

## Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

**Project Ref No** IWT017

**Project Title** Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade in Mongolia through Improved Law Enforcement

**Country(ies)** Mongolia

**Lead Organisation** Zoological Society of London

**Collaborator(s)** Mongolian Ministry of Environment, Mongolian State Police, Mongolian Customs Office, Mongolian State Inspection Agency, Steppe Forward NGO, Legal Atlas, IRIM.

**Project Leader** Dr. Gitanjali Bhattacharya; Nathan Conaboy

**Report date and number (eg HYR1)** 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, (HYR2)

**Project website**

### 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 has made good progress over the past 6 months and is on track to meet its milestones for Year 2.

#### Output 1

**Current status of Illegal Wildlife Trade in Mongolia is defined as accurately as possible using proven and comparable methods.**

*Household surveys: complete*

Since the submission by ZSL of the AR1 all 4,010 household surveys have been completed with raw data analysed and results put into the draft Silent Steppe II report. The team are pleased with the surveys having highlighted a key change in hunting and poaching trends. The survey has indicated a large shift towards recreational and small scale industrial fishing. This is a key finding as the current legal framework and public awareness about fishing is very limited and so these results have given an area to focus on in the social marketing campaign.

As planned these surveys covered 13 representative provinces throughout Mongolia (which has 21 provinces in total) select for 1) high human population density, 2) large markets and wildlife trade, 3) wildlife abundance and habitat, 4) proximity to international borders with frequent use (train stations, border posts); 5) economic impact and industry development.

*Market survey: In progress at the time of this report.*

The survey design divides Mongolia into 5 broad regions. We targeted 8 provinces plus the capital city, Ulaanbaatar (Appendix 1), as these major provinces representing volume of hunting, abundance of hunters and wildlife trade and products used in Mongolia based on data from the most recent surveys in 2006. In total 650 surveys are included in the methods. These numbers were updated from the original planned 1100 surveys due to 4 provinces being removed to reduce replication of the surveys in areas with repeated or similar characteristics according to the study's sample selection criteria. Market surveys comprised of several components beyond observing what is publically available at markets. This was to account for the increased public awareness around IWT and therefore public discretion, enabling us to get information from a wide range of sources about products available to people from routes other

than public markets. The market surveys included key informant interviews, surveys at restaurants, alternative/traditional hospitals, retail shops, travel agencies, market observational sheets, and a product price report. Pilot studies were conducted between October 3-7<sup>th</sup> 2016 and surveys began October 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## **Output 2**

### **Effective, well-trained border and enforcement staff team in place**

*Training materials produced for police, border agency and MEGD staff:* ongoing

Since AR1 the project has established a training committee comprising members of the major training stakeholders. Representatives from the Police ecological crime unit, State Customs Office, the Mongolian Academy of Science, and the National University of Mongolia. The committee is currently developing the training needs assessment with ZSL staff. This same committee comprises the multi-agency committee which is to be established to promote knowledge sharing across the law enforcement agencies and to improve law enforcement on the ground, using knowledge already gained by existing IWT task forces working on the ground in Eastern Mongolia.

## **Output 3**

### **Legal framework established, facilitating an increase in IWT crime convictions.**

*Legislation review and judicial review:* ongoing

ZSL and Legal Atlas have begun the development of software which will map all of the laws directly and indirectly relating to IWT in Mongolia. This software uses algorithms to attribute relevant laws to search terms so users can bring up the applicable laws associated with a specific case. This software enables the user to see what laws relate to a specific case and also indicates where those laws overlap, where there are gaps or in some cases even contradict each other. The system will be accessible by the relevant project stakeholders with the addition of state law schools for legal training purposes. This system will also be used by the project to support any suggested legal changes by highlighting examples of where the law is not as effective as it could be.

#### *Wildlife Hotline*

Since AR1 the project team met with WWF Mongolia in July and August to discuss continuation of the existing WWF wildlife crime hotline with ZSL's support under IWT017. These meetings were positive and ZSL is now in the process of reviewing the protocols and outputs of the existing hotline to accurately assess how ZSL can be involved.

#### *Social Marketing*

A social marketing campaign supported by a corporate partnership with MobiCom, the largest telecom and media provider in Mongolia has been undertaken. A MoU with an agreed set of outputs including TV and other media coverage has been signed with MobiCom since the previous AR. Work has begun with MobiCom's creative and marketing departments to develop short videos and storylines in their line of children's comics to deliver the message of IWT issues to multiple demographics.

## **Output 4**

There were plans to set up a beneficiary committee for effective allocation of funding from convictions. Following Discussions with project committee members outlined under Output 2 and the legal review we have established that payments to communities are a function of separate budget laws that do not allow for earmarking. All government revenue are transferred into the general accounts and budgeting is a separate process that does not consider income sources. The basic reason given is that the government needs the freedom to assign its budget according to priorities determined by societal interests that are not associated with earning capacities. As such this project must establish how it can consider other funds, such as income from regionally assigned hunting permits to provide financial feedback to the communities

where hunting takes place.

### **General project developments**

#### *Mongolia to ratify the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade*

A significant development that was not initially presented in the project proposal is the commitment of the Mongolian government to sign the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade. The project has been able to achieve this through cooperation with the British embassy in Mongolia who have worked to set up meetings and have lobbied departments in the Mongolian government to sign the declaration as an official acknowledgement of support for this project in Mongolia and for the global efforts to fight IWT.

### **Press coverage and public outreach**

#### *National news coverage 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2016*

A full page piece was published in Mongolia's largest daily newspaper, Unuudur, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and was then republished in Mongolia's leading English language, The UB Post, online on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

#### *MobiCom partner press release*

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October the project team met with MobiCom CEO David Holliday at which MobiCom's press team gathered information for a press release regarding MobiCom involvement in the project.

#### *Interview Mongolian National TV, date TBC*

The team in country are due to meet staff from a Mongolian TV show titled 'Talk With Me' during the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November to set a date for televised interview to discuss the project and issues surrounding IWT in Mongolia.

#### *Inspire Me British festival 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016*

The project team in Mongolia will host a stall at the British embassy in Mongolia's British festival. The team have developed a short video and presentations for display during the 2 day event at the Shangri la centre in Ulaanbaatar's city centre.

**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.**

### **Output 4**

As described under Output 4 in section 1 of this report the legal review of the project uncovered a law which prohibits money from fines for illegal hunting being directed anywhere other than a central 'pot' which cannot be earmarked for specific uses other than the major budget requirements of the government. This development will not affect the budget but the project team must now work with the Ministry of Environment in Mongolia to discuss the distribution of funds from hunting permits which are sold on a local level through local government administration offices. When the project team is clear on how this income is used a course of action can be taken within the project and a formal change request with a detailed plan of actions will then be submitted to LTS. The project team are expecting to meet the Ministry of Environment about this matter after the 9<sup>th</sup> November in accordance with the stated response time of government departments to meeting requests.

**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**