

## Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

**Project Ref No**

IWT026

**Project Title** Connecting enhanced livelihoods to elephant and rhino protection

**Country(ies):** Kenya

**Lead Organisation** Northern Rangeland Trust

**Collaborator(s) :** 18 Community Conservancies in northern Kenya.

**Project Leader** Mike Harrison

**Report date and number (eg HYR1):** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016/HYR1

**Project website** <http://www.nrt-kenya.org/conservancies>

**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).**

This report provides an overview of progress and activities of the project that seeks to strengthen community livelihoods that are linked to elephant and rhino protection in northern Kenya for the period April to September 2016. Since the signing of the agreement in April 2016 (funds disbursed July 2016), the process of planning, coordinating and implementing the community livelihoods projects under this fund is well under way. The process involved announcing calls for proposals from all the NRT-affiliated community conservancies, reviewing proposals that had been prioritised and approved by the communities, and then awarding sub-grants to successful projects. These were projects that provided clear evidence of directly linking improved community livelihoods to protection of elephants within core elephant population range in northern Kenya. As at the end of September 2016, five (5) community development projects have been initiated; education infrastructure projects (3) and water infrastructure (2) projects. The infrastructure projects were subjected to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to comply with government environment regulations and thereafter a competitive tendering process that resulted in the award of construction tenders to qualified construction companies based on their technical and financial evaluations. Subsequently, NRT is in the process of reviewing further community development project proposals from 13 other community conservancies. The projects upon completion are expected to have high impact in stabilizing elephant and rhino populations through reduction in poaching. This will curtail illegal wildlife trade by acting as an incentive to communities in conserving wildlife and habitat management.

To-date, the IWT Funds have been disbursed to support five (5) community development

projects in 5 conservancies (Il Ngwesi, Kalama, Nasulu, Shurr, Iingwesi and Nakrupat-Gotu) out of 18 conservancies envisaged in this grant. Among the funded projects include:

- Community water project in Il Ngwesi Community Conservancy intended to provide additional water and improve existing water supply system to the community, livestock and wildlife. Environmental Impact Assessment is underway to pave way for project implementation.
- Construction of two (2) classrooms in Kalama Conservancy (Kalama Primary School) with EIA having been conducted, necessary government approvals for civil works obtained, tender awarded and construction works started.
- Construction of one (1) teachers' staffroom block at Kambi Garba Primary School in Nasulu Community Conservancy has been started after obtaining mandatory environmental and government approvals
- Construction of a water harvesting and storage system, trough and toilet in Shurr Primary School, Shurr Community Conservancy, has kicked off.
- The tendering process for the construction of two (2) classrooms at Gotu Primary School in Nakrupat-Gotu Community Conservancy has been done and the contractor expected to begin construction at the site in the ensuing quarter of October to December 2016.

In all the projects, the communities continue to provide full support and are eagerly waiting for the completion of the infrastructures which they believe will bring positive impacts to their lives – they have prioritised these projects, through their Conservancy Boards, as part of their overall Conservancy Management and Community Development Plans. Furthermore our teams who are in charge of these infrastructures are very keen and are working closely with the conservancy management teams in order to make sure they oversee the project planning and implementation process and to provide regular updates about the projects. Though NRT recorded a 46% average Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) within NRT conservancies for the 9-month period to September 2016 compared to 38% recorded in 2015, the rate is expected to decline as we close the year by end of December 2016.

**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.**

All the projects are infrastructure –based and as such the process of conducting environmental impact assessments, obtaining necessary government and other civil works approvals has affected the start dates of the construction works. In addition, the release of the funds in July 2016 as opposed to April 2016 when the grant was signed also affected the pace at which the projects are being implemented. Though our spend down is only % as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, this is expected to increase to % by the second-half to March 2017, which will have prompted us to initiate cash advance by then to enable us roll-out additional projects worth GBP. between January and March 2017. NRT does not expect any roll-over of funds to the next financial year beginning April 2017.

**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: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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:

As indicated in 2a. above, NRT's spend down on this grant will be 100% and no funds will be rolled over to the next IWT's financial year Apr 2017 – Mar 2018. The project cycle management for these funds fits within the overall NRT Conservancy Livelihoods Fund process, with proposals, review, awards and implementation following a systematic process. All funds will be consumed within the allocated timetable.

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

Not at the moment.

**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@itsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@itsi.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**