

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No IWT020

Project Title Strengthening local community engagement in combating illegal wildlife trade

Country(ies) Kenya

Lead Organisation IUCN – Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

Collaborator(s) IUCN SSC CEESP Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi), IUCN SSC African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG), IIED, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, Big Life Foundation, Cottar's Safari Service

Project Leader Leo Niskanen

Report date and number 28th October 2016; HWR1

Project website <https://www.iucn.org/regions/eastern-and-southern-africa>

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 is fully on track. Key achievements:

1.1 Methodology developed and logistical arrangements completed

A great deal of effort has been dedicated to the development of tools and methodology for the project. This development will continue throughout the project as the new tools and methods are tested, refined and improved based on feedback and experience from field trials. Main achievements to date: (1) Dr Wendy Rowe of Royal Roads University, Canada, joined the team bringing in extensive experience in Action Research (AR) with communities. This is the first time AR principles are being applied to enhance understanding of the conditions for community engagement in combating IWT. (2) A *Group Situational Analysis Tool* was developed to help gain quick insights from the community into the situation at site level and to identify priority issues relevant to each of the pathways in the Theory of Change (ToC) (3) A *Key informant Questionnaire* was designed to test the key assumptions and causal linkages in the ToC (4) *Community meetings* were added to the methodology (following a *World Café* approach commonly used in Action Research) and designed to allow for informal discussions by the community and to promote maximum ownership to emerging ideas and solutions. (5) A *Quantitative Baseline Data Collection Form* was also designed.

The logistical arrangements for the inception workshop and the field visits to the first and second case study sites were successfully completed.

1.2 Inception workshop conducted.

The project inception workshop took place from the 23rd to the 27th of May 2016 at the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was attended by the key project stakeholders and was extremely helpful in enhancing understanding of the local context at the case study sites. The workshop was highly interactive and the participants engaged actively in the testing of the first prototype of the group situational analysis tool described above. Group discussions also generated several constructive recommendations that were used to adjust the ToC to reflect the realities at the pilot sites. The project methodological framework was also finalised and a detailed work plan was developed to guide the next stages in the project.

1.3. Interviews and focus group discussions conducted at first case study site.

Leo Niskanen, Wendy Rowe and Antony Kasanja of Big Life Foundation carried out a quick one-day scoping and reconnaissance mission to the Amboseli landscape in late May 2016. Subsequently it was decided that the project would focus on the Kilitome Conservancy, a well-established community conservancy in a critical wildlife corridor in the Amboseli landscape, as the first case study site. The interviews and focus group discussions at the case study site took place from the 22nd to the 25th of August. Ten key informants were interviewed including Big Life staff, community representatives, tourism investors, and Kenya Wildlife Service personnel. The group situational analysis tool was used to consult community members. Youth, women and elders (10-15 people per group) were consulted separately to ensure free discussion and to identify unique perspectives. A community meeting (baraza) took place on the last day constituting a highly interactive and fruitful discussion structured around the four pathways of the ToC. Data from the consultations was analysed, gaps were identified and the first draft of the case study was written.

1.4. Presentation of objectives, methods and preliminary findings presented at the World Conservation Congress in September 2016.

Project team members Dr Holly Dublin and Dr Rosie Cooney (IUCN SSC/CEESP SULi/AfESG) attended a special session on communities and IWT at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii on the 5th of September. The event *Empowering Local Communities to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade: What Works and Why* was co-organised with UNDP and CMS and gave an opportunity for the project team to share information about the project the objectives, tools and methodologies with a global audience. More information about the event can be found on:

<https://portals.iucn.org/congress/fr/session/10269?page=1> In addition, IUCN organised a special side event on September 26th at the CITES Conference of the Parties in Johannesburg to share information about the project and to seek opportunities for collaboration with other interested stakeholders in the eastern and southern Africa region. For more details about this side event please see web story: <https://www.iucn.org/news/iucn-event-stimulates-debate-about-role-communities-first-line-defence-against-illegal-wildlife>

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.

A Change Request has been submitted to request for Activities 2.1 and 2.2 to be moved to Year 2 of the project to benefit from the lessons learned from a proposed third case study site. This will further enhance the impact of the project.

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: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/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: £ (Please see Change request)

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**