



IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT022
Project title	Disrupting ivory trafficking conduits with coordinated law enforcement in Malawi
Country(ies)	Zambia; Malawi
Contract holder institution	IFAW
Partner institution(s)	Mike Labuschagne, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust & Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW)
Total IWT grant value	£297,810
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2016 /31 March 2018
Project leader's name	Neil Greenwood In country – Mike Labuschagne
Project Website/Blog/Social Media	
Report author(s) and date	Neil Greenwood

1. Project Summary

Species project is focussing on: African Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*)

Approaches to address the illegal trade in wildlife span the enforcement continuum, from prevention and apprehension to prosecution and adjudication. Combating the illegal wildlife trade requires a holistic approach that combines stronger law enforcement, including crime prevention, with improved wildlife management – these efforts must include actors from across government, civil society, and the private sector and must be coordinated within countries and across geopolitical boundaries.

In addition, communities living near protected areas and other biodiversity hotspots who bear the costs of living with wildlife have not always shared in the benefits or participated in decision-making around wildlife management – collaboration with communities is therefore critical in preventing poaching. Crime prevention approaches are based on identifying and addressing the drivers of wildlife crime. Without addressing the socio-political drivers that are motivating wildlife crime, strengthening law enforcement alone will be less successful. Partnerships and building trust between communities, civil society, business, and law enforcement is also critical to help develop community-oriented crime prevention approaches and support intelligence gathering, information sharing, and investigation of wildlife crimes.

In May 2015 the Malawi government published a review of the status of the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in Malawi for which the consulting organisations, including LWT, had used the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit as the framework for the assessment. That review, which was fully endorsed by the Government and the Inter-Agency Committee to Combat Wildlife Crime (IACCWC), detailed the urgent need for a specialist, multi-agency wildlife crime investigations unit and for better local community and regional engagement to improve wildlife law enforcement efforts in Malawi.

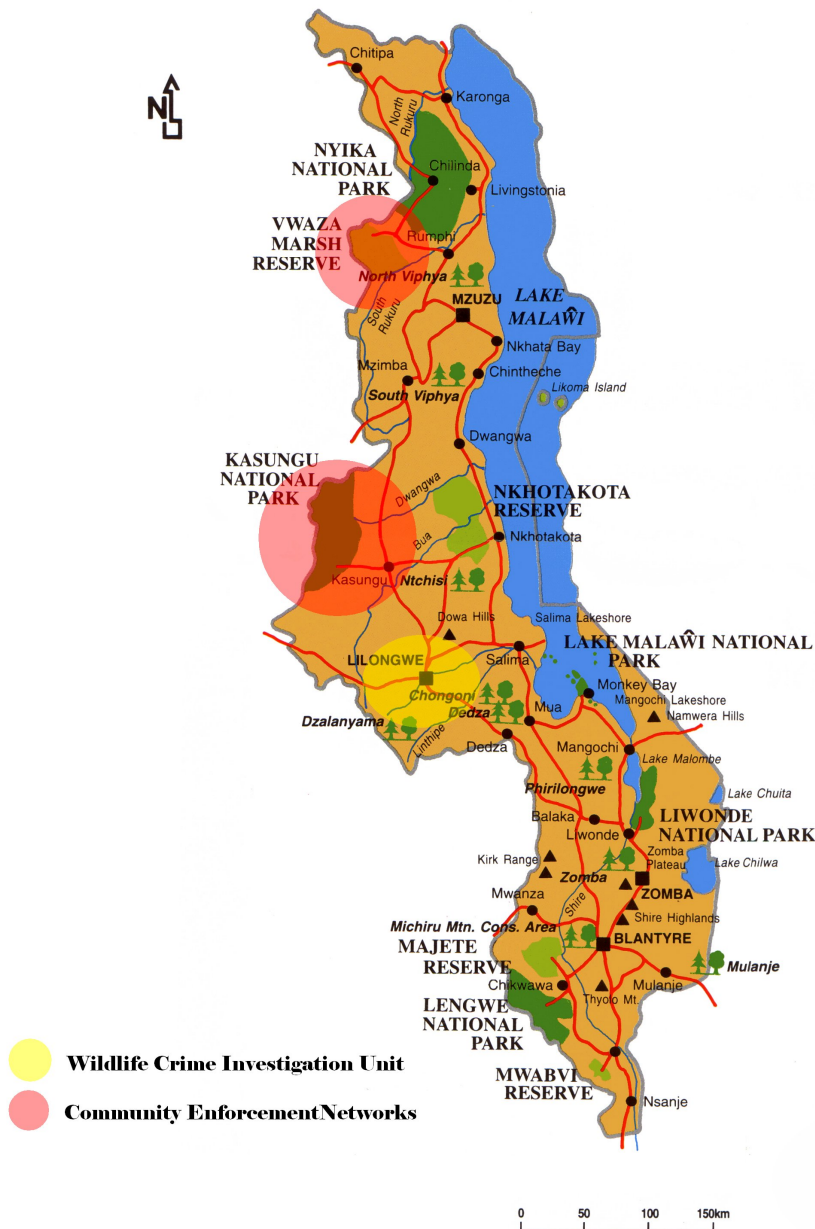
Malawi is positioned centrally to where elephants have been most declining. The Centre for Conservation Biology at University of Washington identified two major savanna elephant poaching hotspots – reserves in south-east Tanzania and northern Mozambique, where 96% of large (>500 kg) ivory seizure samples, post 2007, were all assigned. Selous ecosystem lost 66% (25,000) of its elephants between 2009 and 2013, while 1,000 elephants were reported killed in Niassa Game Reserve in 2011. In 2012 a shipment of 262 tusks (931.7kg) was seized in Tianjin and the ivory assigned to Malawi, south-east Tanzania and northern Mozambique. In 2013, 2.6 tonnes of raw ivory, intercepted in Malawi, was assigned to the same areas. Over 50 cases of ivory trafficking were recorded in Malawi between 2011 and 2014, and another 15 in 2015. At the launch of the National Elephant Action Plan for Malawi, the Director of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife stated that, “the ivory trafficking is driving the killing of our elephants”. However, ivory trafficking in Malawi also helps drive the substantial killing of elephants regionally. Malawi is both a source and transit hotspot.

Malawi ranks 174th out of 187 on the United Nation’s Human Development Index and in 2014, it’s GDP per Capita was the lowest in the world. In spite of such poverty and resource constraints, Malawi has strong governmental will to combat the illicit ivory trade – e.g. placing a moratorium on domestic ivory trade and establishing an Inter-Agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime. By continuing to strengthen Malawi’s law enforcement capability, this will also directly and indirectly help to alleviate poverty by protecting elephants. Eco-tourism is an important sector for driving sustainable economic growth in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, and the Ministry’s eco-tourism revenue sharing scheme returns 25% of wildlife tourism back to local communities from some specific national parks.

This project creates an operational Wildlife Crime Investigations Unit (WCIU) and Community Enforcement Networks (CENs). These new law enforcement entities will operate under the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) with direction from the Inter-Agency Committee to Combat Wildlife Crime (IACCWC). The WCIU and CENs will investigate serious wildlife crimes, including elephant and rhino poaching and ivory and rhino horn trafficking. WCIU is multi-agency, including DNPW, police and customs. CENs will be established where elephants and other iconic species are most at risk and help incentivize local communities.

This Project is also linked and benefits from the IFAW Zambia Malawi Landscape Project (ZAMELA), which is a partnership with the Malawi DNPW and the Zambian DNPW. This strong linkage has proved to be practically effective in co-ordinating and supporting cross border investigations. In addition, through this linkage, practical success has been achieved by connecting the first links in the criminal chain (the poacher who shoots and animal in the Protected Area) with higher levels of the IWT, such as traders and processors.

MALAWI



2. Project Partnerships

1: Partner Involvement in project planning and decision making:

Ahead of the onset of the project as well as throughout the project timeframe, there has been a high degree of partner involvement, with full participation from all parties - this has been essential to the success of the project. Strategy planning ahead of the onset of the project saw all parties, with IFAW as lead, actively participating in the drafting of the project log frame in order to accurately reflect the expectations of the project in terms of reaching its outcome of Combatting Wildlife Crime.

Regular in person meetings held in Cape Town and Malawi, visits to project sites within Malawi, including Lilongwe and Kasungu, skype calls and e-mail correspondence ensured that throughout the designated period of the project, all partners were actively involved in decisions taken.

A finance meeting took place in May 2017 which included support staff from both partners based in Malawi – this was an important meeting focussing on the tracking of

expenditure related to the project, to ensure efficient and accurate capturing of costs incurred.

A crucial area where partner involvement was paramount was the process of revision of the original project log frame – upon recommendation after a project monitoring visit, the log frame was revised following discussions and the involvement of Mike Labuschagne, DNPW and LWT.

See Annexure 4: Finance Training Meeting

See Annexure 5: Summary of Meeting of Partners

2: Roles of partners in project:

Mike Labuschagne, Director of Law Enforcement – in-Country lead, based in Kasungu National Park, Malawi, oversaw the management of the project in country and the work undertaken in the Kasungu area, including the implementation of regional workshops, trainings, capacity building and manages a close relationship with the DNPW.

LWT, one of the main implementing partners of this project, assisted IFAW in coordinating the project on the ground, acting as a focal point for project management and local advocacy and community engagement activities. LWT have an excellent understanding of illegal wildlife trade in Malawi, a robust legal team that directly supported case work for illegal wildlife trade cases, and a proven working relationship with the key law enforcement agencies in Malawi e.g. DNPW, Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) and Malawi Police Services (MPS). LWT were appointed by DNPW and the IACCWC in Malawi to help produce the “Illegal Wildlife Trade Review of Malawi”. This work included the Government/IACCWC approved scoping study for how best to establish a WCIU in Malawi. LWT have an existing MoU with the Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) and Department of Prosecutions in MPS and support their proactive wildlife crime investigation. LWT was an important liaison point between CIU and WCIU, assisting DNPW in managing the CEN networks and helping DNPW coordinate and service WCIU efforts and operations at WCIU headquarters in Lilongwe and when the lead IFAW investigator is away undertaking field operations.

DNPW of Malawi led the WCIU, under the mentorship of the IFAW Project Lead in Country, Mike Labuschagne, and made fully available six salaried DNPW officers, including the lead Senior Parks and Wildlife Officer, and part-time extension officers. DNPW was the lead organisation in terms of sustaining CEN wildlife officers.

DNPW, MRA and MPS all work very closely and are all members of the IACCWC. MPS has seconded highly experienced CID/CIU officers into DNPW, for the duration of the project, to help build capacity. MPS continues to house the CIU, who are permitted to feed intelligence into the WCIU so it can react accordingly. MPS are committed to supporting the WCIU and, through their existing relationships with LWT and DNPW formally share their considerable expertise and wildlife crime data with the WCIU. The MPS WCIU officer(s) act as agency links between WCIU and wider INTERPOL operations.

3: Involvement in writing/preparing Final Report:

This report was drafted by the lead organisation, IFAW, in consultation with LWT in order to ensure accuracy of information contained herein and confirmation that all partners are in agreement with the final report.

4: Achievements, lessons, strengths or challenges with the partnership(s):

Achievements attained through this project, is a result of direct close cooperation between key partners, including informal partners, such as the CENs established by the project. The evidence of number of arrests and seizures throughout the length of the project is case in point - relying on the strengths of each partner in terms of their

expertise and cooperation as it relates to law enforcement training, conducting Investigations & Intelligence operations, sharing of information by CENs, legal processes to follow in order to ensure successful convictions and sentencing.

Key partners involved in this project, LWT, DNPW and MPS brought unique expertise, skills, access to key intelligent data, as well as the support of executive management within the DNPW and MPS, which were crucial to the work being undertaken by the WCIU, and subsequent successes.

Investigations & Intelligence training ensured enhanced teamwork between the WCIU and its closest partners and associates, by introducing and refreshing newly appointed officers in the basic knowledge of investigations, in order to ensure that the teams have the necessary skills and equipment to charge individuals with wildlife related offences, improving students' informant management skills, expose teams to appropriate and useful technology and the methods in which to conduct practical operations, leading to successful outcomes – this could not have been achieved without strengths of the partners involved.

We note that although the MRA did not have any direct involvement in project activities, attendance of meetings, 1 dedicated officer was seconded by the MRA to the WCIU.

5: Sustainability of partnerships after project completion:

This project builds upon the momentum and strengthens existing national partnerships for fighting wildlife crime in Malawi. In 2014, Brighton Kumchedwa, the Director of DNPW, commissioned the region's first Illegal Wildlife Trade Review. Recognising that Malawi is now southern Africa's major illegal wildlife trade route, and in less than three years he secured Presidential commitment to fight wildlife crime. This led to the development of Malawi's new Wildlife Act (with some of the toughest penalties in Africa) and the establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee for Combating Wildlife Crime, a model for the region, and supported the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus. Brighton is committed to the WCIU as a means to ending IWT in Malawi and has confirmed with the project team that he will continue to find funding, if necessary, to keep the WCIU in operation beyond this funding. The director's passion for the WCIU has been made evident as he assisted in the WCIU's effort to secure an additional 4 years of funding through USAID.

The practical success of this project, (number and quality of arrests, vital information gathered, intelligence processed and effective sentencing handed down by Courts) provides a strong motivation for partners and local stakeholders (law enforcement, DNPW, park management and CENs) to maintain the work now that the project is complete. Continued collaboration and cooperation between partners and stakeholders will ensure that capacity building within local institutions and communities will continue and, in turn, continue to drive society led changes, from within Government, as it relates to Combatting Wildlife Crime in the country.

3. Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1: A dedicated, trained and resourced multi-agency Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU) will enable the Malawian government to undertake coordinated and specialised wildlife crime investigations to then effectively report, track, trace, arrest and prosecute elephant poachers and ivory traffickers. This will disrupt and dismantle organised wildlife crime syndicates operating in Malawi and across border in South-East Tanzania, Northern Mozambique and Eastern Zambia.

1.1 Indicator 1: New multi-agency Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU) established and operational within the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with 8 dedicated & trained officers from DNPW, 1 dedicated officer from the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) and 1 dedicated officer from the Malawi Police Service.

Indicator 1 was achieved through Output activities 1.1 through 1.3. These activities were all completed in 2016 and involved selective recruitment of WCIU officers, a 6-week specialist training, and establishment and equipping of the office safehouse and necessary operational resources. As required by the nature of the WCIU's work, the office safehouse continues to be relocated every three to six months.

1.2 Indicator 2: National multi-agency wildlife crime investigation operations undertaken in Malawi between 2016 and 2018. This indicator was achieved and exceeded with 60 wildlife crime investigations/operations in 2016 and 60 investigations/operations in 2017 from a baseline of 28 investigations/operations conducted prior to the project in 2014. Activities 1.4 through 1.7 supported the success of this indicator, particularly the mentoring and annual refresher training conducted by IFAW. See Annex 5 for travel schedules.

1.3 Indicator 3: Number of WCIU arrests and ratios leading to convictions for elephant poaching and/or unlawful possession and/or trade of ivory. The project achieved and exceeded this indicator with 42 arrests and 31 convictions in 2016 and 50 arrests and 45 convictions in 2017. This represents not only a total increase in number of arrests and convictions over the life of the project but an increasing conviction ratio as well (74% and 90% respectively). This is a substantial increase from the 2014 baseline of 28 arrests and 14 convictions, only a 50% conviction ratio. Active monitoring of WCIU performance enabled the project to process improve throughout implementation to maximise efficiencies and effective arrests and conviction ratios. The monitoring of performance also focused (and continues to focus) on managing levels of stress and fatigue of the WCIU investigators and intelligence operators.

1.4 Indicator 4: This indicator was achieved and exceeded with the number of pre-court acquittals expected to be 11 in 2016, reduced to 5 in 2017, but the project realised only 5 acquittals in 2016 and only 2 in 2017. Acquittals are often a result of corruption present in cases, or cases brought to court with minimal evidence. Over the life of the project, the work of the WCIU was able to provide courts with robust, evidence to aid in proper handling of cases, and this was achieved and measured by the reduction in number of acquittals over time.

Output 2: Empowered, trained and resourced Community Enforcement Networks (CEN) around two protected areas/elephant populations, will directly engage local communities in DNPW wildlife law enforcement effort and make communities more able to deter and report serious wildlife crimes in Malawi.

2.1 Indicator 1: By August 2016, this indicator was achieved through activities 2.2 through 2.5. The establishment and operationalisation of two new Community Enforcement Networks (CENs) around Kasungu National Park and Vwasa Marsh Wildlife Reserve was successful, with 30 trained and active local CEN members that obtained honorary wildlife officer status from the DNPW.

2.2 Indicator 2: This indicator was achieved following the establishment of the CENs through activities 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8. The networks have and continue to produce more reports of serious wildlife crime than anticipated, and in turn, the WCIU continue to produce exemplary results in terms of disrupting elephant poaching and the trade in ivory and other wildlife products. Monthly wildlife crime data and reports submitted by CEN members to DNPW/LWT for use by WCIU total 360 reports submitted in 2016 and 360 reports submitted in 2017.

2.3 Indicator 3: This indicator was only partially achieved - based on the baseline community studies (activity 2.1) and the follow up surveys (activity 2.9). While the communities with an active CEN around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve demonstrated an increase in perceived wildlife protection, an increase in perception of wildlife as a benefit, and a decrease in the need for wildlife law enforcement in their area, the communities did not necessarily demonstrate an increase in understanding of the penalties for IWT crimes, though this was not a major focus of this project.

Output 3: Two regional wildlife crime investigation unit workshops, hosted in Malawi by the WCIU, with attendees from Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, will enable the respective wildlife crime investigation officers to cooperate on cross-border investigations and information sharing more effectively.

3.1 Indicator 1: This indicator was achieved through activity 3.2. Originally, the project planned for a single, three-day regional wildlife crime investigation workshop hosted in Malawi by the WCIU. However, the extent and intensity of the IWT and the intensity of law enforcement efforts to combat the IWT simply did not allow for various key players to take three days off consecutively – instead, three one-day workshops were held, one in Lilongwe in March 2016, the second in Chipata, Zambia in June 2016 and the third in Mfuwe in September 2016 (Evidence provided in Attachment 5: Successful Completion of Investigations & Intelligence Training). Beyond Malawi representation, also present at the trainings were 2 officers from Mozambique, 2 officers from Tanzania and 2 officers from Zambia.



Operatives undergoing training

3.2 Indicator 2: This indicator was achieved through Activity 3.3 and monitored through Activity 3.4. The regional wildlife crime investigation collaboration between WCIU and officers from Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. After the 6-week long establishment training that took place on 6th September 2017, the WCIU set the standard for close allocation and co-operation of cross-border IWT cases. This close partnership and co-operation continued throughout the reporting period with a number of cross border cases being successfully concluded in each quarter of the reporting period.

Output 4: At least 135 impoverished local men and women within 30 households to receive a regular, increased, monthly income that will directly improve livelihoods and help alleviate local poverty, with another estimated 16,500 households to indirectly benefit and have improved well-being from increased eco-tourism revenue injected into local communities.

4.1 Indicator 1: This indicator was achieved and exceeded through Activity 4.2: monthly payments to CEN members based on performance, where over 30 households had at least one member who received a regular monthly income from participation in a CEN. The project successfully provided a regular, increased, monthly income to 35 households, with a network that continues to grow. The pre and post project surveys (activity 4.1 and 2.9) were hoping to demonstrate that improved well-being All project partners are committed to continuing support for Activity 4.2, monthly payments to CEN members based on performance, after the life of the project.

As described later in this report under monitoring of project assumptions, it proved difficult to obtain tourism data from the Government of Malawi to support the project's expectations to improve livelihoods of the surrounding 16,500 households based on increased tourism. Additionally, the project's assumption that increased earnings of CEN members would be spent on poverty alleviation was partially false for reasons discussed later in the report. Therefore, Output 4 in general can best be described as partially achieved.

3.2 Project Outcome

Malawi has both, specialised multi-agency investigative and community based, law enforcement capacities with regional connections that drive fast and effective responses to serious wildlife crimes, which, in turn, increases apprehensions and convictions of perpetrators. As a result, the livelihoods and well-being of local communities are less threatened by criminal activities.

Indicator 1: Increasing arrests that lead to convictions for elephant poaching and/or unlawful possession and/or trade of ivory was achieved and exceeded as higher than projected numbers were realised through the WCIU's efforts. The results for **only** the WCIU, for elephant and rhino arrests (excluding all other law enforcement effort), including cross-border operations were 48 (from expected 21) in 2016 and 68 (from expected 25) in 2017. It should be noted that this is a substantial increase from the number of arrests leading to conviction prior to this project. In 2014, arrests leading to conviction was only 14, and this included cases from all stations in Malawi, i.e. all protected areas, including all other law enforcement effort.

Summary of Outcome Indicator 1 Achievements for All Wildlife Crimes – sourced from LWT records

Judicial Actions	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
Arrests	96	104	42	242
Convicted	74	72	20	166
Jailed	45	61	9	115
Remanded	0	11	15	26
Fined	28	61	9	98

Indicator 2: WCIU reported ivory interceptions and confiscations at border crossing points rise from zero in 2015 to at least 20% of all reported ivory trafficking cases in by end 2017.

Indicator 3: Number of custodial sentences for elephant related crimes in Malawi increases from 2 (4% of total sentences passed) in 2014 to 13 (25% of total sentences passed) by end 2016 and 25 (50% of total sentences passed) by end 2017.

Indicator 4: Women and men in the communities around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve demonstrate an increase in positive perception of elephants, wildlife resources, and the importance of wildlife law enforcement, as well as

demonstrate an increase in understanding of the penalties associated with IWT over the life of the project.

The population dynamic between humans and wildlife in both Kasungu and Vwaza Marsh areas has not seen any major disruptions in the past two years, so as expected there have been no major shifts in people's overall attitudes to wildlife. As such, the majority of communities in both Kasungu and Vwaza both still indicate that they agree on the need to preserve wildlife. In terms of trends there is a notable point of departure between Kasungu and Vwaza, namely a significant increase in those who 'disagree' in the need to preserve wildlife in Kasungu but not Vwaza. The trend is also observed in a decrease in the number of people who see the Park/Reserve as a benefit. One possible explanation for this is a trend at Kasungu away from seeing wildlife as a means to increase tourism and therefore opportunities for livelihoods, as this expectation has not materialised within the two years.

In Kasungu the majority of people surveyed still disagree that elephants have a negative effect on their lives but there is evidence that more respondents believe that elephants have a negative effect on their life in 2018 than they did in 2016. In Vwaza there is no significant change since the baseline, where unlike Kasungu, most people see elephants as having a negative effect on their lives yet conversely also agree that it is good to preserve elephants, as do people in Kasungu.

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1.5 Indicator 5: Average household income for households supporting a CEN officer increases by £ (Malawian Kwacha) per month for the duration of the project.

3.3 Project Impact

Elephant poaching in Malawi and regional trafficking of ivory in Southern Africa is reduced, and livelihoods improve for the community in our specific project site.

This project has achieved and succeeded in making a positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation.

Communities living within the project sites are key stakeholders in problem solving and finding solutions, working together with project partners towards the goal of ensuring that the true needs of the communities are met – improvement of livelihoods and poverty

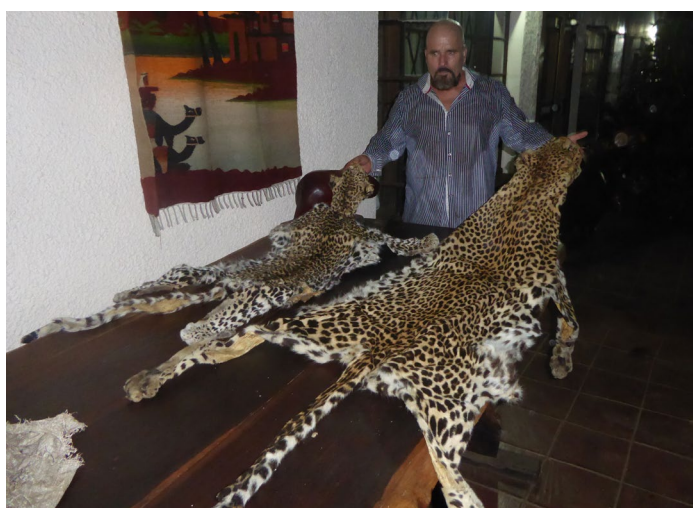
alleviation has been achieved through the establishment of community projects and increase in household income.

Due to the ongoing presence and efforts of the CEN's and ongoing operations undertaken by the WCIU and their high success rate in disrupting poaching and illegal wildlife trade operations, elephant numbers in both Kasungu National park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve are stabilising and on the increase. At the onset of the project elephants numbers started off at 47 and have now climbed to 56, with elephant poaching now very rare in both Kasungu and Vwaza – with only one in Vwaza in 2017 and one in Kasungu.

Of critical note as well is that although the impact on species in the case of this project is the African Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*), emphasis also needs to be placed on the impact that has been made in relation to other wildlife species – through the efforts of the CENs and WCIU, greater focus has been placed on the trade in leopard and pangolins, and these species have been identified as species requiring increased protection.



An illegal wildlife trader with a pangolin which was rescued by the WCIU operatives



Leopard skins confiscated by WCIU operatives

While focus was placed on the trade in ivory, the efforts of the WCIU work also brought about the seizure of other products such as rhino horn. Through the expertise and extensive knowledge brought to the project through the partners and WICU operators –

the efforts of all involved have also led to the project supporting other NGOs such as African Parks, in better protecting their species, case in point, identifying the poached rhino in Liwonde National Park.

4. Monitoring of assumptions

Two assumptions, related to Output 1 were added to the logframe during revision of the logframe, which took place in January 2018:

- Access to government reports and databases will be possible; and
- Lag time of court cases

Assumptions as listed in the logframe, and potential risks, were monitored and managed by the lead organisation, with regular consultation and input provided by key project partners. Some notes regarding key project assumptions are included below.

True: Government remains committed to combatting wildlife crime in Malawi. This assumption held very true. Brighton Kumchedwa, the director of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. This project fits within the Department's greater Stop Ivory initiative, which was highlight publicised and funded. Additionally, Brighton received the coveted Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa¹ during the project timeframe (2017), in no small part because of his dedication to taking practical actions like supporting the WCIU.

Other Assumptions that held true:

- Greater capacity to undertake wildlife investigations will lead to greater number of arrests and convictions.
- Investigation units in Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia remain active and cooperative
- WCIU officer staff turnover remains manageable.
- Greater capacity to undertake wildlife investigations will lead to greater number of arrests and convictions.
- Ministry grants honorary wildlife officer status to all 30 CEN members.

Mostly True: Lag time of court cases. This assumption held mostly true throughout the life of the project. The lag time in some court cases, if anything, means that as those cases brought to court by WCIU continue to undergo investigation, the impacts of the WCIUs work during the project timeframe, especially on conviction ratios, will continue to be demonstrated even years after the life of the project.

Mostly True: CEN member turnover remains manageable. This assumption held mostly true. CEN turnover increases as the areas experience an overall decrease in wildlife crime. Therefore, the next phases of this project will be focusing on other areas beyond Vwaza and Kasungu. Though, there will always be a CEN presence in some regard at these two sites.

Mostly False: Households receiving a regular income will use the income to alleviate poverty. While it is difficult to monitor this assumption directly, anecdotally we learned that this it is not often the case that CEN members utilised their additional income to alleviate poverty. Due to their undercover nature, CEN members preferred not to spend any additional money on visible poverty reduction indicators (like iron sheets, etc).

False: Access to government reports and databases will be possible. Unfortunately, this assumption proved false, and the logframe had to be revised to reflect the fact that it was difficult to get much information from the government. The Lilongwe Wildlife Trust was of great assistance in providing historical information where needed.

¹ <http://tuskawards.com/brighton-kumchedwa-2017>

5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declaration and Kasane Statement

The following is a summary of the contribution this project has made in support of the three key objectives of the IWT Challenge Fund:

1. Developing sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by illegal wildlife trade:
 - a. Strengthened and improved the engagement of communities in law enforcement, governance and wildlife management – this has been achieved through:
 - i. identifying and assessing existing models/data to engage communities effectively;
 - ii. developing and implementing appropriate community engagement strategies and models;
 - iii. identifying and implementing community capacity building initiatives.

2. Strengthening law enforcement and the criminal justice system:
 - a. Strengthened inter-agency cooperation and coordination to enhance innovative deterrent approaches to poaching and illicit wildlife trade – this has been achieved through:
 - i. Expanding and reinforcing cross-border investigations and counter-poaching operational framework;
 - ii. Facilitating transboundary field based knowledge sharing and learning exchanges;
 - b. Strengthened and expanded current law enforcement interventions, governance and management of wildlife in the target geography:
 - i. Targeted awareness raising and behaviour change campaigns for key stakeholders.
 - c. Improved the capacity of the law enforcement sector and institutional frameworks – this has been achieved through:
 - i. Developing a train-the-trainer model and sustainability plan for anti-poaching in the landscape for long-term sustainability;
 - ii. Developing wildlife crime prevention mentoring program and identifying mentor candidates for transboundary learning exchanges;
 - iii. Supporting the enforcement of Malawi's new law as it relates to wildlife trade.

Below is a summary of income received from CEN members:

KASUNGU	
Number of CENs	
Monthly CEN stipend	
Total monthly CENs stipends	
Average received by CEN member for two years	
VWAZA	
Number of CENs	
Monthly CEN stipend	
Total monthly CENs stipend	
Average received by CEN member for two years	

6. Impact on species in focus

African Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*)

Due to the ongoing presence and efforts of the CEN's and ongoing operations undertaken by the WCIU and their high success rate in disrupting poaching and illegal wildlife trade operations, elephant numbers in both Kasungu National park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve are stabilising for the first time in over 25 years. At the onset of the project, elephant numbers started off at 47 individuals and have now climbed to 56, with elephant poaching now very rare in both Kasungu and Vwaza – with only one incidence in Vwaza in 2017 and one in Kasungu. This success speaks directly to Output 2 – Indicators 2 & 3 of the revised logframe.

It must however be reiterated that although the impact on species in the case of this project is the African Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*), emphasis also needs to be placed on the impact that has been made in relation to other wildlife species – through the efforts of the CENs and WCIU, greater focus has been placed on the trade in leopard and pangolins and these species have been identified as species requiring better protection.

Through the expertise and extensive knowledge brought to the project through the partners and WCIU operators – the efforts of all involved have also led to the project supporting other NGOs such as African Parks, in better protecting their species, case in point, identifying the poached rhino in Liwonde National Park.

While the focus was on African Elephants, this project uncovered others species in the trade as well including Black Rhino, Leopard and Pangolin. Trade by its nature is not species specific so these species were often discovered in the consignments seized and indicates the scale of illegal wildlife crimes within the region who target indiscriminately.

Total Project Achievements (2016-2018)Confiscations	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
Ivory	640,638 kgs	424,408kgs	156,079 kgs	1,221,125 kgs
Hippo Teeth	12,635 kgs	2.48 kgs	13.15 kgs	12,651 kgs
Elephant Bones	7	10	4	21
Leopard Skin	4	7	0	11

**the variance in Hippo Teeth quantity seized may be due to there being a special consignment in 2016 or as a result of a change in conduit for smuggling due to seizures.*

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

Direct beneficiaries of the project include:

- Malawian Government – DNPW and the IACCWC; 8 trained and motivated officers from 3 law enforcement agencies who form an integral part of the Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU). The new skills and knowledge gained by these officers have already resulted in a cascade effect with the transfer of these skills and knowledge to other law enforcement officers working outside of the WCIU – and also resulted in officers from transboundary law enforcement agencies showing an interest in working with the WCIU.
- 30 trained and empowered community members – Community Enforcement Network (CEN) members include members from the poorest and most vulnerable households from villages adjacent to poaching hotspots. Performing CEN members have learnt new skills, receive honorary wildlife officer status and receive regular monthly incomes almost twice the Malawian minimum wage. CEN members' involvement in the project ensure that communities have more ownership and engagement in protecting wildlife in Malawi.

After the CENS were established in Year 1 between April and March 2018 the project has been sustaining them, offering them some mentoring, monitoring and evaluating their performance and ensuring that they receive payment for their excellent work. Elephant poaching is now very rare in both Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and Kasungu National Park (only one in Vwaza in 2017 and one in Kasungu) making their efforts one of several successful interventions in the area.

WCIU operations continue to provide high level of support to CENS, working relentlessly on information gathering and feeding information through to the relevant authorities.

The introduction of CENS for the first time in Malawi has also demonstrated a workable community solution to wildlife crime that can be replicated in other protected areas throughout the country. Ongoing mentorship of the CENS and working closely with the WCIU paves the way towards poverty alleviation and continued sustainability of the project.

Indirect beneficiaries of the project include communities living around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve.

IFAW believes in the ideology of working alongside communities - ensuring these communities become key stakeholders in problem solving and finding solutions - working towards the goal of ensuring that the true needs of the community are met. The effectiveness of this approach is highlighted through the work currently being undertaken in Kasungu National Park, together with the assistance of key strategic partners and stakeholders, in combatting the illegal wildlife trade in Kasungu National Park – this work is a reflection of how this approach benefits both communities and the wildlife living within the park.

The project has enabled us to prove proof of concept and secure longer term funds in order to sustain the CENS for at least another five years.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

While our expectation at the onset of the project was to have an approximate gender ratio of 50% female/50% male in the CENs, it should be noted that while the project recruited men and women equally for participation in WCIU and CENs, most participation came from men – this was in part due to cultural sensitivities. However, it must be noted that key CEN members, project trainees and WICU staff are women who have become empowered in their new roles, as a result of the project. Highlighted below are profiles of Lucy Mkute and Mirrium Kamaga, who fulfil key roles within the WCIU.

Kusala (Sarah) Nkhoma

Sarah started working with the WICU unit in June 2016 as Secretary and Accountant – responsible for the management and reconciliation of the cash operations for the unit and to ensure the availability of cash, when required. Sarah had the following to say with regards to her role – “I enjoy working with undercover officers fighting illegal wildlife trade in the country, supporting the officers and therefore also behind all the successes of the unit and enjoy working for a winning team. I have gained experience in management of resources for the unit, but further capacity building is needed.”

Lucy Mkute

Lucy is Assistant Superintendent of the Malawi Police Service (MPS), currently heading the Wildlife & Environmental Crime Investigation Unit, based at National Police Headquarters in Lilongwe. Lucy has been working as a police officer for the past eighteen years, working passionately for the love of her job. Lucy’s experience working in the MPS means that her role is key in collaborating with the WCIU in Intelligence and Investigative operations.



Mirrium Kamaga

Mirrium had the following to say when asked regarding her role with the WCIU – “I started working with the WCIU in 2017. I have learnt a lot and it has given me an opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds. The challenges I come across are what make me want to learn more and achieve my goals”.



9. Lessons learnt

The project would have benefited from an earlier review of the project logframe, which is especially useful for first time grantees. Revision of the project logframe and previously set indicators during the IWT Monitoring Visit was a positive step in order to better align these with the realities and challenges faced over the period of the project. Due to external factors, out of the control of the project lead and partners, it was best to revise the original logframe indicators – not only to ensure more accurate reporting but reflect the dynamic environment in which the project operates. Our recommendation would therefore be careful monitoring of the project logframe, by all partners involved, and where necessary, revision of the indicators and assumptions.

From a finance perspective, better guidance on budgeting requirements in order to meet IWT finance requirements would have proved helpful. Our recommendation is that clarification be

sought, at the onset of the project, to ensure clarity in this regard - that said, being one of the lead organisations first restricted grants, it was a great learning opportunity to assess our internal processes and controls in the tracking of expenses.

The 'Direct Action' approach to training of operational personnel has proved highly effective. Instead of sitting in a lecture room learning how to plan an operation, instructors lead students through a practical planning session that leads directly to operational activity during the training. This approach led to 19 arrests during the initial WCIU establishment training and created a wave of momentum that has continued through constant operational success.

The extent of the IWT was drastically underestimated before the start of this Project. It was through the 'Direct Action' approach funded through this DEFRA grant that the true, shocking, extent of the IWT in Malawi and along the Malawi – Zambia border has been uncovered. We learned very little ivory moves through *border crossings* in Malawi – rather, WCIU operations indicate the illegally trafficked wildlife and derivatives move across illegally as a result of “porous” borders. In hindsight, accounting for this within the logframe would have better allowed us to measure project's impact.

Through the support of DEFRA, this grant has led to the establishment of anti-trafficking interventions which will continue making this a sustainable effort from IWT's side in supporting operations.

Timeline could be improved i.e. longer lead in (up to 4-6 months) needed to get all community data recorded and analysed before CEN members to be selected.

Even though the project met and exceeded conviction rates as defined by Outcome Indicator 1, perhaps a better measure would have been to look at custodial rate. This is because prior to the project, the legal precedence encouraged everyone to plead guilty due to the low fines and little to no sentencing. What can better demonstrate progress on Outcome 1 is the change in deterrent sentencing rather than the conviction rate. Conviction rates still remain very high (86%), but it is more important to note that average sentencing has increased to 3.5 years and the maximum to 18 years, there has been a sharp increase in the custodial rate (2.6% to 84% of all elephant/rhino related wildlife crime cases) and the use of fines instead of sentencing has dropped from 65 cases pre-project to just 15 cases during project. These improvements are what was needed to actually set legal precedence and deter criminals and are a direct result of the better-quality evidence provided by the WCIU acting as a specialist IWT investigations unit.

Understanding that the nature of wildlife trafficking is a highly dynamic area which means that there needs to be certain amount of flexibility in drafting project proposals and implementation thereof – if flexibility in this regard is not acknowledged then any project successes may not always be a true reflection of the level of success achieved.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

A baseline survey was conducted in the communities surrounding both Vwaza (385 households) and Kasungu (413 households) in the second half of 2016 (Attachments 1 and 2) and a follow up survey of both communities (202 households) was conducted in 2018 (Attachment 3). While these surveys looked at a wide range of livelihood and demographic information, the focus was mainly on analysing any changes in the communities' "*perception of elephants, wildlife resources, and the importance of wildlife law enforcement.*" Even though the project had intended to measure an increase in livelihoods over the course of the project, several limitations to measuring this became evident. Therefore, the survey focused measuring changes in perceptions as a means to measure progress towards the project outcome. Three key limitations to this survey were identified:

- 1) Resource and time constraints led to the statistical significance of the sample size for the follow-up is slightly lower than that achieved at the baseline. This means that there are some irregularities in the data (stronger weighting of follow up responses).
- 2) The CENs are active along the boundaries of the protected areas but due to the sensitive nature of their work, specific locations of informants could not be shared. Without this information it was not possible to have a control group, i.e. a known

community with no active CEN, and there is difficult to isolate specific examples of the 'cause and effect' that the CENs are having.

- 3) Attitudinal changes in communities are subject to many influences including time, culture, individual traits, environment etc. which can be very difficult to map and measure. Changes noted here could be influence not only by the CENs but by a combination of other factors as well.

Thus, much of the analysis is useful in context only and will inform the design of future surveys for the project. However, some useful information was found useful for understanding the impacts of the project. For example, it wasn't so surprising that as enforcement became more efficient and effective (operating the CEN adds approximately 5% to operating costs but increases results by reducing poaching by up to 70%), the community's change in attitude reflects a growing understanding that it is not as easy to "get away with" illegal entry and use of the parks with improved enforcement. Respondents appeared to indicate a reduced trend over the past two years for "hunting wildlife as a source of food and income." However, it was surprising that the increased enforcement did not strongly contribute to an increase in community knowledge of the correct punishments for wildlife crimes. Many of these findings will be incorporated into subsequent phases of the WCIU and CEN programme planning.

Monitoring of the project implementation was led by IFAW and was undertaken through regular communication between the project partners, including site visits throughout the duration of the project timeline, quarterly reporting received from partners and coordination of planned meetings when required. Through this active and collaborative approach, it became evident at the outset of this project, a number of assumptions were made in terms of the expected progression of the project as outlined in the original accepted application document. This was a critical part of the learning process for all partners involved, and after the IWT Monitoring Visit in 2017, the project's logframe was adjusted to be more suited for purpose.

11. Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

Throughout the project time frame, annual report reviews and monitoring visit, recommendations put forward have been welcomed, as referenced in Lessons Learnt above.

These recommendations were carefully considered by the lead organisation and relevant partners involved and actions taken based on discussions in order to ensure all parties are in full agreement.

One important factor to reiterate, in terms of the provision of evidence and means of verification, to back up successes of the project - the nature of the project means that it can be difficult at times to produce direct evidence of the impact of the investigative work being done – the identities of members of the CENs and WCIU need to remain anonymous, for their own safety and also due to the fact that many of the CEN members choose to remain anonymous within their communities, with many of the successful cases linked with other ongoing investigations. Provision of evidence and means of verification is therefore provided being cognisant of the above factors.

12. Other comments on achievements not covered elsewhere

A number of important aspects to highlight with regards to the work undertaken by the WCIU and their achievements over the project period:

- Army and police officers are not exempt from arrest and prosecution and a new precedence was set: individuals, regardless of politics or position, found to be in possession of or involved in the trade of wildlife, and/or derivatives thereof, are not exempt and their cases are treated with the same level of seriousness;
- The WCIU displays true impartiality: the authority given to them to undertake their duties, with high level of support from DNPW and MPS, allows them the freedom they need to exercise this authority, without any concerns of their operations being hampered;
- The WCIU comprises a dedicated, close knit team – a sense of good team work spirit, cooperation and camaraderie as everyone works towards the common goal of fighting

illegal wildlife crime - they view their responsibilities as more than “a job” and do not take their remit lightly.

- The support provided by DEFRA through the IWTCF grant to “cement” the WCIU as a force to be reckoned with, has resulted in great strides for many in Malawi, on the forefront of the fight against illegal wildlife trade.



Army officers, Policemen and Court officials are amongst those who have been arrested and prosecuted....



13. Sustainability and legacy

Addressing the illegal trafficking of wildlife across the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is necessary for sustainable development in the region. The Malawi/Zambia landscape has emerged as a major ivory transit and source landscape because of its geographic location and continues to be under increasing poaching pressure as syndicates adapt more sophisticated poaching and smuggling methods.

As previously mentioned within this report (see Project Summary), this project is also linked and benefits from the IFAW Zambia Malawi Landscape Project (ZAMELA), which is a partnership with the Malawi DNPW and the Zambian DNPW. This strong linkage has proved to be practically effective in co-ordinating and supporting cross border investigations. In addition, through this linkage, practical success has been achieved by connecting the first links in the criminal chain (the poacher who shoots and animal in the Protected Area) with higher levels of the IWT, such as traders and processors.

This project contributes to the Malawi “common law” legal system – one based on case law which builds up over time to strengthen rule of law in a country – by setting new precedents for IWT crimes, the Malawian judicial system is being organically enhanced and strengthened over time, ensuring Malawi is becoming a place where IWT criminals are being held accountable.

IWT has enabled us to setup the mechanisms within governments to address wildlife trafficking which have now been adopted at a government level. DNPW Director, Brighton Kumchedwa continues to be highly supportive of this project. This was a fantastic project and the results obtained have enabled IFAW and LWT to further assist DNPW by raising additional funds for the next five years through USAID, INL and Private Donors, by which time it is hoped that the wider government will be able to find the funds to run the unit directly.

New IWT National Legal Precedence in Malawi

Crime	Previous National Average	Under IWT Project
Fines Imposed for IWT	The average (modal) sentence pre-project for ivory trafficking/trade, that we reported in the IWT Assessment in 2015, was a fine of £30	Ranged from £43 to over £2,300 with majority fines £95 and above
Sentence Length	Lilongwe Wildlife Trust cited ZERO custodial sentences for wildlife trafficking/trade (there were one or two for elephant poaching of 3 years) but none for trafficking and trade since 2000.	Ranged from 6 months to 216 months with majority convicted for 36+ months

Capacity built through this project was aimed at Malawian nationals and not ex-pats. This focus on those who live within the country, working both in government and private NGO sector, ensures that the skills developed will remain in country and thereby have long lasting impact.

Although any specific inter-agency MOUs or governance documents were not an agreed output of this project, during the project, IFAW and LWT identified the need for the WCIU to document and formalise the WCIU. It is important to note that neither IFAW nor LWT can lead on such a document, this has to be done under the leadership of DNPW – at present the unit is mandated through the NPWA. Both IFAW and LWT are now actively working with DNPW to produce a governance document, which can be shared, with DNPW permission, once completed. WCIU will not be left without guidance, still being supported by IFAW and LWT, for the next five years, under the USAID CWC project – IWTCF helped enable us to secure ongoing funding for this project.

14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

The IWT Challenge Fund identity was made clear where ever able to reasonably do so. Most of the publicising of the IWT Challenge Fund was done internally within the project and among the project partners, trainees and within the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (see all attachments for IWTCF logo usage and “Funded by UK Government”).

In terms of project profile and efforts made to publicly promote the work, the nature of this project is such that producing direct evidence of the impact of the investigative work being carried out by the WCIUs and publicly highlighting these efforts may compromise the security of those involved in the project.

15. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

- Building the network needed for “Information driven investigations”

- Establishing, in perpetuity, a new, independent, cross-agency IWT investigation unit that reaches beyond borders.
- Setting new standards for IWT legal precedence in Malawi.

16. Finance and administration

16.1 Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative)	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 actual IWT Costs (£)	2017/18 Grant (£)	2017/18 actual IWT Costs (£)	Total Original Grant (£)	Total actual Costs (£)	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)							
Consultancy costs							
Overhead Costs							
Travel and subsistence							
Operating Costs							
Capital items (see below)							
Monitoring & Evaluation							
Others (see below)							
TOTAL							

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Jason Bell - Project Leader SA - IFAW	
Mike Labuschagne – Project lead (in country) - IFAW	
Jonathan Vaughan – Project Co-ordinator - LWT	
Raphael Chiwinda – IFAW law Enforcement Officer	
Tommy Mhango – CEN Co-ordinator/LWT Enforcement Officer	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description <i>Please detail what items were purchased with fund money, and where these will remain once the project finishes</i>	Capital items – cost (£)
Undercover vehicle for WCIU Vehicle for WCIU Yamaha scrambler motorcycle for WCIU Yamaha scrambler motorcycles x2 for WCIU Laptop computer for DNPW Laptop computer for DNPW Smart phones for CEN members Yamaha motorcycles x2 for CEN monitoring Yamaha motorcycles x2 for CEN monitoring The above items will remain in use by the WCIU and CEN members See Annexure 7 for full summary of details	
TOTAL	

Other items – description <i>Please provide a detailed breakdown for any single item over £1000</i>	Other items – cost (£)
No items over £1000	
TOTAL	

16.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
No additional funds or in-kind contributions secured	
TOTAL	

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
ZAMELA <i>Please refer to Section 13 above: Sustainability & Legacy</i>	
USAID (over next 4 years)	
TOTAL	

16.3 Value for Money

The funding received through this project has enabled the project to employ highly qualified, skilled and dedicated operators and officers – who have all been adequately resourced in order to fulfil their daily responsibilities. Capital items purchased with the funding received will continue to be used by WCIU and CEN officers – See *Annexure 7 for a complete summary – Finance & Administration: Summary of Capital Items*. Additionally, the cost benefit analysis of continuing to operate the CEN and WICU after the life of the project has demonstrated the true value for money for this project. Continuing to operate the CENs adds approximately 5% to operating costs of anti-poaching efforts for the DNPW, but increases results of DNPW efforts by reducing poaching by up to 70%.

Annex 1 Project's original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert application logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Elephant poaching in Malawi and regional trafficking of ivory in Southern Africa is reduced, and livelihoods improve for the community in our specific project site.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Malawi has both, specialised multi-agency investigative and community based, law enforcement capacities with regional connections that drive fast and effective responses to serious wildlife crimes, which, in turn, increases apprehensions and convictions of perpetrators. As a result, the livelihoods and well-being of local communities are less threatened by criminal activities.</p>	<p>Indicator 1: Arrests leading to convictions for elephant poaching and/or unlawful possession and/or trade of ivory rise from 14 (50% of cases reported end in prosecution) as recorded in 2014 to at least 21 (75% of cases reported end in prosecution) by end 2016 and to at least 25 (90% of cases reported end in prosecution) by end 2017.</p> <p>Indicator 2: WCIU reported ivory interceptions and confiscations at border crossing points rise from zero in 2015 to at least 20% of all reported ivory trafficking cases in by end 2017.</p> <p>Indicator 3: Number of custodial sentences for elephant related crimes in Malawi increases from 2 (4% of total sentences passed) in 2014 to 13 (25% of total sentences passed) by end 2016 and 25 (50% of total sentences passed) by end 2017.</p>	<p>Public records Internal WCIU reporting Surveys and project reports LWT database</p>	<p>Government remains committed to combatting wildlife crime in Malawi.</p> <p>Greater capacity to undertake wildlife investigations will lead to greater number of arrests and convictions.</p> <p>Investigation units in Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia remain active and cooperative.</p>

	<p>Indicator 4: Women and men in the communities around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve demonstrate an increase in positive perception of elephants, wildlife resources, and the importance of wildlife law enforcement, as well as demonstrate an increase in understanding of the penalties associated with IWT over the life of the project.</p> <p>Indicator 5: Average household income for households supporting a CEN officer increases by £35 (Malawian Kwacha 28,000) per month for the duration of the project.</p>		
<p>Output 1: A dedicated, trained and resourced multi-agency Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU) will enable the Malawian government to undertake coordinated and specialised wildlife crime investigations to then effectively report, track, trace, arrest and prosecute elephant poachers and ivory traffickers. This will disrupt and dismantle organised wildlife crime syndicates operating in Malawi and across border in South-East Tanzania, Northern Mozambique and Eastern Zambia.</p>	<p>1.1 Indicator 1: New multi-agency Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU) established and operational within DNPW in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with 8 dedicated & trained officers from DNPW (baseline 2015 = 0 officers); 1 dedicated officer from MRA (baseline 2015 = 0 officers); and, 1 dedicated officer from MPS (baseline 2015 = 0 officers).</p> <p>1.2 Indicator 2: National multi-agency wildlife crime investigation operations undertaken in Malawi between 2016 and 2018. 60 wildlife crime investigations/operations in 2016 and 60 investigations/operations in 2017. (baseline 2014 = 28</p>	<p>Successful prosecutions listed in the magistrate and public records and Prosecution Services (Malawi Police Force) database, newspaper articles. National park annual reports, Malawi Police Service database, survey of case officers and WCIU dataset. Survey and project reports. LWT database, number of arrests & public records.</p>	<p>WCIU officer staff turnover remains manageable.</p> <p>Greater capacity to undertake wildlife investigations will lead to greater number of arrests and convictions.</p> <p>Government remains committed to combatting wildlife crime in Malawi.</p> <p>Access to government reports and databases will be possible</p> <p>Lag time of court cases</p>

	<p>investigations/operations).</p> <p>1.3 Indicator 3: Number of WCIU arrests & ratios leading to convictions for elephant poaching and/or unlawful possession and/or trade of ivory. 42 arrests and 31 convictions in 2016 and 50 arrests and 45 convictions in 2017. (baseline 2014 = 28 arrests and 14 convictions).</p> <p>1.5 Indicator 5: Number of pre-court acquittals</p>		
<p>Output 2: Empowered, trained and resourced Community Enforcement Networks (CEN) around two protected areas/elephant populations, will directly engage local communities in DNPW wildlife law enforcement effort and make communities more able to deter and report serious wildlife crimes in Malawi.</p>	<p>2.1 Indicator 1: Two new Community Enforcement Networks (CENs) established and operational around Kasungu National Park and Vwasa Marsh Wildlife Reserve in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with 30 trained and active local CEN members with honorary wildlife officer status. (Baseline 2015 = 0).</p> <p>2.2 Indicator 2: Monthly wildlife crime data and reports submitted by CEN members to DNPW/LWT for use by WCIU. A total of 360 reports submitted in 2016 and 360 reports submitted in 2017 (Baseline 2015 = 0).</p> <p>2.3 Indicator 3: The communities with an active CEN around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve demonstrate an increase in perceived wildlife protection, an increase in perception of wildlife as a benefit, and a decrease in the need for wildlife law enforcement in their area, as well as demonstrate an increase in</p>	<p>Community gender aggregated surveys in 2016 and 2018. National park annual reports, Malawi Police Service database, CEN report counts, survey of case officers and WCIU dataset.</p>	<p>CEN member turnover remains manageable.</p> <p>Ministry grants honorary wildlife officer status to all 30 CEN members.</p> <p>Greater capacity to undertake wildlife investigations will lead to greater number of arrests and convictions.</p>

	understanding of the penalties for IWT crimes.		
<p>Output 3 :</p> <p>Two regional wildlife crime investigation unit workshops, hosted in Malawi by the WCIU, with attendees from Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, will enable the respective wildlife crime investigation officers to cooperate on cross-border investigations and information sharing more effectively.</p>	<p>3.1 Indicator 1:</p> <p>A regional wildlife crime investigation workshop hosted in Malawi by the WCIU in 2016 and 2017 with 2 officers from Mozambique, 2 officers from Tanzania and 2 officers from Zambia in 2016 and in 2017. (baseline 2015 = 0).</p> <p>3.2 Indicator 2:</p> <p>Regional wildlife crime investigation collaboration between WCIU and officers from Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia increases in 2016 and 2017 (baseline 2015 = 0).</p>	<p>Attendance lists from workshops.</p> <p>Internal reporting on number of collaborative cases per country.</p>	<p>Government remains committed to combatting wildlife crime in Malawi.</p> <p>Investigation units in Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia remain active and cooperative.</p>
<p>Output 4:</p> <p>At least 135 impoverished local men and women within 30 households to receive a regular, increased, monthly income that will directly improve livelihoods and help alleviate local poverty, with another estimated 16,500 households to indirectly benefit and have improved well-being from increased eco-tourism revenue injected into local communities.</p>	<p>4.1 Indicator 1:</p> <p>30 households have at least one member who will receive a regular monthly income from participation in a CEN. (baseline is 0.)</p>	<p>Survey and project reports. Community gender aggregated surveys in 2016 and 2018. DNPW finance reports and accounts summary.</p>	<p>Households receiving a regular income will use the income to alleviate poverty.</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1:</p> <p>1.1: Selective recruitment of officers and establishment of WCIU</p> <p>1.2: 6 week specialist training of WCIU by IFAW</p> <p>1.3: Housing and resourcing (incl. equipping) of WCIU</p> <p>1.4: Undertaking WCIU operations – investigations, arrests and convictions</p> <p>1.5: On the job mentoring of WCIU by IFAW in country team</p>			

- 1.6: Annual refresher training for WCIU by IFAW
- 1.7: Monitoring and evaluation of WCIU performance.

Output 2:

- 2.1: Pre-project community gender aggregated surveys by DNPW and LWT
- 2.2: Selection and establishment of two CENs
- 2.3: 2 week training of CEN members by DNPW and IFAW
- 2.5: Resourcing (incl. equipping) of CENs
- 2.6: Undertaking CEN operations
- 2.7: Monthly reporting to WCIU by CENs
- 2.8: Weekly (DNPW) and Monthly (LWT) monitoring and evaluation of CEN performance
- 2.9: Post project community gender aggregated surveys by DNPW and LWT

Output 3:

- 3.1: International travel of project partners to Malawi in 2016 and 2017
- 3.2: Hosting of regional 3 full day workshops in 2016 and 2017 by WCIU
- 3.3: Allocation of cross-border cases to WCIU and partners in 2016 and 2017
- 3.4: Monitoring and evaluation of success of regional workshops

Output 4:

- 4.1: Pre-project community gender aggregated surveys by DNPW and LWT
- 4.2: Monthly payments to CEN members based on performance

NOTE: At the outset of this project, a number of assumptions were made in terms of the expected progression of the project as outlined in the original accepted application document. The deletion and revision of many of the original outcome indicators were necessary in order to align the logframe, and better suit what is contained therein, with the purpose of the project. As the project progressed, it became apparent that assumptions and expectations put forward were impacted by a number of factors, beyond the control of IFAW and project partners. Therefore, the decision to delete and revise the original outcome indicators was taken, in consultation with project partners and advice sought from Jackie Strong, during her monitoring visit in November 2017.

Annex 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>Impact</p> <p><i>Elephant poaching in Malawi and regional trafficking of ivory in Southern Africa is reduced, and livelihoods improve for the community in our specific project site.</i></p>		<p>Achieved</p> <p>As evidenced by,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elephant populations risen over the course of the project from 47 to 56 - Significant decline in elephant poaching incidences and all wildlife crime over the life of the project - Number of cases the WCIU have arrested have achieved prosecution - Ongoing, active and growing Community Enforcement Networks earning additional income for active participation
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Malawi has both, specialised multi-agency investigative and community based, law enforcement capacities with regional connections that drive fast and effective responses to serious wildlife crimes, which, in turn, increases apprehensions and convictions of perpetrators. As a result, the livelihoods and well-being of local communities are less threatened by criminal activities.</p>	<p>Indicator 1:</p> <p>Arrests leading to convictions for elephant poaching and/or unlawful possession and/or trade of ivory rise from 14 (50% of cases reported end in prosecution) as recorded in 2014 to at least 21 (75% of cases reported end in prosecution) by end 2016 and to at least 25 (90% of cases reported end in prosecution) by end 2017.</p> <p>Indicator 2:</p> <p>WCIU reported ivory interceptions and confiscations at border crossing points rise from zero in 2015 to at least 20% of all reported ivory trafficking cases in by end 2017.</p>	<p>Achieved & Exceeded</p> <p>It must be noted here that the baseline 2014 figures include cases from all protected areas, across all other law enforcement effort, not just the project sites.</p> <p>The results for only the WCIU, for elephant and rhino convictions (excluding all other law enforcement effort), including cross-border operations are:</p> <p>2016: 21 expected, 48 achieved</p> <p>2017: 25 expected, 68 achieved</p> <p>The increase in confiscations can be attributed to IWT funding which provided capacity to the WCIU's in order to conduct these types of activities which resulted in confiscations.</p> <p>Achieved & Exceeded</p> <p>The results for only the WCIU, for elephant and rhino confiscations (excluding all other law enforcement effort), including cross-border operations are:</p> <p>2016: 48 achieved</p>

	<p>Indicator 3: Number of custodial sentences for elephant related crimes in Malawi increases from 2 (4% of total sentences passed) in 2014 to 13 (25% of total sentences passed) by end 2016 and 25 (50% of total sentences passed) by end 2017.</p> <p>Indicator 4: Women and men in the communities around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve demonstrate an increase in positive perception of elephants, wildlife resources, and the importance of wildlife law enforcement, as well as demonstrate an increase in understanding of the penalties associated with IWT over the life of the project.</p> <p>Indicator 5: Average household income for households supporting a CEN officer increases by £35 (Malawian Kwacha 28,000) per month for the duration of the project.</p>	<p>2017: (20% of all reported cases) expected, 61 achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>2016: 13 (25% of total sentences passed) 2017: 25 (50% of total sentences passed)</p> <p>Not Achieved</p> <p>In Kasungu the majority of people surveyed still disagree that elephants have a negative effect on their lives but there is evidence that more respondents believe that elephants have a negative effect on their life in 2018 than they did in 2016. In Vwaza there is no significant change since the baseline, where unlike Kasungu, most people see elephants as having a negative effect on their lives yet conversely also agree that it is good to preserve elephants, as do people in Kasungu.</p> <p>Achieved & Exceeded</p> <p>Mean average monthly wage paid to each CEN officer: £46</p>
<p>Output 1. A dedicated, trained and resourced multi-agency Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU) will enable the Malawian government to undertake coordinated and specialised wildlife crime investigations to then effectively</p>	<p>1.1 Indicator 1: New multi-agency Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU) established and operational within DNPW in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with 8 dedicated & trained officers from DNPW (baseline 2015 = 0 officers); 1 dedicated officer from MRA (baseline 2015 = 0 officers); and, 1 dedicated officer from MPS (baseline 2015 = 0 officers).</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 Dedicated officers from DNPW - 1 Dedicated officer from MRA - 1 Dedicated officer from MPS

<p>report, track, trace, arrest and prosecute elephant poachers and ivory traffickers. This will disrupt and dismantle organised wildlife crime syndicates operating in Malawi and across border in South-East Tanzania, Northern Mozambique and Eastern Zambia.</p>	<p>1.2 Indicator 2: National multi-agency wildlife crime investigation operations undertaken in Malawi between 2016 and 2018. 60 wildlife crime investigations/operations in 2016 and 60 investigations/operations in 2017. (baseline 2014 = 28 investigations/operations).</p> <p>1.3 Indicator 3: Number of WCIU arrests & ratios leading to convictions for elephant poaching and/or unlawful possession and/or trade of ivory. 42 arrests and 31 convictions in 2016 and 50 arrests and 45 convictions in 2017. (baseline 2014 = 28 arrests and 14 convictions).</p> <p>1.4 Indicator 4: Number of pre-court acquittals</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Investigations by WCIU: 2016: 60 achieved 2017: 60 achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Conviction ratio (arrests leading to convictions): 2016: 74% 2017: 90% (baseline at 50%)</p> <p><u>Achieved & Exceeded</u></p> <p>Number of pre-court acquittals: 2016: 11 expected, 5 achieved 2017: 5 expected, 2 achieved</p>
<p>Output 1 Activities</p>		<p>Completed</p>
<p>1.1: Selective recruitment of officers and establishment of WCIU</p>		<p>1.1: Completed as planned by August 2016</p>
<p>1.2: 6 week specialist training of WCIU by IFAW</p>		<p>1.2: Completed by end March 2016</p>
<p>1.3: Housing and resourcing (incl. equipping) of WCIU</p>		<p>1.3: Completed as planned by August 2016</p>
<p>1.4: Undertaking WCIU operations – investigations, arrests and convictions</p>		<p>1.4: Completed with greater than expected success in all aspects, greater number of investigations, arrests and convictions than projected.</p>
<p>1.5: On the job mentoring of WCIU by IFAW in country team</p>		<p>1.5: Completed through a constant, ongoing, daily activity.</p>

1.6: Annual refresher training for WCIU by IFAW	1.6: Completed by end January 2017
1.7: Monitoring and evaluation of WCIU performance.	1.7: Completed through Imani baseline and follow up community survey and ongoing process monitoring
<p>Output 2.</p> <p>Empowered, trained and resourced Community Enforcement Networks (CEN) around two protected areas/elephant populations, will directly engage local communities in DNPW wildlife law enforcement effort and make communities more able to deter and report serious wildlife crimes in Malawi.</p>	<p>2.1 Indicator 1: Two new Community Enforcement Networks (CENs) established and operational around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with 30 trained and active local CEN members with honorary wildlife officer status. (Baseline 2015 = 0).</p> <p>2.2 Indicator 2: Monthly wildlife crime data and reports submitted by CEN members to DNPW/LWT for use by WCIU. A total of 360 reports submitted in 2016 and 360 reports submitted in 2017 (Baseline 2015 = 0).</p> <p>2.3 Indicator 3: The communities with an active CEN around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve demonstrate an increase in perceived wildlife protection, an increase in perception of wildlife as a benefit, and a decrease in the need for wildlife law enforcement in their area, as well as demonstrate an increase in understanding of the penalties for IWT crimes.</p>

Achieved

by August 2016 – successfully selected, trained, resourced and established two effective CEN networks around Kasungu and Vwaza Marsh.

Following the establishment of the CENs, they have and continue to produce more reports of serious wildlife crime than anticipated, and in turn, the WCIU continue to produce exemplary results in terms of disrupting elephant poaching and the trade in ivory and other wildlife products.

Achieved

Reports submitted by CEN to DNPW/LWT:

2016: 360

2017: 360

Partially Achieved

The communities with an active CEN around Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve demonstrated:

- an increase in perceived wildlife protection,
- and a decrease in the need for wildlife law enforcement in their area,

But, based on community surveys, the project was **not** able to demonstrate a community that had

- an increase in perception of wildlife as a benefit,
- an increase in understanding of the penalties for IWT crimes.

Output 2 Activities		Completed
2.1: Pre-project community gender aggregated surveys by DNPW and LWT		<p>The pre-project community gender aggregated surveys were completed between April and August 2015 through focal group discussions and data provided by Imani to produce a baseline report. (<i>Evidence provided in Attachments 1 & 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Needs Assessment & Baseline Evaluation: Understanding Human/Wildlife Conflict in communities along the eastern boundary of Kasungu National Park, Malawi</i> - <i>Needs Assessment & Baseline Evaluation: Understanding Human/Wildlife Conflict in and around the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve in Malawi)</i>
2.2: Selection and establishment of two CENs		Completed Due to the later than expected commencement of the project, the selection and establishment of two CENs was completed in August 2016.
2.3: 2 week training of CEN members by DNPW and IFAW		Completed The CENs were trained by DNPW, IFAW and LWT law enforcement experts for two weeks across August and September 2016.
2.5: Resourcing (incl. equipping) of CENs		Completed All equipment for CEN management and operations was completed by September 2016.
2.6: Undertaking CEN operations		Completed With operations continuing as planned beyond the life of the project.
2.7: Monthly reporting to WCIU by CENs performance		Completed With operations continuing as planned beyond the life of the project.

2.8: Weekly (DNPW) and Monthly (LWT) monitoring and evaluation of CEN		Completed With operations continuing as planned beyond the life of the project.
2.9: Post project community gender aggregated surveys by DNPW and LWT		Completed The post-project community gender aggregated surveys was completed by Imani in April 2018. <i>(Evidence provided in Attachment 3:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Measuring indicators of perception change to conservation in communities along the eastern boundaries of Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, Malawi.)</i>
Output 3. Two regional wildlife crime investigation unit workshops, hosted in Malawi by the WCIU, with attendees from Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, will enable the respective wildlife crime investigation officers to cooperate on cross-border investigations and information sharing more effectively.	3.1 Indicator 1: A regional wildlife crime investigation workshop hosted in Malawi by the WCIU in 2016 and 2017 with 2 officers from Mozambique, 2 officers from Tanzania and 2 officers from Zambia in 2016 and in 2017. (baseline 2015 = 0). 3.2 Indicator 2: Regional wildlife crime investigation collaboration between WCIU and officers from Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia increases in 2016 and 2017 (baseline 2015 = 0).	Achieved Three one-day workshops were held <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lilongwe in March 2016 - Chipata, Zambia in June 2016 - Mfuwe in September 2016 Achieved The 6-week long establishment training for the WCIU set the standard for close allocation and co-operation of cross-border IWT cases. This close partnership and co-operation continued throughout the reporting period with a number of cross border cases being successfully concluded in each quarter of the reporting period. <i>Evidence provided in Attachment 5: Successful Completion of Investigations & Intelligence Training</i>
Output 3 Activities 3.1: International travel of project partners to Malawi in 2016 and 2017		Completed
3.2: Hosting of regional 3 full day workshops in 2016 and 2017 by WCIU		Completed
3.3: Allocation of cross-border cases to WCIU and partners in 2016 and 2017		Completed

<p>3.4: Monitoring and evaluation of success of regional workshops</p>	<p>Completed – based on the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communications flow - Smooth and continued flow of cross border operational activity - Continued sharing of information and intelligence - Management and mitigation of rivalry between organisations - Management and mitigation of personal and national rivalries between operators. 	
<p>Output 4</p> <p>At least 135 impoverished local men and women within 30 households to receive a regular, increased, monthly income that will directly improve livelihoods and help alleviate local poverty, with another estimated 16,500 households to indirectly benefit and have improved well-being from increased eco-tourism revenue injected into local communities.</p>	<p>4.1 Indicator 1:</p> <p>30 households have at least one member who will receive a regular monthly income from participation in a CEN. (baseline is 0.)</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>The project has successfully provided a regular, increased, monthly income to 35 households (only 30 households were originally proposed, as per Indicator 1) – this increase in income is helping to alleviate local poverty in the villages around Kasungu and Vwaza Marsh.</p>
<p>Output 4 Activities</p> <p>4.1: Pre-project community gender aggregated surveys by DNPW and LWT</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The pre-project community gender aggregated surveys were completed between April and August 2015 through focal group discussions and data provided by Imani to produce a baseline report. <i>(Evidence provided in Attachments 1 & 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Needs Assessment & Baseline Evaluation: Understanding Human/Wildlife Conflict in communities along the eastern boundary of Kasungu National Park, Malawi</i> - <i>Needs Assessment & Baseline Evaluation: Understanding Human/Wildlife Conflict in and around the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve in Malawi)</i> 	
<p>4.2: Monthly payments to CEN members based on performance</p>	<p>Completed With operations continuing as planned beyond the life of the project.</p>	

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	