

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No: IWT029

Project Title: An integrated, multi-scale approach to combating wildlife trafficking in Uganda

Country(ies): Uganda

Lead Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society

Collaborator(s): Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Natural Resources Conservation Network (NRCN), Maisha Consulting Ltd, Department of Biology, University of York (UoY)

Project Leader: Simon Nampindo

Report date and number: October 31st 2016 (HYR1)

Project website: None

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).

During the past six months of the project, WCS and her partners implemented project activities planned under Outputs 1, 2, 3 and output 4.

Output 1: An effective and functioning Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) collects and analyses intelligence information to increase arrests of middlemen.

With matching funds from USFWS and Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), we recruited an intelligence expert and mentor for UWA who is based in WCU. It took some time to identify the right person, which resulted in a delay in starting the training; however, we believe that the impact of the training will be greater as the intelligence expert will follow up on the trainees.

As a result, WCS and Maisha conducted a training of 17 (2 females) UWA rangers in Human Intelligence in October 2016 that will be detailed in our next report.

With funding support from ECF and Stop Ivory, we have also supported UWA to set up a canine unit, specifically focusing on Entebbe International Airport.

Output 2: Through the work of NRCN Uganda, prosecuted offenders are held accountable for wildlife crimes committed.

Prior to the development and execution of a subgrant agreement in October 2016, WCS trained NRCN in financial management and accounting procedures. Three (3) NRCN staff received training in grant proposal writing and reporting. The training covered a) identification of grants and learning more about the donor interests, requirements, budget limitations and application cycles; b) main components of the proposal; c) application of the log frame, conceptual models and theory of change principles; d) drafting of the proposal and the approach, including the do's and don'ts; e) developing activities, indicators and assumptions; f) budgeting; and g) reporting and end of project management.

Output 3: UWA, police, judiciary, URA, and Uganda military share information and collaborate in law enforcement to improve anti-trafficking efforts through a Wildlife Crime Coordination Task

Force (WCCTF).

The first meeting with heads of law enforcement agencies to discuss the idea of and what is needed to formalize the WCCTF was conducted in September 2016. WCS, together with our project partners, are in the process of developing an MoU, as well as the identification of appropriate officers to play this role. The representatives of these agencies were very supportive of the idea and agreed to sign onto an MoU.

Output 4: Local law enforcement officers in protected areas use new capabilities in SMART to more efficiently and effectively conduct ranger patrols.

WCS has been in discussion with Dr. Colin Beale and Dr. Rob Critchlow at the University of York about the details of the plug-in that will be developed for the SMART software (www.smartconservationsoftware.org). These include ways in which data can be cleaned automatically when there have been issues with incorrect data entry or problems with GPS locations and times which would affect any analysis. Programmers at the University of York have started to evaluate the needs and the source code for SMART to enable them to generate the plug in. Experts in Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) programming have been contacted to enable the plugin to run without the need for additional software such as Bugs/Winbugs/Jags, as has been necessary to date. A terms of reference (TOR) for the work has been developed based on these discussions, and WCS will soon be signing a subcontract based on the agreed TOR with University of York. This work will commence in November 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.

The requirement by Israel Defence Forces for Israel-based intelligence consulting companies, including our partner Maisha Consulting Ltd to comply with the new military operation procedures in foreign services resulted in some delays in conducting the intelligence gathering trainings for UWA's WCU. In addition, the development of MoUs among law enforcement agencies has taken longer than we had anticipated.

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	Not yet requested

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 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:

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

None

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 e.g. Subject: 001 IWT Half Year Report**