

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2016)

Project Ref No	IWT014
Project Title	Bi-national Collaboration to Eradicate Wildlife Trafficking in Belize and Guatemala
Country(ies):	Belize and Guatemala
Lead Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society
Collaborator(s)	Asociación Balam, Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas, Environmental Justice Forum of Petén, Friends for Conservation and Development, Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development
Project Leader	Roan Bala pondlife
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	Oct 31 201
Project websites	http://guate... http://guatemala.gov.gob.gt/iniciativas/Illegal-Wildlife-Trade.aspx

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (or (pt) 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 has established a cohesive binational partnership to address trans-frontier IWT, with support from the governments of Guatemala and Belize and national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in both countries. Specific advances are detailed as follows.

Output 1: Improved Enforcement/Belize

Activity 1.1 (Completed): The Chiquibul anti-poaching strategy that was developed by Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) in 2015 was used to guide scarlet macaw nest protection activities during the 2016 nesting season; patrol routes were prioritized based on recorded poaching activity in 2015. The strategy was reviewed and updated at a meeting on 29th June with Belizean government and binational CSO stakeholders (Forest Department - FD, Belize Defence Force – BDF, Customs, Immigration, Police, Belize Bird Rescue, WCS Guatemala).

Activity 1.2 (Completed): The Anti-Poaching Task Force was convened in Year 1 of the project, comprising FD, BDF, Police and FCD. Follow up by Belize government personnel during the 2016 nesting season has again been intermittent, and FCD generally patrolled nesting areas without government accompaniment, although FD have purchased additional field equipment to support patrols in the area. Further efforts will be made in the coming year to involve government personnel in enforcement activities conducted by FCD.

Activity 1.3 (Completed): FCD rangers continued to use SMART to monitor and collect data for management purposes in Chiquibul National Park. No further training was required.

Activity 1.4 (Completed): FCD led Task Force field patrolling of scarlet macaw nesting sites and access routes throughout the 2016 nesting season, amounting to a total of 173 man-days with rangers on duty day and night to protect key sites. None of the 21 macaw chicks that hatched at the 11 monitored nests were poached; 2 nests showed signs of poaching attempts, however the chicks had already been extracted for hand-raising as an additional protection measure. This is the second consecutive season in which no poaching occurred at monitored nests since FCD began monitoring in 2010. Although no poachers were apprehended, evidence of poacher activity was minimal and less than in 2015; despite signs of two poaching attempts, no active camps were discovered and no poachers were physically encountered.

Output 2: Prosecution/Guatemala

Activity 2.1 (Completed): The Inter-institutional IWT Strategy was developed in Year 1; the annual evaluation workshop was held prior to the current reporting period, in February 2016.

Activity 2.2 (Completed): EJF convened a workshop on 15th April 2016 in Petén to build capacity among judiciary personnel in addressing cases relating to IWT; the workshop was attended by 10 participants from Organismo Judicial (OJ), Ministerio Público (MP), CONAP and the Defenders of Nature Foundation (FDN). Using funds from a complementary project, a three-day workshop was convened on 20th-22nd July in Guatemala City, in collaboration with the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) and EJF, which provided an introduction to IWT for key government and civil society personnel. The workshop was attended by 50 participants from 19 institutions, including judiciary, prosecution, customs and criminal intelligence personnel from relevant Government departments and representatives from national CSOs.

Activity 2.3 (Completed): The Petén IWT Network, known as the “Mesa Técnica”, continued to support investigations into suspected wildlife trafficking activities. Investigations were undertaken collaboratively by Asociación Balam, EJF and WCS personnel as a first line of research; leads were then turned over to the relevant government institutions (CONAP, MP, DIPRONA – the Natural Resource Police and DIGICI - the investigative and intelligence unit of the National Police). Investigative methods included monitoring of wildlife for sale on social networks and targeted patrols at strategic points identified in the Inter-institutional IWT Strategy. In the current reporting period, a total of 12 monitoring patrols and 2 mobile control points were deployed along key wildlife trafficking routes in southern Petén, in collaboration with CONAP, DIPRONA and the Guatemalan army. The Network supported 4 investigations relating to potential trafficking offenses during the reporting period; one of these resulted in the targeted arrest of 2 individuals intercepted while transporting 2 macaws on 24th June.

Activity 2.4 (Completed): EJF has continued providing technical accompaniment of CONAP, MP and the Attorney General’s Office as they investigate suspects and obtain warrants for legal searches, and supporting prosecutors to strengthen legal cases against detainees. EJF supported the four investigations described in Activity 2.3 and provided legal accompaniment to two cases, both involving the suspected trafficking of macaws in the Dolores region of Petén. The first related to the arrest described under Activity 2.3; following the first hearing on 28th June, both of the accused were released on bail subject to payment of a Q2,000 fine. A second hearing is due on 10th November. The second case, relating to an arrest in the previous report, resulted in a successful conviction on 6th April, consisting of a 5-year jail sentence that was allowed to be paid off at Q5/day, and an additional fine of Q10,000 payable to CONAP.

Output 3: Cross-border Collaboration

Activity 3.1 (Partially Completed): While FCD (Belize) and Balam (Guatemala) remain committed to leading national civil society demands for greater governmental cooperation between Guatemala and Belize, progress has been limited by heightened tensions between the two governments following the incident detailed in the previous report whereby a Guatemalan minor was killed in Belizean territory. Guatemalan and Belizean project partners met in the Guatemala-Belize adjacency zone on 19th May to discuss progress regarding collaborative CWT efforts; while Belize government personnel (FD) attended the meeting, their Guatemalan counterparts (CONAP) did not. FCD and Balam will continue to promote increased bilateral cooperation and it is hoped that tensions between the two governments will lessen during the remainder of the project, allowing further progress to be made.

Activity 3.2 (Partially Completed): A meeting of the Mesa Inter-sectorial de Tierra y Ambiente (MITA) was convened by Balam on 1st June 2016; however, as a result of the tensions mentioned above, FCD did not participate in this meeting as planned. It is hoped that binational representation will be possible at meetings of the MITA in the near future. Nevertheless, FCD and Balam continue to work closely together under a Cooperation Agreement towards conservation and rural development in the Maya Mountains-Chiquibul Adjacency Zone, and collaborative efforts to promote further binational cooperation at the civil society level have continued. Using funds from complementary projects, Balam and FCD convened four meetings between indigenous community groups in the Belize-Guatemala adjacency zone. This resulted in the elaboration of a plan to lobby both governments to invest in community development and natural resource conservation on both sides of the border.

Activity 3.3 (Completed): Updates have been provided to the UK Embassy in Guatemala by Balam and WCS, and to the UK High Commission Office in Belize by FCD.

Output 4: Improved Sustainable Livelihoods

Activity 4.1 (Completed): Principal trafficking routes and target communities for investment (La Rejoya, San Marcos, Monte los Olivos and Las Brisas de Chiquibul) were identified in Year 1. Although it has not yet been possible to secure involvement of La Rejoya in the project, as stated in the previous report, additional investments in the Seed Fund leveraged from other funding sources (totalling approx. GBP) have enabled the expansion of the initiative to a further 3 communities located along key trafficking routes in the Guatemalan adjacency zone (El Carrizal, Nueva Armenia and San José las Flores del Chiquibul).

Activity 4.2 (Completed): Viable alternative livelihood investments were identified by Balam in coordination with the Coordinadora de Asociaciones Campesinas Agropecuarias de Petén (COACAP) in Year 1.

Activity 4.3 (Completed): A strategy for the management and distribution of Seed Fund investments was developed by Balam and COACAP in consultation with relevant stakeholders in Year 1. During the current reporting period the Seed Fund Board of Directors (comprising CONAP, the Ministry of Agriculture - MAGA, Balam, WCS, the MITA and the Association of Municipalities of Southern Petén) convened to review progress during the first year of implementation of the Fund; progress was also presented at two meetings of the MITA.

Activity 4.4 (Completed): In Year 1 an agreement with regard to Seed Fund management was signed between Balam and COACAP, an organization representing indigenous campesino families that had been selected by Balam as the most effective implementing mechanism for the investment of seed funds.

Activity 4.5 (Partially Completed): Balam conducted baseline surveys of attitudes towards wildlife trafficking and alternative livelihoods within a sample of beneficiary families in three of the target communities (San Marcos, Monte los Olivos and Las Brisas de Chiquibul) during Year 1. In the current reporting period, surveys were conducted in the three additional communities identified for investment using complementary funds. A report on the baseline survey was produced for the three original target communities.

Activity 4.6 (Partially Completed): Alternative livelihood initiatives supported by Seed Fund investments in target communities San Marcos, Monte los Olivos and Las Brisas de Chiquibul in the current reporting period included 65 agroforestry plots (planted with cacao, chestnut, zapote, avocado, macal, plantain, sweet potato and cardamom) benefiting 55 families, 6 seed banks to supplement the agroforestry plots, 18 hectares of xaté plantations benefiting 76 families, a sugar production project benefiting 24 families, a bakery project involving 17 women and an egg production project involving 12 women. COACAP has contracted three technical officers based within the communities to support implementation of these initiatives on the ground. The Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) has provided in-kind support through the establishment of Rural Development and Learning Centres within the adjacency zone and the donation of 1900 cacao, chestnut, zapote and avocado plants to the agroforestry projects.

Activity 4.7 (Pending): Planned for Year 3.

Activity 4.8 (Partially Completed): Balam conducted baseline socioeconomic surveys within a sample of beneficiary families in three of the target communities (San Marcos, Monte los Olivos and Las Brisas de Chiquibul) during Year 1. In the current reporting period, surveys were conducted in the three additional communities identified for investment using complementary funds. A report on the baseline survey was produced for the three original target communities.

Output 5: Greater Awareness

Activity 5.1 (Completed): Balam has developed a strategy for raising awareness about IWT among communities along key trafficking routes in southern Petén, and has implemented a radio outreach campaign with two radio broadcasts conducted each month on two different local radio stations (Radio Utunkaj in Q'eqchí Maya language and Radio Felicidad in Spanish). Balam's director published a column in a leading national newspaper highlighting the issue of wildlife trafficking in Petén and ongoing efforts to tackle it, including the work supported by the UK Government (<http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/columna-de-prensa-libre-pacto-contra-la-tala-y- trafico-ilegal-de-vida-silvestre/>); two additional stories published in the same newspaper with input from Balam and WCS make reference to the threat posed by IWT in Petén. An article was published in another leading national newspaper in July publicizing the two IWT-related convictions that have been achieved thus far and the third legal case that is currently ongoing. On World Environment Day (5th June 2016), an event was organized by the MP's Petén Environmental Prosecution Office in collaboration with EJF and WCS in Flores, Petén, to raise

awareness of IWT by handing out bumper stickers and fliers. Balam has reported on project progress at two meetings of the MITA during the reporting period.

Activity 5.2 (Completed): Outreach materials produced through the campaign developed by WCS in collaboration with CONAP (4000 posters, 3000 brochures, 5000 stickers and 350 t-shirts) have been distributed to schools and relevant government institutions in Petén and Guatemala City. CONAP's Communications Department convened five workshops with journalists in Guatemala City during the reporting period to raise awareness of IWT and other threats to biodiversity. The three-day workshop convened with enforcement personnel in Guatemala City (see Activity 2.2) also served to raise awareness of IWT among key government actors. Broader outreach by project partners via radio and the web are detailed under Activities 5.1 and 5.4, respectively.

Activity 5.3 (Partially Completed): The baseline awareness survey among government, judiciary and media personnel in Petén and Guatemala City was completed, and a report summarising the baseline results was produced by WCS. Balam conducted baseline awareness surveys among members of the MITA and among beneficiaries of Seed Fund investments in six communities within the Guatemalan adjacency zone, and has produced reports summarising the results of both surveys. Final surveys will be conducted in Year 3.

Activity 5.4 (Completed): Updates relating to project activities, and links to relevant news items relating to IWT, have been shared on project partner websites and Facebook pages; see links listed below. A new page has been created on the WCS Guatemala website summarising IWT-related project activities and acknowledging the support of project partners and donors (<http://guatemala.wcs.org/en-us/Initiatives/Illegal-Wildlife-Trade.aspx>; also available in Spanish). WCS convened a meeting on 18th August with project partners Balam, EJV and FCD to agree a consistent strategy for web and social media outreach, taking into consideration advice sought from WCS international experts with considerable experience in implementing successful online IWT campaigns. WCS is preparing to launch a new Facebook page which aims to expand the current number of followers and thus increase outreach among the public.

Activity 5.5 (Pending): Planned for Year 3.

Activity 5.6 (Partially Completed): The project approach and key achievements to date were presented by WCS Guatemala during a symposium entitled "Illegal Wildlife and Timber Trafficking in Mesoamerica – What role for science?" which was convened by WCS Belize on 22nd August during the XX Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation held in Belize City.

Publications in the national press:

- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/columna-de-prensa-libre-pacto-contr-la-tala-y-traffic-ilegal-de-vida-silvestre/>
- <http://www.prensalibre.com/opinion/carencias-en-la-zona-de-adyacencia>
- <http://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/comunitario/riesgo-latente-para-vida-silvestre>
- <http://www.prensalibre.com/opinion/opinion/modelo-diferente-de-desarrollo-rural>

FLORES, PETÉN

LOS HALLAN CULPABLES

Iván Medrano
★ Colaborador

La Fiscalía de Delitos contra el Medio Ambiente del Ministerio Público logró dos sentencias en contra de personas que violaron las normativas de conservación y protección de flora y fauna.

La primera fue contra Wilson Junior Chi, quien recibió cinco años de prisión al comprobarse que transportaba una guacamaya y cuatro loros.

La otra persona condenada a cinco años fue Edwin Obdulio Soza Orellana, quien fue sorprendido comercializando una guacamaya en el municipio de Dolores.

Asimismo, quedaron ligados a proceso penal por el delito de tráfico ilegal de flora y fauna René Guevara Alarcón y Melvin Neftalí Rueda Guevara. Ambos fueron detenidos el 24 de junio pasado con dos guacamayas.

tan para impartir clases.
Edwin Matta/Colaborador

CHIPI

86 32
91
45 67

Cruzados relativos: 33-90-12

Escuche Radio Perla 98.1 FM Chiquimula

22 de julio de 2016

Publications on project partner websites:

- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/columna-de-prensa-libre-pacto-contr-la-tala-y-traffic-ilegal-de-vida-silvestre/>
- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/programas-sociales-en-zona-de-adyacencia/>
- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/zona-de-adyacencia-soporte-y-colaboracion-embajada-britanica-en-guatemala/>
- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/columna-prensa-libre-asociacion-balam/>
- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/alianzas-de-colaboracion-estrategica-con-el-ministerio-de-relaciones-exteriores-socios-y-cooperantes-en-la-zona-de-adyacencia-guatemala-belice/>
- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/el-exito-de-la-mesa-intersectorial-de-tierra-y-ambiente-del-sur-de-peten-mita/>
- <http://asociacionbalam.org.gt/reconocimiento-oficial-de-la-mita-por-parte-de-la-secretaria-de-asuntos-agrarios-de-la-presidencia-de-la-republica-de-guatemala/>

- <http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/913-dia-mundial-del-medio-ambiente-2016.html>
- <http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/897-capturan-a-dos-personas-que-llevaban-ilegalmente-animales-endemicos.html>
- <http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/935-capacitacion-para-periodistas-sobre-el-trafico-de-vida-silvestre.html>
- <http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/935-capacitacion-para-periodistas-sobre-el-trafico-de-vida-silvestre.html>
- <http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/931-taller-introductorio-sobre-trafico-ilegal-de-vida-silvestre.html>
- <http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/927-capturan-y-sentencian-a-trafficantes-de-guacamayas-en-peten.html>

Publications on project partner Facebook pages:

- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/posts/1014559831925811>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/posts/1010293312352463>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/photos/a.486213728093760.1073741828.479226092125857/1009646742417120/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/photos/a.486213728093760.1073741828.479226092125857/1007125766002551/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/photos/a.486213728093760.1073741828.479226092125857/1007043569344104/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/photos/a.486213728093760.1073741828.479226092125857/1004902169558244/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/photos/a.486213728093760.1073741828.479226092125857/998135960234865/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/photos/a.486213728093760.1073741828.479226092125857/994505280597933/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/photos/a.486213728093760.1073741828.479226092125857/990880084293786/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/posts/988132011235260>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/posts/1075686549146472>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/posts/1042482789133515>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/posts/1041153052599822>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conapgt/posts/1033899913325136>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1133564433380191/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1082788875124414/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1066904260046209/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1047593378643964/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1030654983671137/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1018189614917674/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1006633149406654/?type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/264801210256522/photos/a.512039668866007.1073741827.264801210256522/1006599829409986/?type=3&theater>
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=138816539856438&id=109654022772690
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=153923235012435&id=109654022772690
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1055369134542345&set=a.107738322638769.16421.100002078063766&type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1044743262271599&set=a.107738322638769.16421.100002078063766&type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1133775993368325&set=a.107738322638769.16421.100002078063766&type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1116456971766894&set=a.794612480618013.1073741831.100002078063766&type=3&theater>
- <https://www.facebook.com/asociacion.balam/posts/1115841071828484?pnref=story>
- <https://www.facebook.com/asociacion.balam/posts/1115837601828831?pnref=story>
- <https://www.facebook.com/asociacion.balam/posts/1112259568853301?pnref=story>
- <https://www.facebook.com/asociacion.balam/posts/1099698920109366?pnref=story>
- <https://www.facebook.com/asociacion.balam/posts/1084243288321596?pnref=story>

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.

No notable problems or unexpected developments have been encountered by the project over the last 6 months.

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: n/a

Formal change request submitted: n/a

Received confirmation of change acceptance n/a

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:

n/a

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**