



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report



(due 31st October 2017)

Project reference:	IWT024
Project title:	Counter-Poaching Training Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa
Country(ies):	South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, DR Congo, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Chad
Lead organisation:	Tusk Trust
Collaborator(s):	African Parks
Project leader:	Dan Bucknell
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	31/10/2017 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc:	http://www.tusk.org/counter-poaching-training-programme

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

The majority of the training under this project was completed in the first year of the grant as planned. As such, there is nothing further to report against outputs 1 and 4 since the first annual report on the grant. In addition to the progress outlined below, much of the second year of the grant is being spent monitoring the longer-term impact of the training and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

Output 2: One intermediate level tracker training course KwaZulu Natal Protected Areas in South Africa was delayed from year one into the second year. At the request of the KwaZulu Natal Protected Areas – who were reluctant to release 24 rangers for training at once over three weeks – and on the recommendation of the trainers (in this instance using Colin Patrick and Andreas Liebenberg of Counter Insurgency Tracker Training), rather than deliver this course to all 24 rangers over three weeks, they have been delivering the training in three more intense 5-day sessions, each to 8 trainees. Ultimately, the end result and cost is the same. One such workshop was delivered from 19th-24th June 2017, and a second from 4th-9th September, leaving one final 5-day workshop to be delivered to 8 rangers in November 2017. All ranger participants were assessed to have qualified as intermediate level trackers, bringing the total to 101 so far, against an initial target of 90.

Output 3: A further 24 rangers have been trained to Advanced Level in a 3-week training course led by trainers Simon Leak and Tom Fleetwood at Liwonde National Park, Malawi, from 22nd August – 8th September 2017. This was a little later than originally foreseen, but was timed to coincide deliberately with the deployment of British Army soldiers as part of their assistance to Defra in training rangers to counter IWT through the IWT Challenge Fund, and in which Tusk is a partner organisation. Simon

Leak and Tom Fleetwood provided refresher training to the British soldiers, and it was an ideal opportunity to create a synergy between the two initiatives.

The final Advanced course brought together 24 of the best students from the project from the following six parks:

- Bangweulu Wetland, Zambia - 4 participants
- Liuwa Plain National Parks, Zambia - 4 participants
- Liwonde National Park, Malawi - 7 participants
- Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi - 4 participants
- NkhotaKota Wildlife Reserve, Malawi - 2 participants

All rangers were assessed to have qualified as advanced level trackers, bringing the total to 41 against the target of 18.

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. Customisation of the *Geosuite* information sharing software has been fully funded external to this grant and is underway with significant progress made. The system will be ready to roll out in the New Year.

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

Lesson Learnt: The experience of trialling the shorter, more intense 5-day courses for KwaZulu Natal Protected Areas has been positive and offers another solution for the training, if it's not possible to run the longer courses for any reason. Some of the other protected areas covered by the project have also struggled to release rangers from the line of duty for a full three weeks, and this therefore presents a possible, more workable alternative. The training outcome depends on how much time the student spends on tracking. With fewer students the time tracking remains the same. This can be considered in future to remain flexible to local conditions. Because in this instance the overall cost and output remains the same, and has only fractionally delayed some of the training, this has not been discussed with LTS.

Assistant Instructors: It is of note that two students from Liwonde National Park, Malawi, who have graduated to Advanced Level through this project (Mike Polela and Clement Thunyani) have now been utilised as assistant instructors on both the British Army Counter Poaching Operator Course in Kenya and the Advanced Tracking Course in Malawi, securing the tracker training capacity within African Parks and the project's overall sustainability. In addition, the instructors, skills and procedures developed during this project are now directly assisting the British Army in their initiative. The plans to coincide the final Advanced Level course at Liwonde National Park with the deployment of British soldiers there was discussed beforehand with Defra.

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 (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

N/A

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

Kurt Steiner, the Law Enforcement Manager for African Parks and their main point of contact for this project left African Parks at the end of August 2017. Having overseen all the training, including the final Advanced Course at Liwonde National Park, his time on the project had come to an end before his departure. Nevertheless, while much of the final reporting on impact and sustainability will come directly from the protected areas covered, Jeremy Hancock, the Law Enforcement Training and Medical Manager for African Parks, is now acting as the main point of contact for the final reporting on the project.

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

Please send your **completed report by email** to Victoria Pinion at IWT-Fund@tsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: IWT001 Half Year Report.**