

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2017)

Project reference:	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:	<i>Simon Nampindo</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	31 st October 2017, (HYR2)
Project website/blog/social media etc.	

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).

This report highlights progress made in the period between 1st April and 30th September 2017 and below is a summary of accomplishments by output.

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

WCS together with Maisha Consulting Ltd continued to provide technical backstopping and training to UWA's Security and Law Enforcement Unit (SLEU) to enhance capacity to deal with wildlife crime. In this period, the project focussed on helping SLEU staff to perfect the intelligence skills acquired in previous trainings as well as apply the equipment provided to investigate high profile cases. Maisha led practical activities to give the SLEU team a chance to practice the acquired expertise and methodologies on existing investigations. The February 2017 1300kg ivory seizure was one of the cases jointly investigated by UWA and Maisha for this purpose. This investigation yielded good actionable intelligence that was used to arrest and initiate the prosecution of one trafficker who was linked to ivory seizures made in Juba and Doha weighing approximately 1000kgs in total.

Further to the HUMINT training conducted in October 2016, as agreed by project partners, Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF), which is also a recipient of IWT funding, funded a similar training for 67 other UWA Intelligence Staff to enhance intelligence capacity across the entire institution from the headquarter to the park level. The training was conducted by Maisha to build on the knowledge and skills already passed on to UWA in different trainings while maintaining the same philosophy and quality of training delivery. A refresher training in WEBINT and HUMINT was also

conducted in July 2017 for a section of Intelligence Staff based at MFNP, KVNP and UWA HQs. A report of this training is available. Standalone reports were produced and are provided together with this report.

In addition, the combined Maisha and UWA team conducted a risk assessment exercise which entailed travelling to all conservation areas and interacting with managers and staff to identify intelligence bottlenecks as well as to ascertain the working relationship between intelligence and other departments. The findings from this risk assessment were presented to UWA's top management and later discussed together with UWA's key partners, particularly WCS and UCF, at a meeting held in Jinja on the 10th-11th August 2017.

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

NRCN developed a media strategy aimed at enhancing awareness and visibility of wildlife crime, illegal wildlife trade, and trafficking both nationally and internationally. In the remaining period of this project, NRCN will receive support to implement parts of this strategy, with a major focus on naming and shaming key figures in IWT as well as publishing court precedents for the purpose of raising awareness on the consequences and impacts of wildlife crime.

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

Discussions held with UWA recommended that the original idea of forming a new WCCTF be taken forward, thus negating the need for changes to activity 3.1 as previously indicated in the annual report. UWA is committed to leading the process of creating the WCCTF and is working with WCS to organise the first high level meeting involving heads of security institutions and other law enforcement agencies to discuss this matter. This meeting is scheduled to take place in the next quarter. WCS has held several planning meetings together with UWA to identify the key government agencies to engage (based on the experiences learned during this project, WCS had to broaden the membership to WCCTF), and to develop a concept to be presented to the Minister of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities and later to the President or Prime Minister. The change in strategy is to avoid the lengthy process of developing and negotiating interagency MoUs that were proposed earlier on during the first year of this project.

Similarly, WCS has also agreed to lead the coordination among conservation agencies, namely UCF, AWF, and NRCN, who are involved with IWT and ensure that there is information and experiences exchange, resource leverage, and to avoid duplication of support to UWA. Furthermore, the Uganda country director/project lead has also approached the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change donor's working group in Uganda to include discussions on IWT/WCT. The Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change donor's working group meet once every month. The aim is to put more pressure on government agencies to strengthen interagency coordination and sharing of intelligence information, as well as provide additional support to UWA to address other capacity gaps.

Output 4: Local law enforcement officers in protected areas use new capabilities in

SMART to more efficiently and effectively conduct ranger patrols:

The tests in Queen Elizabeth National Park continued throughout the quarter and a number of lessons and successes have been drawn from this. Commencement of the same activity in MFNP was delayed, but a preliminary orientation meeting with the Park wardens and rangers was held in MFNP on September 2017. The layers/grid for target test sites have been developed and plans are underway to roll out the MFNP test patrols in the coming quarter. Work toward developing the SMART plugin is progressing steadily with a number of statistical models and procedures completed. This activity is iterative in nature as it involves developing, testing and refining statistical models. It is hoped that the plugin will be ready for launch and rollout in the last quarter of this 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.

We have experienced a couple of challenges that, though they do not affect the budget or WCS's ability to deliver intended outputs, significantly changed the timeframe with which some activities were to be completed:

1. WCS continued experiencing difficulties in establishing a high level Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force as a result of slow response from UWA. Given that the proposed composition of this task force included government security agencies, and the fact that it is intended to operate beyond the life of this project, it was prudent for UWA to lead the process, hence WCS had less control.
2. NRCN's finance manager, who was trained by WCS under this project to improve financial management, resigned and left a big gap in the organisation. This caused delays in remitting additional funding to NRCN as WCS worked with NRCN to ensure that sound financial management and controls were in place. As such, implementation of the media strategy was delayed, but WCS aims to start this quarter.

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 (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.

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

No