

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT024
Project title	Counter-Poaching Training Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa
Country/ies	South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, DR Congo, Rwanda and Chad
Contract holder Institution	Tusk Trust
Partner institution(s)	African Parks
IWT grant value	£421,275
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2016 to 31/03/2018
Reporting period (e.g. April 2016-Mar 2017) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	April 2016 – March 2017; Annual Report 1
Project leader name	Dan Bucknell
Project website	http://www.tusk.org/news/3-mar-2016-uk-government-invests-in-tuskas-anti-poaching-efforts
Report author(s) and date	Dan Bucknell & Luke Townsend 28/04/2017

1. Project rationale

The project aims to reduce poaching of rhino and elephant within specific protected areas in sub-Saharan Africa, by significantly improving parks law enforcement capacity. This is to counter the well-documented statistics of approximately 25,000 African elephants still being killed each year for their tusks, and more than 1,000 rhino killed in South Africa each year for the past four years, up from just 13 in 2007.

Training is being provided to rangers in proven interception tracking tactics, to arrest poachers and reduce the number of poaching incidents. Additional training in information gathering and analysis - and the establishment of an information network between protected areas – is improving coordination of national and international efforts to disrupt illegal wildlife trade.

This approach is based on a 2014 fact-finding mission, which concluded that: 1) while rangers in many protected areas are highly skilled at monitoring animals, the majority do not have the capacity to track and successfully intercept poachers; and 2) too much information on poaching activity is trapped at reserve level, yet information sharing between protected areas is critical. Subsequent trial projects in 2015 and early 2016 not only demonstrated the viability of the approach, but also that it can have a game-changing impact in reducing poaching.

Since poaching also has a negative impact on sustainable livelihoods and economic development in the areas affected, this project is establishing some of the pre-conditions necessary for livelihood enhancement.

Following approved changes to some of the locations, the project has reached 15 different protected areas across seven African countries, as shown on the map below:



2. Project partnerships

African Parks (AP) is the main project partner: ten of the target protected areas are managed by them and much of the training (six interception tracking training courses and four information gathering and analysis courses) has taken place within their park network, and has benefitted their rangers. AP is also assuming responsibility for coordinating the information network on completion of the project.

The relationship with AP has grown and matured over the course of the year, and AP have made the CPCT feel like full members of the operational team. AP was early to realise that it needed the training on offer and so engaged from the earliest stages of the project development. AP's Law Enforcement team have identified appropriate rangers and park officers for the training courses, and have prepared locations for training and the logistics of supporting the courses when held in an AP managed park. As the benefits of the training (including from the trial projects) have started to be felt, so too has AP's overall demand for these training courses, which can no longer be met in full under this project. As Managers have moved between parks they have noted the huge contrast between places that have received training and places that have not. AP has also already extended the training in information and analysis by utilising those to have been trained by the CPCT to train others.

Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) are longstanding project partner of Tusk's and became involved early on in the implementation of the project. While not a formal partner to this project, they have been immensely helpful in organising introductions, permissions and logistics in the Joint Protection Zone (former Game Reserves United) around Kruger National Park. This was largely through the efforts of Ruben de Kock, SAWC's Business Unit Manager. They also

hosted the three-day Tracking Symposium in January 2017 to create a standardised best practice approach to training and tactics among tracking instructors, as a result of and to benefit this project (but kept external to the grant).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Basic-Level Interception Tracking Training

Against an original target of 120 rangers trained to a basic level of interception tracking, 144 were trained in the first year of the grant. This figure includes 24 that were trained to a level between basic and intermediate at Kruger National Park.

Five basic-level courses of 3 weeks' duration were held as planned – although in different locations, as approved through two separate change requests – while an intermediate level course at Kruger National Park was delivered at a level between basic and intermediate, according to the pre-existing skills of the rangers.

Some of the training courses fell behind schedule due to delays in initial funding and the logistics of changing location, but by running some of the courses concurrently with the more advanced courses, it has been possible to make up for lost time. Courses have been delivered as follows:

- June 2016: Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, South Africa – 23 rangers trained
- July 2016: Garamba National Park, DR Congo – 24 rangers trained
- August 2016: Garamba National Park, DR Congo – 24 rangers trained
- September 2016: Kruger National Park, South Africa – 24 rangers trained (N.B. to a level between basic and intermediate; this course originally being pitched at intermediate level).
- December 2016: Akagera National Park, Rwanda – 24 rangers trained
- January 2017: Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi – 25 rangers trained.

Participants were assessed as to whether they had qualified (details on pass rates below), and have since been conducting interception tracking patrols in their respective protected areas.

Output 2: Intermediate-Level Interception Tracking Training

From the pool of those qualified to a basic level of interception tracking (under both this project and the trial projects), the strongest were selected for further training. Four intermediate-level training courses have been delivered within the first year of the grant, including the September 2016 course at Kruger National Park at a level between basic and intermediate:

- September 2016: Kruger National Park, South Africa – 24 rangers trained
- February: Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa) – 24 rangers trained
- Feb / March 2017: Garamba National Park (DR Congo) – 24 rangers trained
- March 2017: Liwonde National Park - 24 rangers trained.

Those deemed to have qualified are now beginning to lead interception tracking patrol units in their respective protected areas, recording and reporting their progress back to their park management and the CPCT.

The final intermediate level training course at KwaZulu Natal Protected Areas in South Africa has been delayed as the logistics specific to this area have taken longer to plan than foreseen, but delivery of this course is due for May 2017, using funds from the co-financing of the project.

Output 3: Advanced-Level Interception Tracking Training

An advanced level training course was held at Garamba National Park in DR Congo, in March 2017, as planned, and the 16 rangers trained can now help coordinate anti-poaching operations. All the participants for this course are from Garamba National Park, where the need for stronger anti-poaching measures is so great. The final advanced level training course will

take place in Majete National Park, Malawi in June 2017, and will have greater participation from a wider number of protected areas, as planned.

Output 4: Training in Information Gathering and Analysis

The CPCT has delivered information and analysis training to APN headquarters in Johannesburg, Garamba National Park, Akagera National Park, Liwonde National Park and Majete National Park, and as a result have trained 16 operators as follows:

- 1 operator from Nkhotakota National Park
- 2 operators from Liwonde National Park
- 2 operators from Majete National Park
- 1 operator from Liuwa Plains National Park
- 1 operator from Bangweulu National Park
- 1 operator from Lake Malawi National Park
- 1 operator from Odzala-Kokoua National Park (N.B. this was removed from the list at the last change request, and this operator may still be transferred elsewhere)
- 3 operators from Garamba National Park
- 4 operators from Akagera National Park

All of these operators listed now have a working ability to use *Geosuite*, which has been introduced to Majete, Nkhotakota, Liwonde, Garamba, Zakouma and Akagera National Parks.

On arrival at Kruger National Park (KNP) and the Joint Protection Zone, the CPCT realised that there were no suitable candidates for the training. At KNP's request, the CPCT produced a report on the current status of information gathering and analysis, which includes recommendations on how to improve and streamline their system. This was gratefully received by the Head of Anti-Poaching General Jooste, and the Head of Special Operations, Bruce Leslie. Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) has also been advised on the way information and analysis is taught and will provide sustainable training in the subject in the future to KNP and the region, with a specialist course in development.

For South Africa's Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, contrary to expectation the centralised command centre remains incomplete and they have had no operators available for training. However, significant improvement in both information sharing and enforcement has been achieved through the rangers drawn for the tracker training (as reported by the Head of Security, Kassie Knoetze).

Output 5: Establishing an Information Network

Through the CPCT several areas have developed a common understanding and communication channels for the future sharing of information. The groundwork for an ongoing information and analysis network is now laid, with enough trained analysts/operators, laptops and software deployed for a basic network. In addition to all the protected areas under AP's management, the network spans the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, Kruger National Park, and the Zambian Game Rangers International's Wildlife Crime Prevention Project. Basic communications have also been established with Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique, Mwangé National Park in Gabon and KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

APs head office has the infrastructure for the central server and enough computers to continue to roll out the system. Kurt Steiner, African Parks' Head of Security and their main coordinator for this project, now has a sufficient knowledge of *Geosuite* to oversee the network. It will develop into an advanced sharing network over the second year of the programme and beyond.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Against the target of at least 100 rangers from 14 protected areas qualified as basic level interception trackers, 138 were assessed to have qualified as basic trackers from 11 protected areas, as follows:

- Zakouma National Park (Chad) – 4 rangers qualified
- Garamba National Park (DRC) – 44 rangers qualified
- Majete Wildlife Reserve (Malawi) – 4 rangers qualified
- Liwonde National Park (Malawi) – 6 rangers qualified
- Nkotakhota National Park (Malawi) – 2 rangers qualified
- Akagera National Park (Rwanda) – 20 rangers qualified
- Kruger National Park & Joint Protection Zone (South Africa) – 22 rangers qualified
- Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa) – 23 rangers qualified
- Bangweulu Wetlands (Zambia) – 5 rangers qualified
- Liuwa Plain National Park (Zambia) – 7 rangers qualified
- Kafue National Park (Zambia) – 1 ranger qualified

These figures have been verified and reported by the CPCT, and are backed up by the course reports completed by the trainers.

Output 2: Against the target of at least 90 rangers qualified, 85 have so far done so from the following parks: Liwonde (6), Majete (4), Liuwa (4), Garamba (16), Kafue (2), Bangweulu (4) and Akagera (3), Kruger & JPZ (22 at basic-intermediate level), and Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (24). These figures have been verified and reported by the CPCT, and are backed up by course reports as completed by the trainers.

Output 3: Against the target of at least 18 rangers qualified to an advanced level of interception tracking, and able to train others as a co-benefit of the project, 16 rangers have been trained and qualified from Garamba National Park, as reported by the CPCT and the trainers in their reports. Another Advanced course is planned for Malawi in the project's second year, spreading out the advance course graduates to many more protected areas.

Output 4: Against a target of a minimum of 13 protected area staff trained in information and analysis, 16 have so far been trained, as detailed above and reported by the CPCT.

Output 5: Against the target of establishing an information network across at least 16 protected areas, functional communications have already been established between 13 protected areas to form the basis of a communications network that will be consolidated in Year 2.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The outcome of having training provided to protected area staff to track and intercept poachers more effectively, and to disrupt their networks through information sharing across 14 (originally 16) separate protected areas in sub-Saharan Africa has been largely achieved. Two training courses remain to be conducted in Year 2. Early indications are that this is enhancing law enforcement and helping prevent illegal wildlife trade, leading to improved security and a direct reduction in poaching.

Against the indicators and targets set, much of Year 2 will be spent assessing impact, yet there are already some very clear indicators of progress, as follows:

Decrease in the number of rhino and elephant poached in each protected area and a stabilisation in their population size (target >25% reduction)

Thanks to training under this project and also the trial project, no rhino or elephant has been lost to poachers in Liwonde National Park Since June 2016. Previously they were losing two elephant a week and on average one rhino a month. This has been reported by the Operations Manger, Lawrence Munroe and the Park Manager Craig Reid, as well as site visits, and AP reports.

In Majete National Park the situation is the same, with no poaching of rhino or elephant since the tracker training was first received in March 2016 under the trial project, and subsequently under this project, as reported by Park Manager Craig Hay. It should be noted however, that the Park had not lost an elephant or rhino for over a year prior to that.

Figures provided by Limpopo Province indicate that 21 Rhino were poached in the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve from September 2014 – September 2015, prior to the training commencing. No further elephant and Rhino have been poached since training began in June 2016, although consolidation of the rhino population has also been a factor.

Increase in the number of poaching incidents disrupted and poachers arrested (Baselines available for each PA - end point > 25% reduction)

Both Liwonde and Majete in Malawi report an increase in local security and a more difficult environment for criminal elements to operate in. The CPCT was present for two raids based on informant information that captured poachers outside Majete National Park before they were able to re-offend.

Through personal communication, General Jooste of Kruger National Park's and Ruben de Kock of SAWC have both independently reported that an unprecedented 48 poachers were apprehended in Kruger National Park over the month following the training.

Increase in the number of illegal wildlife trading operations disturbed and traders arrested by PA (> 25% increase)

The information network is still in its infancy, and is expected to deliver impact in Year 2 as it becomes more established.

Increase in security levels in and around target protected areas

The CPCT has received anecdotal reports of a generally improved security situation around many of the target protected areas. Local communities have become aware of the training and the increased patrolling intensity that has followed, both of which have kept illegal activity to a minimum in many regions.

Sadly two rangers were killed in Garamba National Park April 2017 during an elephant poaching incident in which 9 elephant were also killed. Those trained through the project were not involved in the patrol, and it is speculated whether there would have been a different outcome if they had been.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome Risks and Assumptions

Assumption 1: Poaching is the main threat to elephant and rhino in the target protected areas, and a reduction in poaching will therefore halt any decline in their populations and allow them to recover.

Comments: This assumption remains unchallenged by our subsequent experience. Figures from across Africa over the past year reveal that the level of poaching of rhino and elephant remains at unsustainably high levels.

Assumption 2: There is a finite number of poachers operating in each protected area, and a small number of groups that they work for. Arrests and disruption of poaching networks will therefore significantly reduce the levels of poaching.

Comments: This assumption still stands and has been demonstrated in Malawi by the substantial reduction in poaching recorded there.

Assumption 3: Protected areas are prepared to share information in the interests of preventing poaching.

Comments: The incipient information network that has been established suggests that protected areas are willing to cooperate. Furthermore, as an extension to this programme (as outlined in an unsuccessful concept note submitted to Round 3 of the IWT Challenge Fund), discussions have been taking place about the potential for linking this information network with similar networks of other conservation organisations, for wider sharing of information and disruption of poaching networks.

Assumption 4: Evidence gathered by the interception trackers and the information network is sufficient to support the judicial process and secure convictions against poachers.

Comments: This assumption remains unchallenged and has been observed to be true on at least one occasion at a sentencing hearing for a poacher at Majete, as witnessed by the CPCT, where the poacher received a 1-year sentence for poaching antelope. This conviction was initially based on information from an informant and developed into a case.

Output Risks and Assumptions

Assumption 1: Target protected areas already have sufficient competent and incorrupt rangers from which trainees for the interception tracker training can be selected

Comments: Some of the target protected areas have not had as many sufficiently competent rangers to undertake the training as was believed to have been the case when the proposal was developed. This is particularly so for Niassa National Park. As reported in the February 2017 change request, Niassa's new Field Operations Manager, David Bradfield, reviewed the existing capacity of the park's rangers, and felt they were not yet ready to undertake interception tracker training, needing more basic field ranger training first. In Kruger National Park, rangers were reported to have had greater ability than later became apparent, hence why the training was delivered at a level between basic and intermediate. At Garamba National Park, the tracker trainers reported that they had to start their basic level training from a lower starting point of experience and knowledge than they would have expected. However, this reality has been addressed by the project's added unexpected result, of both African Parks and Southern African Wildlife College agreeing to incorporate an introduction to interception tracking in their basic field ranger training courses.

Assumption 2: Trainees for the interception tracker training can obtain the necessary visas and permissions for travelling to participate in the training.

Comments: While there have been restrictions on which training courses participants can attend, the geographical spread of training courses has ensured that almost all trainees can attend, even though the ultimate spread between protected areas has not been as even as originally intended. However, in Zambia, changes in legislation have seen the Department of National Parks and Wildlife qualify all rangers as "wildlife police officers", which require per diems for training outside the country. Lower Zambezi National Park therefore determined that it would not be cost-effective to send rangers elsewhere for training, and had to be dropped from the programme, as approved following the February 2017 change request.

Assumption 3: Training at each stage will result in a high pass rate and cultivate a strong desire in rangers to advance to the next stage of the training

Comments: The pass rate from all training courses has been higher than the minimum targeted, and as the project has progressed demand for the training has grown.

Assumption 4: Protected areas predominantly recruit locally, and once trained, interception trackers and information officers are not likely to move elsewhere

Comments: Changes at the senior level of park management has impacted the project, but changes and movement of trackers and information officers (operators) has not been witnessed, other than for Odzala-Kokoua National Park where the information analyst may be transferred.

Assumption 5: APN [African Parks Network] headquarters staff have the capacity to assume responsibility for coordinating the information network, which will extend beyond the 8 parks covered under the project.

Comments: As reported above, AP has assumed responsibility for coordinating the information network, the development of which has got off to a good start.

4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

The long-term impact of the project is expected to be a reduction of poaching of rhino and elephant within specific protected areas, allowing populations to stabilise and even recover in important strongholds. This will be a direct result of an increase in poaching incidents interrupted and poachers arrested, and the disruption of illegal wildlife trade networks. As outlined above, initial indications are that this project has the potential to deliver a game-changing impact on poaching, especially if combined with other conservation measures. Kruger National Park reported an unprecedented number of poacher arrests immediately following the training, and Liwonde National Park in Malawi has eliminated poaching following the training. The latter may be more attributable to poachers being alert to an increased ranger presence and staying away. This has improved the levels of security in the local communities around the protected areas, and is therefore helping establish the pre-conditions for poverty alleviation, the impact of which will be assessed over Year 2.

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

This project is making a significant contribution to a strengthening of law enforcement in the target protected areas and the illegal wildlife trade that stems from them. This is being achieved by dramatically enhancing the capacity of rangers to track and intercept poachers, from a starting point that in many areas has shown itself to be even more basic than revealed during the 2014 fact-finding mission. It is also being achieved by introducing the skills and connections for parks to share information on poachers and their networks, which had previously been limited. As such, the project is directly contributing towards the fulfilment of Actions XIII, XIV, XV, XVI and XX of the London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, and Actions 7 and 12 of the Kasane Statement.

The project is meanwhile establishing the pre-conditions for the development of sustainable livelihoods by improving local security, and is therefore indirectly contributing towards Action XVII of the London Declaration.

6. Impact on species in focus

While it is too soon to give a reliable assessment on the impact on the targeted species, and for how long that impact might endure, as reported above, initial indications from some of the target areas demonstrate that the project can achieve a significant reduction in poaching for both elephant and rhino populations. If this initial progress and the immediate successes are both sustained and witnessed in other protected areas, the project will make a substantial contribution to halting and potentially even reversing the decline of rhino and elephant populations in some of their key strongholds.

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

This project is indirectly benefitting the rural community members living on the periphery of the targeted protected areas - more than 1,500,000 in total – many of whom suffer high levels of poverty, by establishing the pre-conditions for livelihood enhancement. As noted above, this is being reported anecdotally in terms of improved security conditions in these areas, and this will be assessed further over Year 2.

The project will also directly benefit the rangers undertaking the interception tracker training, the colleagues they work with, and by extension all their families. The International Ranger Foundation has reported the loss of 1,000 in the line of duty over a ten-year period. Many of these lives will have been lost because rangers have not been trained how to avoid an ambush by poachers or to protect themselves in a contact situation with poachers. By introducing these skills, rangers' lives have been saved, and none of the rangers trained have been killed in a confrontation with poachers.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

Rangers in sub-Saharan Africa are predominantly men, and while the CPCT has encouraged the target protected areas to put female rangers forward for training, that has not been happening. Nevertheless, the CPCT successfully trained a female information operator in Rwanda's Akagera National Park, and she is now in a very important role within their anti-poaching operations.

The need for gender equality has meanwhile been stressed through the training, while at Garamba National Park, one of the tracker trainers (Tom Fleetwood) chaired a discussion with the Congolese Rangers about the treatment of women and rape in war, which is particularly pertinent as Garamba is in the middle of a high conflict area.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

The project's logical framework has been used as the main tool for monitoring the project's progress, while a more basic monitoring framework based on the indicators is being used to extract the most pertinent information wherever possible.

They key impact indicators on which information is being collected are:

- Number of rangers trained and qualified
- Number of information analysts trained
- Number of elephant & rhino poached
- Number of poaching attempts
- Number of poachers disrupted and arrested
- Number of snares (and other traps) recovered
- Number of firearms confiscated
- Ranger patrol duration and length
- Number of illegal wildlife trade operations disrupted
- Number of illegal wildlife traders arrested

These indicators are the most suitable for measuring the project's impact, although some difficulty has been encountered in getting accurate information from some protected areas – e.g. Kruger National Park and Waterberg Biosphere Reserve – that cannot release information on poaching because it is classified. This is something that will need to be addressed in Year 2.

The tracker trainer consultants have meanwhile completed reports on each of the courses that they have delivered, and these have been submitted to the CPCT, who have collated the information and relayed that to Tusk. The CPCT has meanwhile maintained regular communications with the managers and/or heads of security (or the equivalent) in each of the target protected areas. Much of their feedback has contributed to this report through personal communications with the CPCT, as well as through their monthly reports in the case of the parks managed by AP. The latter are steadily providing the most comprehensive information from the ranger patrols and any poaching activity, and will prove an invaluable resource for fully assessing medium-term impact over Year 2.

10. Lessons learnt

All the interception tracker training and the information and analysis training courses have proven themselves to be well designed in terms of content, duration, number of participants and relevance. However, in order to reach as many protected areas and rangers as possible in the most cost-effective manner, the project has proved itself to be very ambitious. The limited time between training courses and the lack of flexibility in the original plan has been challenging, especially with so many countries, changing politics, and changing personalities in play. This has forced a number of changes to the project, particularly in terms of the locations for training and protected areas targeted, and the main recommendation would be to incorporate greater flexibility in similar future programmes.

As noted above, many of the rangers were not at a standard required to take on a specialised counter poaching tracking course. This is difficult to mitigate against without considerable further investment to select and train individuals ahead of a basic tracking course. Therefore more basic tracking courses are required to produce the requisite number of good quality rangers for intermediate and advanced training.

The project design deliberately did not specify the tracker training consultant, and initial over reliance on a single specialist tracking training provider did prove to be difficult to sustain, especially for the scheduling of the training courses. The CPCT successfully identified a number of other training providers, and a tracker symposium in January 2017 (see directly below) ensured they are all following the same course, enabling the work to be shared among a number of different providers for concurrent training courses.

11. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The difficulty of initially using a sole provider for the tracker training was overcome by convening a symposium to standardise the training methods across a number of different trainers. The symposium was hosted by the Southern African Wildlife College in January 2017 and not only successfully led to the best practice standardisation of the basic interception tracker training course, but also secured commitments from both SAWC and AP to introduce interception tracking as part of their basic field ranger courses. This will help overcome the challenge identified of not having sufficiently skilled rangers to undertake the training.

Initial success of the training model and the immediate results it has secured has led to increased demand for the training from elsewhere, and inspired other initiatives that will secure the project's sustainability (see below).

13. Sustainability and legacy

Almost as soon as the project got underway it attracted a great deal of interest from other protected areas and conservation organisations, as well as the British High Commissions and embassies in the target countries. In September 2016, and coinciding with the CITES Conference, the project received a high profile visit from UK Minister Thérèse Coffey to the training course at Kruger National Park. Unfortunately senior rangers at KNP were held responsible for not observing protocols and ensuring that the South African Government was also involved, and this had an adverse effect on some of the relationships for the project.

The project's sustainability is meanwhile being secured at an individual level by the rangers and information operators, who are now practicing the new skills as part of their routine activities. AP has taken responsibility for coordinating the information network established through the project, and has invested accordingly to ensure that it can operate efficiently. Meanwhile through ensuring that some of their rangers receive the Advanced Level interception tracker training, AP is taking steps to embed the training capacity within its workforce so that it can extend the training beyond the lifetime of the project, and also run refresher courses if these are required. This extension training is not part of the existing project, but was always intended as a co-benefit.

Finally, the project has inspired the UK Ministry of Defence to develop the interception tracker training capability within the British Army, and to support anti-poaching efforts in Africa through an initiative funded by Defra, which will replicate the training programme (both interception tracking and information gathering and analysis) in other protected areas, thereby securing and building on this project's legacy.

14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

The UK Government and the IWT Challenge Fund has been recognised as the funder of this project on Tusk’s website, and over its social media. In November 2016 Project Leader Dan Bucknell and CPCT Leader Luke Townsend participated in a live Twitter Q&A with the FCO, which included a focus on the project and the IWT Challenge Fund. This and an FCO blog post on the project coincided with the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade.

Tusk’s Spring Newsletter 2017 included a brief article on the project that publicised the IWT Challenge Fund, and the next edition of Tusk’s annual magazine *Tusk Talk* (due to be published in May 2017), will include an extensive article on the project, which also publicises the IWT Challenge Fund.

15. Project expenditure

A full expenditure report against the original budget is attached as an annex to this report:

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2016-March 2017)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

A change in mode of transport for the CPCT (from vehicle hire to more flights) was raised informally with LTS when it first came to light. However, it was thought that this would not affect the overall budget, and the greater than 10% variance on the Travel and Subsistence budget line, as well as on the operating costs budget line did not come to light until the final financial statements were received from the CPCT. Tusk has transferred these funds to the CPCT and the balance is with them. In order to utilise the grant under these circumstances, these savings have been reallocated to the consultancy costs that were otherwise covered from the co-financing.

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (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:

The Counter-Poaching Training Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa is on track to exceed its targets, and early indications are that its contribution to reducing elephant and rhino poaching in target areas could be game-changing.

With all of the information and analysis training complete and just two of the twelve interception tracker training courses to follow in Year 2, most activities have been completed as planned. Rangers qualified as interception trackers comprise 116 to basic level, 22 to basic/intermediate

level, 63 to intermediate level, and 18 to advanced level. Sixteen information operators have been trained, and an information network established between 13 protected areas.

Significant impact that the project has already substantially contributed towards includes a 100% reduction in elephant and rhino poaching in Malawi's Liwonde National Park, down from two elephants a week and on average one rhino per month. In South Africa's Kruger National Park, an unprecedented 48 poacher arrests were made in the month immediately after the training.

The project has also delivered extra, unexpected results. In Rwanda's Akagera National Park, the park manager had a clear idea of what he wanted in addition to the training provided by the CPCT, and so as well as the 4 operators trained in full there, extra trainees were brought in for two specific sessions. Three extra participants joined the training on using informants, and eleven extra on the interviewing of suspected poachers, so the total given some information and analysis training at Akagera was 15. Elsewhere, while training one of Garamba National Park's information operators in Gabon (for availability reasons), a fortuitous tie in with the British Army's effort meant that eight Gabonese conservators could also be trained at the same time over a six day period on operations room management and information and analysis concepts. Meanwhile, in addition to his responsibilities at Garamba, that operator is now being used by African Parks to train other operators, in Chad for example.

The project led to the organisation of a tracker training symposium in January 2017 (external to the grant), which established standardised best practice in tracker training, and secured commitments from African Parks and Southern African Wildlife College to introduce interception tracking to their basic field ranger training.

The project has also directly influenced the Ministry of Defence's engagement in anti-poaching, which will replicate much of the training and deploy British soldiers directly to protected areas to support anti-poaching operations.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2016-2017

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Reduced illegal wildlife trade will see rhino and elephant populations stabilise and start recovering within target protected areas, and will also create improved security as a pre-condition for poverty alleviation.</p>		<p>Initial indications from some of the target areas demonstrate that the project can achieve a significant reduction in poaching for both elephant and rhino populations.</p>	
<p>Outcome Training provided to protected area staff to track and intercept rangers more effectively, and to disrupt their networks through information sharing across 16 separate protected areas in sub-Saharan Africa. This results in enhanced law enforcement to prevent illegal wildlife trade, leading to improved security and a direct reduction in poaching.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease in the number of rhino and elephant poached in each protected area and a stabilisation in their population size (>25% reduction) 2. Increase in the number of poaching incidents disrupted and poachers arrested (Baselines available for each PA - end point > 25% reduction) 3. Increase in the number of illegal wildlife trading operations disturbed and traders arrested by PA (> 25% increase) 4. Increase in security levels in and around target protected areas 	<p>Poaching of elephant & rhino reduced to zero in Liwonde National Park, Malawi (100% reduction)</p> <p>Poaching maintained at zero in Majete National Park, Malawi</p> <p>Poaching reduced to zero in Waterberg Biosphere Reserve</p> <p>48 poachers arrested in Kruger National Park in month following training</p> <p>Improved security reported from a number of target areas</p>	<p>Completion of final two tracker training courses</p> <p>Development of information network to become fully functioning</p> <p>Evaluation / Full impact assessment</p>
<p>Output 1. At least 100 rangers (from 120 trained) from 16 protected areas qualified as basic level interception trackers, and able to join interception tracking units to more effectively interrupt and arrest poachers in their respective protected area</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic interception tracker training courses are completed with sufficient levels of participation 2. A conservative estimate of 83% trainees pass the final assessment 3. Qualified trainees form interception tracking units and conduct patrols 	<p>Activities completed</p> <p>Indicators deemed appropriate</p> <p>Evidenced in 3.2 above and in course reports (selection submitted in annex)</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1: Selection of 120 rangers to participate in basic interception tracker training in five groups of 24 at a time</p>		<p>Activity completed: Six courses held (one at basic-intermediate level) to 144 participants</p>	

<p>Activity 1.2: Each group of 24 rangers is trained in basic interception tracking techniques during a 3-week course (of which there will be five in total), three of which will take place in the Savé Valley Conservancy (Zimbabwe), and one each in the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa), and Garamba National Park (DR Congo)</p>	<p>Activity completed. 3-week training courses held, but in revised locations: two in Garamba National Park (DR Congo), and one each in the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa), Akagera National Park (Rwanda), and Majete National Park (Malawi). The basic-intermediate course was held at Kruger National Park.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3: On completion of the course, participants will be assessed as to whether they have acquired sufficient "basic" tracker competency</p>	<p>Activity completed: 138 participants assessed as having qualified (pass rate of 96%)</p>
<p>Activity 1.4: Qualified trackers return to their respective protected areas to conduct interception tracking patrols, recording and reporting their progress to their park management and the CPCT</p>	<p>Activity completed and ongoing.</p>
<p>Output 2. At least 90 rangers (from 120 trained) qualified to an intermediate level of interception tracking and able to lead interception tracking units in their respective protected area</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intermediate interception tracker training courses are completed with sufficient levels of participation 2. A conservative estimate of 75% trainees pass the final assessment 3. Qualified trainees lead interception tracking units and conduct patrols <p>Activity 80% completed Indicators deemed appropriate Evidenced in 3.2 above and in course reports (selection submitted in annex)</p>
<p>Activity 2.1: Selection of 120 rangers (from a pool of 131, being the 100 qualified rangers from activity 1.3, and 31 trained during the trial project) to participate in intermediate interception tracker training in five groups of 24 at a time</p>	<p>Activity 80% completed: 96 rangers selected for intermediate level training</p>
<p>Activity 2.2: Each group of 24 rangers is trained in intermediate interception tracking techniques during a further 3-week course (of which there will be five in total), three of which will take place in the Savé Valley Conservancy (Zimbabwe), and one each in the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa), and Garamba National Park (DR Congo)</p>	<p>Activity 80% completed: four courses held, with some change in location: one each held in Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa), Garamba National Park (DR Congo), Kruger National Park (South Africa) (= basic-intermediate level), and Liwonde National Park (Malawi). Final course to be held at KwaZulu Natal Protected Areas (South Africa).</p>
<p>Activity 2.3: On completion of the course, participants will be assessed as to whether they have acquired sufficient "intermediate" tracker competency</p>	<p>Activity 80% completed: 85 participants assessed as having qualified (pass rate of 94%)</p>
<p>Activity 2.4: Qualified trackers return to their respective protected areas to lead interception tracking patrol units, recording and reporting their progress to their park management and the CPCT</p>	<p>Activity 80% completed and ongoing.</p>
<p>Output 3. At least 18 rangers (from 36 trained) qualified at an advanced level of interception tracking, and able to train others as a co-benefit of the project</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced interception tracker training courses are completed with sufficient levels of participation 2. A conservative estimate of 50% trainees pass the final assessment 3. Qualified trainees co-ordinate a number of interception tracking units and anti-poaching operations, and train further rangers within their protected areas <p>Activity 50% completed Indicators deemed appropriate Evidenced in 3.2 above and in course reports (selection submitted in annex)</p>

Activity 3.1: Selection of 36 rangers (from the 90 qualified under activity 2.3) to participate in advanced interception tracker training in two groups of 18 at a time	Activity 50% completed: 16 rangers selected for advanced level training	
Activity 3.2: Each group of 18 rangers is trained in advanced interception tracking techniques during a final 3-week course (of which there will be two), one of which will take place in the Savé Valley Conservancy (Zimbabwe), and one in Garamba National Park (DR Congo)	Activity 50% completed: one course held at Garamba National Park (DRC). Final course to be held at Majete National Park (Malawi).	
Activity 3.3: On completion of the course, participants will be assessed as to whether they have acquired sufficient "advanced" tracker competency (a pass rate of 50% is a conservative estimate)	Activity 50% completed: 16 participants assessed as having qualified (pass rate of 100%)	
Activity 3.4: Qualified trackers return to their respective protected areas to coordinate anti-poaching operations involving a number of patrol units, reporting their progress to their park management and the CPCT. They will also have the capacity to lead training in interception tracking techniques in their respective protected areas, as a potential future extension of this project	Activity 50% completed and ongoing.	
Activity 3.5: The CPCT will maintain regular communication with the advanced level trackers (and their managers) to monitor and record progress, and offer further support and advice as required	Activity ongoing	
<p>Output 4. A minimum of 13 protected area staff trained in information and analysis to develop a better understanding of poachers and their networks so as to disrupt them</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least two information staff fully trained in each of four protected areas, and five fully trained at APN headquarters 2. Information staff actively share information on poachers and poaching activity between protected areas 	<p>Activity completed</p> <p>Indicators deemed appropriate</p> <p>Evidenced in 3.2 above and in CPCT reports</p>
Activity 4.1: The CPCT will visit APN headquarters in Johannesburg, Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, Game Reserves United, Garamba National Park and Chinko National Park to provide training in basic information and analysis (including use of "Geosuite" software)	<p>Activity completed: CPCT provided training at APN headquarters in Johannesburg, Garamba National Park, Akagera National Park, Liwonde National Park and Majete National Park.</p> <p>CPCT also produce report on status of information gathering and analysis at Kruger National Park</p> <p>16 protected area staff trained from 9 different protected areas</p>	
Activity 4.2: The CPCT will spend the first week in each location in familiarisation and reconnaissance so that they can tailor their training to suit the location	Activity completed	
Activity 4.3: In the second week in each location, the CPCT will provide intensive training in information collection and analysis to a selected park officer and an understudy for them and/or their senior line manager (or in the case of APN headquarters 5 people that can rotate a 24 hr shift and manage crises). This training includes the creation of information networks and the engagement of local communities while emphasising the importance of community support.	Activity completed	

Activity 4.4: In the final week in each location, the CPCT will provide personal mentoring and oversight of the initial implementation of the information collection and analysis while still in situ	Activity completed
Activity 4.5: The CPCT will maintain regular communication with those trained to monitor and record their progress, and offer further support and advice as required	Activity ongoing
Output 5. An information network created across at least 16 protected areas and managed by African Parks Network (APN)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information network created and actively sharing information 2. Trained information staff in African Parks Network headquarters assume overall coordination of the information network
Activity 5.1: As the CPCT visit and train information officers in each location, the CPCT will connect them for the coordination of information between protected areas	Activity completed and ongoing
Activity 5.2: Parks that have not received the information training (especially the others within the APN) will also be visited by the CPCT to establish contacts and facilitate the sharing of information between them, delivering high impact training on request as required	Activity ongoing, mostly through remote communication
Activity 5.3: Once the information network is created between at least ten protected areas, the CPCT will pass over the overall coordination of the information network to those trained in APN headquarters	Activity / process launched and to be consolidated through Year 2

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact:</p> <p>. Reduced illegal wildlife trade will see rhino and elephant populations stabilise and start recovering within target protected areas, and will also create improved security as a pre-condition for poverty alleviation.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Training provided to protected area staff to track and intercept rangers more effectively, and to disrupt their networks through information sharing across 14 separate protected areas in sub-Saharan Africa. This results in enhanced law enforcement to prevent illegal wildlife trade, leading to improved security and a direct reduction in poaching.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease in the number of rhino and elephant poached in each protected area and a stabilisation in their population size (>25% reduction) 2. Increase in the number of poaching incidents disrupted and poachers arrested (Baselines available for each PA - end point > 25% reduction) 3. Increase in the number of illegal wildlife trading operations disturbed and traders arrested by PA (> 25% increase) 4. Increase in security levels in and around target protected areas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protected area management reports; poaching incident reports; project reports; CITES reports (esp. MIKE/ETIS reports) 2. Interception / incident reports from protected area rangers (duplicate police reports from rangers); protected area management reports; project reports; CITES reports 3. Incident reports compiled; project reports; CITES reports 4. Government statistics; socio-economic survey reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poaching is the main threat to elephant and rhino in the target protected areas, and a reduction in poaching will therefore halt any decline in their populations and allow them to recover. 2. There is a finite number of poachers operating in each protected area, and a small number of groups that they work for. Arrests and disruption of poaching networks will therefore significantly reduce the levels of poaching. 3. Protected areas are prepared to share information in the interests of preventing poaching. 4. Evidence gathered by the interception trackers and the information network is sufficient to support the judicial process and secure convictions against poachers.
<p>Output 1 At least 100 rangers (from 120 trained) from 14 protected areas qualified as basic level interception trackers, and able to join interception tracking units to more effectively interrupt and arrest poachers in their respective protected area</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic interception tracker training courses are completed with sufficient levels of participation 2. A conservative estimate of 83% trainees pass the final assessment 3. Qualified trainees form interception tracking units and conduct patrols 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPCT project reports; course attendance records 2. Course assessment reports 3. CPCT project reports; protected area management reports; patrol reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target protected areas already have sufficient competent and incorrupt rangers from which trainees for the interception tracker training can be selected 2. Trainees for the interception tracker training can obtain the necessary visas and permissions for travelling to participate in the training

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Training at each stage will result in a high pass rate and cultivate a strong desire in rangers to advance to the next stage of the training 4. Protected areas predominantly recruit locally, and once trained, interception trackers and information officers are not likely to move elsewhere 5. APN headquarters staff have the capacity to assume responsibility for coordinating the information network, which will extend beyond the 8 parks covered under the project
<p>Output 2 At least 90 rangers (from 120 trained) qualified to an intermediate level of interception tracking and able to lead interception tracking units in their respective protected area</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intermediate interception tracker training courses are completed with sufficient levels of participation 2. A conservative estimate of 75% trainees pass the final assessment 3. Qualified trainees lead interception tracking units and conduct patrols 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPCT project reports; course attendance records 2. Course assessment reports 3. CPCT project reports; protected area management reports; patrol reports 	
<p>Output 3 At least 18 rangers (from 36 trained) qualified at an advanced level of interception tracking, and able to train others as a co-benefit of the project</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced interception tracker training courses are completed with sufficient levels of participation 2. A conservative estimate of 50% trainees pass the final assessment 3. Qualified trainees co-ordinate a number of interception tracking units and anti-poaching operations, and train further rangers within their protected areas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPCT project reports; course attendance records 2. Course assessment reports 3. CPCT project reports; protected area management reports; patrol reports 	
<p>Output 4 A minimum of 13 protected area staff trained in information and analysis to develop a better understanding of poachers and their networks so as to disrupt them</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least two information staff fully trained in each of four protected areas, and five fully trained at APN headquarters 2. Information staff actively share information on poachers and poaching activity between protected areas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPCT project reports 2. CPCT project reports; protected area management reports 	

<p>Output 5 An information network created across at least 14 protected areas and managed by African Parks Network (APN)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information network created and actively sharing information 2. Trained information staff in African Parks Network headquarters assume overall coordination of the information network 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPCT project reports; protected area management reports 2. CPCT project reports; APN management reports 	
<p>Activities</p> <p>5. Output 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Selection of 120 rangers to participate in basic interception tracker training in five groups of 24 at a time 5.2. Each group of 24 rangers is trained in basic interception tracking techniques during a 3-week course (of which there will be five in total), two of which will take place in Garamba National Park (DR Congo), and one each in the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa), Akagera National Park (Rwanda), and Majete National Park (Malawi) 5.3. On completion of the course, participants will be assessed as to whether they have acquired sufficient "basic" tracker competency 5.4. Qualified trackers return to their respective protected areas to conduct interception tracking patrols, recording and reporting their progress to their park management and the CPCT <p>6. Output 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1. Selection of 120 rangers (from a pool of 131, being the 100 qualified rangers from activity 1.3, and 31 trained during the trial project) to participate in intermediate interception tracker training in five groups of 24 at a time 6.2. Each group of 24 rangers is trained in intermediate interception tracking techniques during a further 3-week course (of which there will be five in total), one each of which will take place in Waterberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa), Garamba National Park (DR Congo), Kruger National Park (South Africa), Liwonde National Park (Malawi) and KwaZulu Natal Protected Areas (South Africa) 6.3. On completion of the course, participants will be assessed as to whether they have acquired sufficient "intermediate" tracker competency 6.4. Qualified trackers return to their respective protected areas to lead interception tracking patrol units, recording and reporting their progress to their park management and the CPCT <p>7. Output 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1. Selection of 36 rangers (from the 90 qualified under activity 2.3) to participate in advanced interception tracker training in two groups of 18 at a time 7.2. Each group of 18 rangers is trained in advanced interception tracking techniques during a final 3-week course (of which there will be two), one of which will take place in Majete National Park (Malawi), and one in Garamba National Park (DR Congo) 7.3. On completion of the course, participants will be assessed as to whether they have acquired sufficient "advanced" tracker competency (a pass rate of 50% is a conservative estimate) 7.4. Qualified trackers return to their respective protected areas to coordinate anti-poaching operations involving a number of patrol units, reporting their progress to their park management and the CPCT. They will also have the capacity to lead training in interception tracking techniques in their respective protected areas, as a potential future extension of this project 7.5. The CPCT will maintain regular communication with the advanced level trackers (and their managers) to monitor and record progress, and offer further support and advice as required <p>8. Output 4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1. The CPCT will visit APN headquarters in Johannesburg, Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, Game Reserves United (now known as the Joint Protection Zone), Garamba National Park and Akagera National Park, and others within the African Parks Network to provide training in basic information and analysis (including use of "Geosuite" software) 8.2. The CPCT will spend the first week in each location in familiarisation and reconnaissance so that they can tailor their training to suit the location 8.3. In the second week in each location, the CPCT will provide intensive training in information collection and analysis to a selected park officer and an understudy for them and/or their senior line manager (or in the case of APN headquarters 5 people that can rotate a 24 hr shift and manage crises). This training includes the creation of information networks and the engagement of local communities while emphasising the importance of community support. 			

8.4. In the final week in each location, the CPCT will provide personal mentoring and oversight of the initial implementation of the information collection and analysis while still in situ

8.5. The CPCT will maintain regular communication with those trained to monitor and record their progress, and offer further support and advice as required

9. Output 5

9.1. As the CPCT visit and train information officers in each location, the CPCT will connect them for the coordination of information between protected areas

9.2. Parks that have not received the information training (especially the others within the APN) will also be visited by the CPCT to establish contacts and facilitate the sharing of information between them, delivering high impact training on request as required

9.3. Once the information network is created between at least ten protected areas, the CPCT will pass over the overall coordination of the information network to those trained in APN headquarters

Annex 3 Standard Measures

N/A

Annex 4 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.	✓
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.	Supplied separately
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.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	