

## Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

<b>Project Ref No</b>	IWT013
<b>Project Title</b>	African Wildlife Forensics Network – capacity and coordination for law enforcement
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Angola, Botswana, Central African Republic (CAR), Congo, Gabon, Mali, Zambia, Zimbabwe
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network (TRACE), Botswana Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT), Gabon - Agence Nationale des parcs nationaux (ANPN), Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI), Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS)
<b>Project Leader</b>	Jorge Rios, Chief of UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR1)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website</b>	Under construction

### **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 project start date was estimated at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, however, due to contractual negotiations between UNODC and Defra, this start date was delayed to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. As such, the project has experienced some delays against the agreed baseline timetable.

A full-time Project Coordinator (PC) was recruited by TRACE to manage the implementation of the project on the ground. A project kick-off meeting was held between UNODC and TRACE at the end of June at a meeting of the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science. This provided the opportunity to introduce the project to the wider international community and to meet representatives from the African project host nations, Gabon and Botswana.

At the outset, a standardised, country by country situation analysis template was created including the development of stakeholder questionnaires. (Output 1.1)

The Project Coordinator visited Gabon from mid-July to end-September in order to undertake assessments of Central and West African target countries, namely, Gabon, CAR, Congo and Mali.

Operating from ANPN facilities in Libreville, the PC explored the needs and capacities relating to wildlife crime investigations in Gabon. The PC conducted interviews, site visits and field trips and studied existing documentation. The interviews involved competent administrative officials, representatives of relevant NGOs, logging companies, and diplomatic missions in situ. Questionnaires were distributed to all interviewees and responses were analysed. An assessment report was drafted describing the current situation and key findings and providing options for the establishment of wildlife forensic capacity in Gabon. This report will now be shared with ANPN counterparts for review and approval. (Output 1.2 & 1.3)

The PC joined two UNODC law enforcement experts on an ICCWC Toolkit analysis mission to Congo, to conduct an in-country assessment of needs and capacities relating to wildlife crime investigations. The PC conducted interviews, site visits, field trips, and documentation review.

The interviews and visits involved Congolese political and administrative officials, representatives of relevant NGOs and diplomatic missions. Questionnaires were distributed to all interviewees and responses were analysed. An assessment report was drafted describing the current situation and key findings and providing options for the establishment of wildlife forensic capacity in Congo. This report was included in the draft ICCWC Toolkit Report and has been shared with the government for their review and approval. (Output 1.2 & 1.3)

Due to the current high risk security situation in both CAR and Mali, the PC was advised to conduct the respective assessments remotely rather than undertake in-country missions. Progress in these two countries has been slower than anticipated and remote assessments are ongoing. (Output 1.2)

In the initial project implementation timetable, it was planned that regional workshops and specialist trainings would be delivered within Q1 and Q4 of FY2 (Outputs 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1). The timetable has since been slightly revised due to availability of host partner facilities and it is now expected that these activities will take place in early Q1 FY2 and Q4 FY2. Although the change to the first workshop takes the implementation date across a Defra financial year, the IWT costs (primarily participant travel costs) will be incurred before the workshop takes place and therefore this change is not considered likely to significantly affect budget in the current financial year.

**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.**

UNODC are awaiting final confirmation of agreement from ANPN of the roles and responsibilities of the Gabon project partner as well as of the scope of the project. Once confirmation of agreement has been provided, UNODC and TRACE can then proceed to make arrangements for trainings, regional workshops and the transfer of funds to ANPN, as outlined in the budget and timetable of project activities.

**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: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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?**

**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**