed a decline in illegal incursions during the first half of 2016.

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.

Mozambiquan Conservation Law permits communities to receive % revenue generated from wildlife on private land. However, noting the extent of livelihood insecurity on the ground, it is increasingly recognised that % is insufficient to meet economic needs. There are ongoing communications with colleagues at WWF Mozambique and ANAC to develop an additional new form of community quota which will allow community to retain % of the revenue.

Minor delays to project activities were experienced earlier this year with the departure of Mr Rodgers Lubilo as the technical expert in community governance however Mrs Martha Themba the CBNRM assistant manager has been leading community engagement with technical advice from Mr Lubilo and Professor Brian Child. In addition, Miss Nelisiwe Vundla has been available to support our project within WWFSA. As such our project has strategically adapted to the structural changes from our implementing partners – please find relevant CVs attached.

There is growing awareness of and communication about problems in project brought about through unintended consequences of increased militarisation of response to illegal wildlife trade throughout the region. Such responses emphasise the need for more people centred approaches to conservation similar to our participatory approach.

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 – a change form with small amendments will be submitted during the next period

Formal change request submitted: No – a change form with small amendments will be submitted during the next period

Received confirmation of change acceptance: No – a change form with small amendments will be submitted during the next period

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?

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**