



## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report



(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)

**Project reference:** 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:** Akshay Vishwanath

**Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):** 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017; HYR2

**Project website/blog/social media etc.:** <https://goo.gl/GImXF9>

### **1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to the end September).**

In August 2017, IUCN ESARO recruited Akshay Vishwanath as Senior Programme Officer (SPO) in the Conservation Areas and Species Programme. Akshay will now serve as Project Leader for pilot sites in Kenya and will follow up on the evolving theories of change and documentation of lessons learnt. In addition, Akshay will provide support in rolling out the FLoD approach in other parts of the Eastern and Southern Africa region, as well as training others to use the toolkit and general methodologies being developed as part of this initiative.

#### **Activity 3.1 - Production of draft guidance document**

From 31<sup>st</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August, the IUCN-IIED FLoD team met in Nairobi to work on a Guidance Document and Toolkit for designers and implementers of anti-IWT projects and programmes. The guidance and toolkit are intended to help others to apply the FLoD approach and methodology to existing or new initiatives. A final draft of the toolkit will be further tested and refined through implementation of work in the Shompole-Olkiramatian Conservancy in Kenya. This field work is supported through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, and is scheduled to take place in November 2017.

#### **Activity 1.6 - Case study analysis and report writing**

Case studies emanating from work in Kilitome and Olderkesi will be finalized by December 2017 and the Shompole-Olkiramatian case study by the second quarter of 2018.

Delays have been experienced in obtaining certain site-specific information from Kilitome and Olderkesi (e.g. copies of agreements between safari operators and the conservancy managers) that are crucial to the completion of the respective case

studies.

**Activity 3.4 - Production of briefing paper based on guidance document**

The FLoD Team has developed an outline for a policy brief containing key high level policy messages on engaging local communities in the fight against IWT. The brief is not only targeting policy-makers in Kenya but also has wider relevance across the region and beyond e.g. for the 2<sup>nd</sup> London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, scheduled for 2018.

**Activity 3.6 - Dissemination of outputs via project partner websites and networks**

IUCN was represented at the African Union Experts Group Meeting on the African Strategy on Illegal Wildlife Trade. A presentation by Akshay Vishwanath on the FLoD initiative was made at this meeting and was well received by the member states in attendance. IUCN hopes to build on this and have the FLoD initiative included in the implementation plan for this African Strategy on Illegal Wildlife Trade.

A Briefing Note on the FLoD initiative was presented at the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) steering committee meeting held in September 2017. The meeting of CEESP's top management organ serves to provide a platform through which experts from around the world can get acquainted with the FLoD initiative and support its roll-out in Africa and beyond.

A project specific webpage was developed to showcase the FLoD initiative and to disseminate project outputs.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.**

The response to the FLoD approach and methodologies from conservation partners across the region continues to be overwhelmingly positive. New sites for FLoD roll-out in Kenya have been identified, and there are efforts to identify sites in Southern Africa. Proposals have been submitted that, if successful, will allow for capacity building of new partners, dissemination of lessons learnt, and policy influence.

The political uncertainty surrounding the Kenyan election period was a significant constraint during the reporting period. Community meetings/consultations and any FLoD roll-out at pilot sites had to be postponed in order to avoid any risks that the activities may be perceived to be political in nature.

It is still anticipated that all project activities will be completed within the time frame specified in the grant agreement.

**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
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Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No
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**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. 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.** 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, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R3 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.**

**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 Victoria Pinion 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 e.g. Subject: IWT001 Half Year Report.**