

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No	IWT024
Project Title	Counter-Poaching Training Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa
Country(ies)	South Africa, DR Congo, CAR, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Chad, Republic of Congo, Malawi, Rwanda
Lead Organisation	Tusk Trust
Collaborator(s)	African Parks
Project Leader	Dan Bucknell
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	25/10/2016 HYR1
Project website	http://www.tusk.org/news/3-mar-2016-uk-government-invests-in-tuskas-anti-poaching-efforts

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

Output 1: Against the target of at least 100 rangers (from 120 trained) from 16 protected areas qualified as basic level interception trackers, in the first six months of the project 95 rangers have so far been trained and 89 qualified from 4 protected areas.

Rangers were identified and basic level interception tracker training was provided through the following four 3-week courses:

- June: Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, South Africa – 23 rangers qualified from 23 trained.
- July: Garamba National Park, DR Congo – 21 rangers qualified from 24 trained.
- August: Garamba National Park, DR Congo – 23 rangers qualified from 24 trained.
- September: Kruger National Park, South Africa - 22 rangers qualified from 24 trained.

All qualified rangers have since been conducting interception tracking patrols in their respective areas, and initial results from these will be expected in the coming months.

Output 2: Against the target of at least 90 rangers (from 120 trained) qualified to an intermediate level of tracking, 68 of those trained to basic level (from the above courses, as well as from the trial project that preceded this programme) have so far been identified for training to an intermediate level, and 22 further rangers have been trained and qualified to a basic / intermediate level.

18 rangers from Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, 30 from Garamba National Park, and 20 from the trial project, have been identified to receive training at intermediate level.

In September, a training course was held at Kruger National Park for 22 rangers. This was initially planned at an intermediate level, following communications that many of the rangers at Kruger National Park already have some tracking ability. As mentioned in the change request (see below), this still needed verification ahead of the training taking place. As a result, the training that was ultimately delivered was a mentoring course at a level between basic and intermediate. This training was also delivered through extra collaboration with the Southern African Wildlife College.

Output 3: 36 rangers will be trained to an advanced level in the 3rd and 4th quarters, as planned.

Output 4: Against a target of a minimum of 13 protected area staff trained in information and analysis, 11 have so far been trained.

Information and analysis training has been delivered in Malawi, Gabon and DR Congo to the following:

- 1 operator from Nkhotakota National Park
- 1 operator 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 National Park and
- 3 operators from Garamba National Park

All of the above now have a working ability to use Geosuite, which has been introduced to Majete and Nkhotakota, and will be rolled out to Liwonde in November and the other African Parks locations in December.

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.

The team has made contact with several areas, developing a common understanding between them, and opening communication channels for the future sharing of information on poaching and poachers between the protected areas.

In addition to all the African Parks managed protected areas, the network spans the Waterberg biosphere area and Kruger National Park in South Africa, Lake Malawi 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, Mwangné National Park in Gabon and KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife in South Africa.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The first interception tracker training course did not start as promptly as planned in May. This was partly a result of not receiving the first IWT Challenge Fund payment until 9th May. It was also partly because the initial course was due to have taken place in Zimbabwe, but because of the deteriorating political situation there, the first course was instead held at one of the other planned locations: the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve in South Africa. While all basic tracker training courses were due to have been completed within the first two quarters of the project, there is now a slight delay, but the two remaining courses will be completed within the next quarter.

Further deterioration of the political situation in Zimbabwe forced the relocation of some of the tracker training courses to other targeted protected areas. The seven training courses that had been due to take place at the Savé Valley Conservancy have been redistributed as follows:

- 1 x basic level course to Garamba National Park, DR Congo
- 1 x basic level course to Niassa National Park, Mozambique
- 1 x basic level course, and 1 x intermediate level course to Liwonde National Park, Malawi (or possibly one of them at another of the parks within the African Parks Network, to be determined following further assessment)
- 2 x intermediate level courses and 1 x advanced level course to Kruger National Park, South Africa

The relocations have also enabled the Counter Poaching Coordination Team (CPCT) to respond to increased demand for the training in Kruger National Park.

The changes in location for some of the training has had an impact on how both the CPCT and the trainee rangers have travelled to the training locations. The CPCT has found that it has been more practical in some circumstances to take flights within Africa rather than always hire a 4x4 vehicle hire as planned. It is therefore foreseen that there will be an underspend on both

the 4x4 Vehicle hire and the fuel and maintenance budget lines, and a corresponding increase on flights. However, the total budget on Travel and subsistence will remain unaffected, and any fluctuation will remain within 10%.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: **Yes/No**

Formal change request submitted: **Yes/No**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **Yes/No**

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

No

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

Since the project application was submitted, there have been several key personnel changes in some of the targeted protected areas. Most notably, there have been significant changes to the senior management teams in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, and most recently to Niassa National Park, Mozambique. These changes have the potential to add some slight delay some of the training of rangers from those protected areas – and to delay the planned training at Niassa National Park – while the CPCT establish relationships with the new management and plan the training. At this stage, these changes are not expected to have any greater impact than that.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Joanne Gordon at IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 001 IWT Half Year Report**