

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report



Important note: To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2017

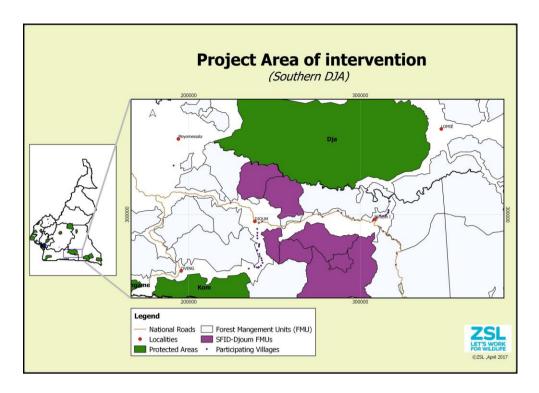
IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT031
Project title	Combatting IWT in Cameroon through improved law enforcement and community empowerment.
Country/ies	Cameroon
Contract holder Institution	Zoological Society of London
Partner institution(s)	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) Cameroon, University College London,
IWT grant value	£ 372482
Start/end dates of project	31/3/2018 01/4/2016
Reporting period (e.g. April 2016-Mar 2017) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017
Project leader name	Paul De Ornellas
Project website	http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/dja- conservation-complex
Report author(s) and date	David Olson, Julian Easton, Sophie Grange-Chamfray, Chris Ransom. 28 April 2017.

1. Project rationale

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in Central Africa undermines the rule of law, nurtures corruption and hinders development. It also threatens the region's wildlife: elephant populations have declined by 62% since 2005 and increasing numbers of pangolins are trafficked to Asian markets (e.g. 2,340 kg pangolin scales originating from Cameroon were seized in Hong Kong in June 2014). The southern Dja landscape in Cameroon, centred on the town of Djoum, is an IWT hub, as a source of illegally poached wildlife and transit route for trafficked wildlife from Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Congo and Gabon. Trafficking is often led by local elites and outside agents who exploit poorer community members, co-opted into poaching for their tracking/hunting abilities and for transporting illegal wildlife products. Local people accrue little of the benefits, see their natural resources depleted, livelihoods jeopardised, face compromised security, and feel disempowered to affect change. Land managers, both state and the private sector, lack the resources and tools to protect areas that are home to high value species. Law enforcement agents lack capacity to gather information, collect evidence and build robust cases. Low pay, low morale, and the involvement of superiors in IWT means they are vulnerable to corruption and intimidation. Prosecutors and judges demonstrate limited awareness or ability to apply relevant laws and potentially target those lower down the chain, ignoring those overseeing the illicit trade. Cameroon is a signatory to CITES and the London and Kasane Declarations, as well as being a member of COMIFAC, a sub-regional group which has committed to address IWT and reduce poaching. However, support is urgently needed to help Cameroon meet these commitments and avoid IWT driving wildlife to extinction,

maintaining a culture of criminal impunity and corruption, and leaving local people in a cycle of poverty and natural resource depletion.



2. Project partnerships

The project was designed in collaboration with the primary project partners: the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) Conservation Services (CS) of the Dja Biosphere Reserve and the University College London's Extreme Citizen Science group (ExCiteS). The project has the full support of MINFOF at central level and was based on the need expressed by MINFOF for continued external support in combating IWT. Over the course of the first year of the project we have continued to develop our relationships with the Courts of First Instance in the project zone and developed further relationships with enforcement agencies such as customs, police and gendarmes to ensure effective implementation and maximum impact of the project. We have also identified a new partner with whom to work on NTFP value chains. Key to the success of our work is the engagement and involvement of community groups around the southern sector of the Dja (as part of a larger initiative funded by other donors, including the Darwin Initiative, which enables us to work with communities around the whole protected area). To this end ZSL's social team have spent considerable time consulting and building relationships with the communities, utilising Free Prior Informed Consent (PFIC) processes. MINFOF is the partner on the site-based protection efforts and we have seen a positive change in their adaptive decision-making informed by SMART patrol data.

Partnerships in the course of this reporting period evolved as described below:

Government Agencies

ZSL has MoUs with the Government of Cameroon (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife-MINFOF) both at central level and with the Conservation Service (CS) of the DBR. In Southern Dja, ZSL supports the DBR CS as the agency responsible for managing the Dja Reserve primarily on site-based protection using the SMART approach and capacity-building for wildlife law enforcement. We liaise with MINFOF in the follow-up of IWT cases in relevant courts. We train and support actors across different government agencies, such as enforcement agents (customs, police, gendarmerie) and Ministry of Justice (prosecutors and courthouse staff) in the implementation of laws relating to wildlife crime.

Communities

ZSL has worked to empower communities and actively engage them in monitoring and management of natural resources, through reinforced local livelihoods. Community surveillance networks (CSN) and Extreme Citizen Science (ExCiteS) mechanisms have been used to enable them to monitor and report concerns regarding impacts of IWT, natural resource management and enforcement activity. They are also engaged in non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chain development and establishing village savings and loan associations (VSLAs). Through these approaches we are building trust with communities and ensuring support for efforts to tackle IWT.

Academic Institutions

The UCL Extreme Citizen Science group (UCL-ExciteS) works with ZSL's social team to implement activities to engage and empower local forest communities in monitoring and reporting on resource use, wildlife crime and law enforcement action. Their involvement in the project was delayed for several months due to serious illness of the individual identified to work in Cameroon with the ZSL team. As a result a new Research Assistant had to be identified and was only able to commence in August, delaying project activities so that this aspect of the project is behind schedule.

Private Sector

During this reporting period, ZSL continued to engage with SFID-Djoum, a company of Groupe Rougier who manage forestry concessions in the southern Dja peripheries. They benefit from improved capacity to protect their forests, and improved relations with other stakeholders. SFID wildlife protection teams were trained and supported to implement an effective adaptive management approach to site based wildlife protection using SMART approach in their concessions. ZSL also facilitated positive collaboration between SFID and DBR CS in the southern sector in order to maximise SMART capacity. After ZSL initially coordinated a joint SMART patrol by SFID Djoum and the Conservation Service of DBR (southern antenna) the SFID configurable data model was downloaded into the DBR PDA. This formed the basis for planning further joint patrols in SFID concessions.

NGOs

ZSL have established a new partnership with the NGO Tropical Forests and Rural Development to assist with the valorisation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in the project area. The input of this local partner is crucial as local experts with over 10 years of experience in developing NTFP value addition chains in Cameroon. Key aspects of their work include identification of existing institutions and associations who could be part of value-addition chains in the target communities; train and form structures and associations with financial links to VSLAs in order to collect and transform NTFPs; and link markets and buyers directly to the associations to ensure better and more efficient linkages between the supply and demand.

Media

We partnered with community radios to run interactive community radio programmes as a means of raising awareness of communities bordering the DBR in order to reduce the pressures being exerted from illegal hunting and wildlife trade. We believe these programmes are viewed favourably by communities as many local people participate either with text messages or phone calls and are contributing to the change in behaviour with regards to poaching. We have also worked with national media houses, such as CRTV (national TV), IUCN Environmental Radio and the communication department in Ministry of Wildlife (MINFOF), in order to broadcast conservation messages and create public awareness on conservation issues.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities for Output 1: Communities empowered and actively engaged in monitoring and management of natural resources, incentivised through reinforced local livelihoods Eight communities in the southern sector of the Dja have been engaged around DBR (Activity 1.1). The villages are Bii, Ze (mixed Baka and Bantu), Zobefam (mixed Baka and Bantu), Yen, Akonetythe (Baka), Bosso (Baka), Mbouma and Oding (Baka). Important contacts were

established within communities, local law enforcement agents (particularly within MINFOF), NGOs, and nearby forestry concession operators. An average of five meetings per community were held to gather baseline information and gauge attitudes to forest resource use, local wildlife, and poaching as well as to gain an understanding of local relationships. Two to three meetings were held with each community regarding the establishment of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) and introductions to the Community Surveillance Networks (CSNs) and ExCiteS programs. Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) has been processed with each participating community. Well-being and perception indicators were assessed through focus groups and KAP (knowledge, attitude, practices) surveys (Activity 1.2). A total of 15 focus groups were surveyed in six villages for a total of 128 interviewed participants (67 males and 61 female; see Annex 4 – Doc1).

The preliminary visits to communities served to gauge the concerns and interests villagers have towards forest resources, wildlife, conservation regulations, and poachers. The eleven village engaged were selected based on how strategic their locations are with regards to trafficking routes, as well as community characteristics (Activity 1.3). The FPIC process is being conducted within each village, and, if successful, leads to the testing of Sapelli for communitybased resource monitoring. Five communities (two indigenous Baka and three Bantu) completed a Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process, indicating a good understanding of the project and consent to participate. A community protocol was established in five communities with an improved understanding by community members on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports. There is satisfaction and commitment to the project by community members as a result of being consulted and engaged in the natural resource decision-making processes. There was successful data transmission in five communities as evidenced by reports received both on receiver phones and GeoKey online server (Activity 1.4, 1.5). Community-specific Sapelli projects were created for two communities, with icon ideas collated for all the five communities (Annex 4- Doc 2 for ExCiTeS progress report). Important collaborators were identified and MINFOF agents. Eco-guards and Police Officials were briefed and involved in ongoing discussions.

Prior consultation visits were made in eight villages to assess the financial and savings methods used by villagers, and then to present the VSLA's concept to communities (Activity 1.6). This was followed by the holding of two trainings in six selected villages (Bii, Ze, Yen, Bosso, Akonetye and Mbouma) on the five initial modules on VSLAs. An exchange sharing trip between new VSLA groups from Djoum and established groups of Dizangue (Lake Ossa Wildlife Reserve) was organized. Twelve people (six men, six women) participated. This particular training session highlighted the role of different community members within the group. A total of 152 persons (66 men, 86 women) are members of these VSLA (Activity 1.6).

All of the six VSLA groups established have started saving since January (Activity 1.7). The six active VSLAs count 152 members (86 women, 56.6%). They saved a total of 846,600 CFA and loaned among themselves 465,000 CFA, generating interests of 10% (46,500 CFA) that will be redistributed at the end of the cycle to all the group members (Table 1).

Table 1. VSLA finances of selected villages around the Dja Biosphere Reserve since January 2017.

Villages	Savings/FCFA	Solidarity/FCFA	Loans/FCFA
Mbouma			
Yen			
Bosso			
Ze			
Bii			
Akonetye			
TOTAL			

NTFPs have been identified in six villages we engaged around Djourn in the southern sector. The products are mostly used for subsistence purposes (Activity 1.8). Awareness has been raised in increasing the incomes through strengthening the ability of target communities to sell

their NTFPs at fair prices in order to reduce villager's likelihood to assist poachers into the forest (particularly in Baka villages). Participating village groups were aware of the potential income from NTFP when improved storage and processing methods are applied. From this study, we believe there is a high potential for profitable NTFPs in the villages concerned, including wild mango (3645 KG), Moabi (3050 KG), Njansang (196.5 L), Balaka 743 KG). The most collected NTFP and an important source of income for these communities is wild mango (average annual income of CFAF

Six producer groups in six villages around DBR are currently engaged in trainings to improve NTFP value chain in partnership with Tropical Forest and Rural Development (Activity 1.9). The training program is based on four modules, including group structuring, held in February, Admin/finance management which is scheduled to take place in April, and upcoming workshops on storage/processing/market access mechanisms. At this point, group structure training has been completed in all six villages with trainings taking at least two days per village. Admin/finance management training will be starting in mid-April. Storage and processing and market access mechanism trainings will be following the NTFP's harvesting season that starts in May with the peak in August.

Training sessions on NTFP production have started this year with an assessment of local productions in the six villages, through VSLA groups. One training module out of four is already covered. VSLAs, NTFPs, anonymous IWT reports are being channelled via secured phone numbers using our CSNs contact. The mechanism will be strengthened by the provision of phones, and radios to make target communities more efficient and secure in IWT reporting (Activity 1.10).

Three multi-stakeholder platforms were held in Abong-Mbang, Sangmelima and Djoum with the aims to build common strategies to efficiently fight against IWT and associated trade; raising awareness on current issues related to wildlife crime; and strengthening communication strategies that better involve local communities (Activity 1.11).

Activities for Output 2: Land managers (Conservation Service and timber company staff) have increased capacity to effectively protect wildlife.

Based on a review of DBR site-based protection systems and available resources for effective patrol and law enforcement, needs were jointly identified by ZSL and DBR CS (Activity 2.1). This has led to the procurement of 25 sets (MINFOF full uniforms), 6 backpacks, two tents, four headlamps, four sleeping mat, 24 pairs of batteries for GPS and one tarpaulins (Activity 2.2). A rapid response squad vehicle (Toyota 4x4) has also been purchased and reinforced later with a steel cage, skid plate, and winch. The provision of the IWT response vehicle will facilitate the rapid, safe, and efficient deployment of the team in the field. Improved communication among the teams was facilitated by providing GSM and SAT phones devices.

The SMART data model continues to be improved and, recently, due to uplisting by CITES of pangolins and grey parrots the model was reviewed and updated accordingly. A state of wildlife management in SFID-Djourn logging concessions has been completed and their wildlife team, consisting of a chief and four team members, has been trained on SMART approach (Activity 2.1).

Following SMART setup and technical support at the beginning of our involvement, training is becoming more focused on senior management so that they can effectively use the SMART querying, planning and reporting capabilities. So far, a total of 24 training days were carried out over this reporting period (Activity 2.2). These training days were split as follows: 6 days (13th to 18th June) of data collection training for 28 rangers; 12 days (26th March-7th April) of patrolling and surveillance training by Retarius (a field tactical skills trainer) for 15 people; 6 days (29th -30th November 2016; 16th-17th December 2016, 16th and 19th January 2017) for SMART planning and reporting training. Field training for patrol teams is ongoing and led by ZSL SMART specialists.

There has been an increase in the number of firearms (08 to 14) and ammunition (95 to 114) seized, poachers arrested (30 against 6 a year before) and we are increasing our patrol effort (20% increase from 2,230 km to 5,500 km). We have gone from 30% coverage (% patrol cover is based on the proportion of 5 km² grid cells through which a patrol passed at least once) to 67% coverage over the course of this grant. To date, 80 ecoguards are equipped, trained and capable of carrying SMART based anti-poaching patrol with minimal supervision required. Heads of sectors are confidently evaluating patrol data, cleaning data, and producing useful reports (Annex 4 – Doc4a & b for example mission reports). In addition, we have supported the Conservation service to establish an IWT rapid response squad and to carry out river-based patrols along the southern DBR boundary, the Dja River, in order to improve the coverage and the mobility of the rangers (Activity 2.2).

In SFID-Djoum logging concessions, wildlife teams previously patrolled with GPS only. Now they use PDA CEDAR CT4, with a three-day training refresher on data collection being provided in September 2016 to five people (the coordinator of management unit, the wildlife team chief and three members) (Activity 2.3). This included a practical exercise in the forest and an introduction on SMART queries. We reviewed the data model, how to setup the PDAs, how to export the configurable data model from computer to the PDA, how to import the data from the device to the computer and visualize them on a map. Four people are patrolling with an average of at least 20 days per month (at least four days a week) and are now experienced with the data model (Activity 2.3). Further training on SMART queries and reporting will be done with the new wildlife team chief. We have discussed with the companies the utility of dividing concessions into a grid with cells of 25 km² (standardized with the Dja Biosphere Reserve monitoring approach) in order to better track wildlife, patrol efficiency, and IWT activity throughout entire concessions.

Following the initial setup and data collection training organised prior to this grant in the DBR and adjacent timber concessions, advanced training on SMART reporting and planning as well as data collection refresher training has been ongoing to ensure all the staff are capable of effectively patrolling according to agreed protocols. ZSL is providing patrol mobilisation funds and ensures patrol are carried out based on initial agreed plan (targets, areas to cover, number of days, etc.). So far, despite the challenge of bringing together DBR senior staff together at a single site, two evaluation meetings (November 2016 and January 2017) have been organised to discuss patrol performance and approaches and adapt patrol strategy, if necessary (Activity 2.4). Monthly visits are organised in as many DBR sectors as possible for troubleshooting, technical support, and updates, and to confirm rangers are motivated and patrolling in the field. The ZSL SMART expert is carrying a weekly supervision call to each head of sector to ensure things are progressing according to SMART standards. The sequence of SMART implementation as agreed with the DBR CS has reached a good level with targeted patrols gathering meaningful data in timely reports that inform management.

Activities for Output 3: Enforcement agents, prosecutors and court house staff trained and supported in the implementation of laws relating to wildlife crime.

ZSL is committed to ensuring that all training and support programs are consistent and in keeping with the requirements for its law enforcement partners. Therefore, bespoke training inputs, relevant to particular roles, environments and agencies have been developed and implemented by ZSL in-house law enforcement experts (Activity 3.1). These inputs have been created in consultation with internal and external agencies, and take into account especially the levels of resources and experience available to the participants. Specialist support and long term mentoring is made available (i.e. wildlife crime experts, specialist intelligence support, customs and smuggling experts) as well as this facility being provided during the bespoke training.

Two illegal wildlife trade workshops were organized in Abong-Mbang and Somolomo for law enforcement officers with general jurisdiction (Gendarmerie and police), for officers with special Jurisdiction Customs and sworn-in MINFOF staff, prosecutors, and local community members (Activity 3.2; Annex 4 – Doc 5). The focus was on Cameroon wildlife law with emphasis on the importance of respecting procedure from seizure to reporting. We covered the role of the

Judiciary in handing down maximum judgments as per the law to dissuade current and potential traffickers. A total of 52 participants attended the two workshops, from forest sworn-in forest guards and anonymous community informants to law enforcement and Judiciary officers (Activity 3.2).

A further 4 training courses have been held covering topics including the content of Cameroonian wildlife legislation, how to carry out investigations, collecting and managing evidence etc to Gendarmerie, Customs and Police officers working in and around the DBR, as well as for officers of the judiciary and sworn law enforcement agents (OPJ status officers), gendarmes and customs officials. These inputs were aimed at highlighting the importance of following the relevant laid-down procedures for wildlife cases in prosecutions. Judicial officers were also privy to input and discussion surrounding the impact and severity of requisite sentences for wildlife offences, and the message that such sentencing could deter criminals involved in similar activities. Law enforcement training was delivered as follows (Activity 3.2):

- September 2016 Retarius Training at Somolomo: 18 MINFOF agents (Annex 4 Doc 6)
- January 2017 Basic Law Enforcement Training at Lomie: 25 MINFOF agents
- March 2017 Anti-Smuggling Unit at Yaounde Airport: 14 CAAT agents from police, gendarmerie and customs
- March 2017 Anti-Smuggling Unit at Douala Airport: 15 CAAT agents from police, gendarmerie and customs

Part of the creation of bespoke courses involves an assessment of general skills, knowledge and experiences (Activity 3.3). The specialist training courses are generally practically based. and exercises are built into the courses to continually test participants' knowledge and learning. Participants are asked to complete feedback in respect of the course delivered and this enables changes/improvements to be factored into any subsequent inputs. Assessment on the knowledge and understanding of participants was carried out immediately following the training and is being tallied informally, and through specific feedback media. Training needs assessment and their results are envisaged to be used in future training sessions and we are hopeful that the spirit of collaboration generated by these training would be enhanced and sustained. Informal and formal protocols are put into place during and after each training element, which enables participants to continue to communicate, and to share information, experiences and knowledge (Activity 3.4). These forums provide a basis on which to evaluate future training requirements, and also an opportunity to complement the training with operational support. We worked with the Judicial Unit of MINFOF, the Regional Chiefs for Wildlife and Protected Areas for the East and the South, as well as the MINFOF field staff charged with following up on key illegal wildlife crime cases in court (Activity 3.5).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Communities empowered and actively engaged in monitoring and management of natural resources, incentivised through reinforced local livelihoods.

Ten communities have become part of the Dia Community Surveillance Network (CSN) and five of these are currently employing the ExCiteS tools for reporting intelligence (Indicator 1.1). Community informants have reported 40 IWT-related incidents (e.g. poacher activity, ivory observed, elephants killed) to date, several actionable reports that were responded to by our law enforcement teams in an appropriate fashion. Arrests and prosecutions resulting from CSN reports are being tracked but it is too early for confident data as yet (Indicator 1.2). Livelihood, 'well-being' and attitude surveys have been conducted in six communities, comprising a total of 128 people interviewed for the quantitative survey around DBR (Indicator 1.3). Six VSLAs have been established in six villages, with membership varying from nine to 50 for a total of 152 members of which 66 are men and 86 are women (Indicator 2.1, 2.2). For the first three months, the average saving per member in Bantu villages is around 6,000 FCFA and 660 FCFA for Baka communities (Indicator 2.3). Perception surveys are forthcoming (Indictor 2.4). Six community groups comprising 136 potential NTFP participants are currently trained to improve value chains for NTFP, in partnership with Tropical Forest and Rural Development (Indicator 3.1). The focus has been on production techniques to develop value chains for three target forest fruit/essential oil products, bushmango, moabi, and njansang. A training program on group structure, administration and financial management, storage and processing, and market access mechanisms are underway. The NTFPs harvest season is in May when these skills will be applied. A participatory appraisal was carried out in six communities in order to establish baseline data related to income from NTFPs with estimated incomes of bushmango at 3645 kg generating CFA F/yr, njanssang at 197 l for CFA F/yr, and moabi at 3,050 kg for CFA F/yr (Indicator 3.2). Perception surveys (metrics defined in initial phase of project) will assess 'well-being' and attitudes towards NTFP, IWT, and wildlife laws (Indicator 3.3). Three broad stakeholder platform meetings have been held in Abong-Mbang, Sangmelima and Djoum (Indicator 4.1), including community members, MINFOF/Eco-guards, FMO, Ministry of Justice, local radio partners, and partner NGOs (Indicator 4.2) with meeting minutes taken (Indicator 4.3).

Output 2: Land managers (Conservation Service and timber company staff) have increased capacity to effectively protect wildlife.

Twenty-four training days were carried out over this reporting period. These training days were: 6 days (13th to 18th June) of data collection training for 28 rangers; 12 days (26th March-7th April) of patrolling and surveillance training by Retarius (a tactical field operations trainer) for 15 people; 6 days (29th -30th November 2016; 16th-17 h December 2016, 16th and 19 h January 2017) for SMART planning and reporting training (Indicator 1.1; Annex 4). The on-the-job training for patrol team is ongoing and is coordinated by the ZSL SMART expert. Patrolling per month has increased with the number of days in patrol varying from 20 days/months (two teams for 10 days) to 30 days/months (three teams of eight men for 10 days) (Indicator 1.2). Prior to this grant, SMART patrols were carried out in only one of the four DBR sectors (northern) with 10 men patrolling for 10 days twice a month. As from October, 2015 ZSL started supporting the remaining three sectors, through and the number of patrols has climbed to above 20 days/month (Indicator 1.2). A year prior to the project start, SMART data from 20 patrol within the DBR 4 sectors revealed seizures of 8 firearms, 95 ammunitions 141 pieces of bushmeat, 8 people arrested, and 89 gunshots heard (Indicator 1.3, 1.4). During this phase, through the 105 patrols carried out there were 30 poachers apprehended, 14 firearms seized, 114 ammunitions seized, 206 pieces of bushmeat seized, and no gunshots (Indicator 1.3, 1.4).

Timber company wildlife protection teams have been trained and supported to implement an effective adaptive management approach to site-based wildlife protection (SMART approach) in timber concessions. One major FMU close to the Dja DBR has a wildlife team trained and operational over 8 days (Indicator 2.1) with training on field operations and data collections ongoing. The team patrols at least four days a week with an average of 20 days a month (Indicator 2.2). The patrols have collected two firearms, 14 cartridges, and 132 snares (Indicator 2.3) and six arrests have been made (Indicator 2.4).

Output 3: Enforcement agents, prosecutors and court house staff trained and supported in the implementation of laws relating to wildlife crime.

Output 3 is being well-achieved with 5 training workshops having been held, with participation of 124 individuals and a total number of 20 training days (Indicator 1.1).

IWT-related arrests are at 36 to date in the target landscape: 30 arrests by MINFOF ecoguards in Dja BR and six in FMU Sfid-Djoum (Indicator 1.2). Following of and tallying of metrics for ongoing cases and prosecutions is still underway (Indicator 1.3).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Reduced poaching of elephants and other trafficked species in the southern Dja landscape of Cameroon by empowering local communities, reinforcing livelihoods, improved wildlife protection and application of laws relating to wildlife crime in a hotspot for illegal wildlife trade in central Africa – leads to poverty reduction, improved governance and security.

Discussions with communities during introduction and training sessions for CSNs and Sapelli suggest that these tools and systems make most feel more empowered to better manage their natural resources and be engaged in reducing the negative impacts of wildlife crime (Indicator 1). The 30 arrests by MINFOF ecoguards in Dja BR and the 6 arrests in FMU Sfid-Djoum represents a seven-fold increase in arrests since 2015 in the target areas (Indicator 2; >40% increase by end year 2 is the indicator target). Seizures of wildlife products, firearms, and

ammunition are all up, though volumes of wildlife product seizures are only slightly elevated presently. Prosecutions are still being tracked and ongoing cases and sentencing is still falling far short from what one would expect from strict accordance with Cameroonian law (Indicator 3). The judicial process here is complex and slow. We continue to follow relevant cases. Documented poaching incidents are being tracked through SMART patrols, with a slight decrease in elephant carcasses being discovered in the target area (Indicator 4). Seized firearms, ammunition, and arrests are up, and anecdotal reports from our intelligence suggests that poaching groups are shifting away from heavily patrolled areas. Accurate poaching incidents are challenging to measure, but over time SMART patrol data should provide some confident trend data. There is no silver bullet to counter poaching of elephants and other vulnerable wildlife. Continuing application of our suite of targeted activities over time we assume will begin to diminish poaching intensity within the target area and disrupt poaching networks. The trending of our four indicators is not counter to the validity of this assumption.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Government continues to support international efforts to address IWT MINFOF, Customs, Gendarmes, police, and the Judiciary have all attended workshops and continue to state support for efforts to stem IWT. The degree to which this is demonstrated by the actions of various sectors and individuals varies considerably, but the formal stance is clear government support for reducing IWT.

Assumption 2: Empowerment of local communities contributes to reduced incidence of wildlife crime in SE Cameroon

Creation of VSLAs in target communities and development of associated activities, such as enhancement of NTFPs value chains, are giving local people an alternative to improve their well-being and this, in turn, should reduce interest in engaging in the commercial wildlife trade. People are enthusiastic of the new savings system and we assume that the participation of at least 50% of women will increase the impact of the change in behaviour because "women are more protective and they think more about tomorrow and the future generations" (Brouwer, M: Securing women's rights is essential for forest preservation. Women's rights, 2016). CSN/ExCiteS provides community members with secure methods for monitoring and reporting IWT information. They are well-informed of the program in advance and support and engagement is good so far.

Assumption 3: Strengthening law enforcement processes leads to a reduction in incidence of wildlife crime

In support of this assumption, we are observing that increased patrols within sections of the reserve appear to be shifting poaching activity away from those areas, based on preliminary patrol-based data and anecdotal information gathered from local communities. There has been an increase in IWT-related arrests and seizures as well, largely, we believe, as a result of increased enforcement effort, and we hope this will act as deterrent to poaching within the Dja Reserve and its environs.

Assumption 4: Incentives offered through ExCites, VSLAs and improved NTFP value chains are sufficient to ensure long term community participation in efforts to fight IWT. Local communities are key contributors in the fight against IWT because they know who is involved in IWT and the patterns of wildlife crime. Community members need to perceive more benefit from non-IWT activities so as to dissuade them from participating in and supporting IWT. The additional income from ExCiteS, VSLAs and improved NTFP value chains will help motivate people not to engage in IWT.

4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

The project impact statement to be considered: Impact: A significant reduction in illegal wildlife trade and its impact on elephants and other trafficked species, and poverty reduced in Cameroon

What contribution is your project making to a higher level impact on illegal wildlife trade?

The project is aiming at diminishing IWT through (1) increased anti-poaching field presence and more efficient patrolling in the reserve and forestry management units, (2) engaging communities in identifying IWT-related activities and entities in a secure way and managing the intelligence for a broader picture across the landscape, (3) increasing awareness of wildlife value and laws, and (4) strengthening the judiciary so that IWT-related crimes are properly prosecuted so as to act as a stronger deterrent. There is no single intervention that will substantively diminish IWT by itself, one has to work on many fronts at once in a wise, coordinated, and responsible way and adapt mitigations to changing conditions and opportunities. Are we having an impact? We believe so, at least for the areas within and adjacent to the DBR given that poaching seems to be diminished in sectors where patrols are increased, communities are telling us about IWT activities. In addition, local people are increasingly and are very interested to participate in surveillance programs and alternative income initiatives, and arrests and seizures are up in the region. One of our most significant contributions is likely that we are well on our way to building a picture of the IWT network within the region – the actors, the networks, the hotspots, the way things work – all information that can be used to leverage significant action at higher levels with cascading effects into disruption IWT in the local landscape and broader region.

Within the reserve and the forestry concessions, the implementation of the SMART approach is quite recent and patrol data are now managed in secure platforms and used to deploy patrols and resources in a wise and adaptive fashion. Overall, we are noting an improvement on patrol deployment (patrol effort, patrol deployment ensuring more coverage), on the qualities of data collected, and an increase in the number of guns, cartridges confiscated and poachers arrested. The park is vast and the percentage of patrol coverage has now gone over 60% and if the current rate is maintained, we expect a full park coverage soon. Anecdotal information suggests that poaching rings are shifting their operations away from sectors where patrols are more frequent.

What contribution is your project making to a higher level impact on human development and wellbeing (poverty alleviation)?

Innovative VSLA's saving system, associated with NTFP value chain development, enhances relationships between forest dwellers and their environment while improving their well-being. For example, in Baka communities, savings has never been part of their culture, but through VSLAs and NTFP value chain development they are gradually embracing a savings culture. People also are able to obtain small loans through the VSLA system, thereby, enabling them to start small businesses and to resolve household needs. The commercial illegal wildlife trade brings in a lot of unsavoury characters and elements to the local society. For example, middlemen poachers have been reported to kidnap family members who are only released after a Baka hunter goes into the forest to kill elephants for ivory. Eliminating or diminishing IWT activity within the region will clearly improve the well-being and security of local people. Unfortunately, there is an enormous amount of cash involved in the poaching networks and there is inherent danger and insecurity associated with anyone who is involved or exposed to their activities. And the majority of local people see the commercial poaching operations as stealing their natural resources – emptying their forests.

5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declaration and Kasane Statement

VSLAs and NTFPs are aimed at developing sustainable livelihoods within local communities affected by IWT and to give them an alternative to poaching. Much of our law enforcement work is aimed at strengthening the knowledge, processes, and effectiveness of law enforcement in securing evidence for cases, the judiciary for being familiar with wildlife laws and acting accordingly, and well-coordinated prosecution from arrests to appropriate sentencing.

Cameroon is a signatory to the London declaration and the Kasane Statement and this project supports the following commitments:

- London Conference Declaration: X, XI, XII, XIII, XV, XVII, XIX, XX
- Kasane Statement: 9, 12, 13

6. Impact on species in focus

Our assumptions are that by improving the quality and quantity of wildlife law enforcement inside and outside of the reserve, empowering communities to help manage their natural resources, and provide alternatives to local people, we will help make the Dja Biosphere Reserve and surrounding forestry management units refugia for threatened and exploited wildlife species. Although some wildlife monitoring has occurred within the region, in the past it has been relatively unstandardized and of questionable quality. ZSL has recently started to standardize wildlife monitoring throughout the DBR landscape and we hope to be able to measure wildlife population trends with more confidence in the near future. Direct attribution of activities of this project on the trajectory of focal species populations is difficult, at best, and would require an expanded research program with multiple controls and years of study to be able to assess attribution with statistical rigor. That being said, we are confident in our assumptions that the actions focused on in this project are proven to improve the status of wildlife in target regions.

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

Local Baka and Bantu communities around the border of the Dja Biosphere Reserve are the direct beneficiaries of reduced IWT activity in the region. Though some individuals may have financial gain from being involved in IWT networks, the overall community will suffer from reduced and unpredictable resources and an increase in social ills and insecurity. The implementation of VSLAs contributes to developing a novel savings culture to traditional communities and facilitate access to small loans to members of communities with low income. The VSLAs provide a flexible way of accessing savings that is adapted to irregular incomes. Reduction in poaching and IWT will directly help maintain more resilient natural ecosystems and faunas such that natural resources that local people depend upon for their survival and livelihoods will continue to be available and reliable. IWT is rapidly destroying local vertebrate faunas that, when gone, will have profound impacts on forest regeneration, plant resources, and the availability of protein for local consumption.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

All the six created VSLA groups have started savings since January that can benefit families and both genders. The VSLAs count 152 members with 86 (56.6%) being women. VSLA and NTFP projects are expected to benefit women and men in roughly equal proportions given this membership ratio.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

For keeping track of progress and estimating impacts, we monitor indicators as outlined in the logframe. These are tracked using a variety of data and information sources, some generated directly by the project and some from external sources. The logframe identifies each source of information and the frequency they will need to be monitored. Information used includes that generated by the project (e.g. monthly and annual reports, attitudinal survey, household surveys, reports of training courses, minutes of focus groups, VSLA savings books on quarterly basis) and external sources (e.g. national reports to CITES, monitoring reports from NGOs, MINFOF based on the frequency of their dissemination, media reports, reports from police cases, court proceedings etc. to be collated and assessed on bi-annual basis).

For this IWT effort, based on the logframe indicators, we are monitoring the following strong metrics and adaptively managing the project on the basis of progress and trends in each:

Direct action against poaching of wildlife

- Percent area of reserve covered by patrols on a regular basis
- Frequency and quality of SMART-based patrol reports being generated across the reserve
- Number of seizures of arms, ammunition, snares, bushmeat, ivory, pangolin scale
- Number of arrests of poachers

Reducing support and engagement with IWT among local communities

Number of communities and people adopting VSLA and NTFP projects

- Amount of savings, loans, income generated by alternative income generation schemes
- Number of community surveillance networks reports over time
- Attitudinal shifts from baseline of local people regarding wildlife and IWT

Strengthening law enforcement and judiciary to enforce wildlife laws and deter IWT actions

- Number of effectively prosecuted IWT cases
- Number of IWT law training participants (indirect)
- Gaining knowledge of the bigger picture of the IWT network within the region (actors, routes, networks, other details)

10. Lessons learnt

Some Lessons Learned

The use of open source tools such as SMART, continuous training (because there is high turnover government personnel), supported by effective equipment procurement and follow-up systems promote accountability and transparency. This makes the staff at each level feel part of the process. It is critical to follow up on funding and materiel delivery to ensure the right gear gets into the hands of the right people at the right time.

The general slowness or lack of response of some wildlife authorities to intelligence tips from the communities causes a loss of motivation by participating community members. Therefore, the messaging of field teams to communities needs to be carefully considered and accurate, highlighting the importance of their contributions to higher-level interventions to reducing IWT.

We have a confidential 'map' of trusted and less trusted individuals and organizations with whom we should continue to engage with or not, if we have a choice. It is critical to monitor such relationships and manage them well so as not to shut doors but also so as to have maximum impacts from interventions and investments.

Careful consideration of where actions and investments can have the greatest impact is essential on a regular basis. Risks for our staff and partners associated with different interventions are also critical to evaluate as some of the IWT actors are dangerous and influential.

Increased attention in a sector of the reserve or within a FMU has the effect of shifting poaching activity out of that area at least for a time.

Local communities, in general, have great interest in seeing IWT activity diminished or eradicated as they perceive its detrimental effects on their livelihoods, well-being, and security.

11. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Our project methods are being refined regularly as we seek novel and effective ways to achieve outcomes despite real challenges presented by pervasive and high levels of corruption, large sums of IWT money co-opting potential partners, dangerous security situations presented by IWT organized crime cartels and networks, remote and difficult working conditions, and unpredictable governance of protected areas among others. We have made real progress in some areas and are starting to see precursors of a sea change in attitudes and action throughout the landscape. There is no silver bullet in reducing IWT, one has to work on many fronts at the same time and be nimble to jump on opportunities when they arise or back away from dead end or dangerous activities when necessary. For example, one ecoguard patrol arrested a poacher and when they exited the reserve they went through his village. The community detained the ecoguards, held them hostage, beat them up severely, and stole their weapons. The matter was later resolved by MINFOF and law enforcement authorities, but careful consideration of how to revise standard operating procedures was required. Project staff face many risks. ZSL has a duty of care to staff and partners and has done what it can to

adequately mitigate risk through first aid training, conflict resolution and human rights training, providing adequate first aid and communications tools, FPIC processes, implementing safe transport policies, and employing responsible and secure approaches to IWT surveillance and law enforcement support activities.

13. Sustainability and legacy

Our community projects, such as VSLAs, NTFPS, and ExCiteS/CSN, are meant to empower the participating communities to take over the activities without outside support over time. Within the protected area, the SMART reports are generated by DBR staff themselves who are

gradually taking ownership of the approach to ensure sustainability and continuity in the process. Our SMART work in the DBR is now being heavily promoted in the other parts of the TRIDOM (logging concessions, Mengame Wildlife Sanctuary and Kom National Park and Deng Deng National Park and we hope to soon get the Cameroon Forest Ministry to assign a focal point whose main role will be to oversee long-term use of the system.

ZSL consistently highlights the Dja IWT program in various fora in country, such as the conservation community meetings, meeting with EU and UNESCO partners, and in a range of workshops and meetings with different government and diplomatic entities.

14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

In all ZSL communication about our conservation work around the Dja Biosphere Reserve we mention the IWT Challenge Fund and its UK Government sponsors as supporters of the work.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2016-March 2017)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)		(4)		
Renaud Bailleux (Community Technical Advisor (part time)				
Simeon Eyebe (Community Coordinator)				
Oliver Fankem (Research, Monitoring and Surveillance Coordinator)				
Mado Bata (Research, Monitoring and Surveillance Officer)				
Vicky Laure Fomete (Finance and Administration Manager)				
Ali Sabou (Driver)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Monitoring & Evaluation				
Capital items (see below)				
IT Equipment (2 laptop & software)				
Vehicle 4x4 hilux for DBR conservation service				
Others (see below)				
Fuel and Vehicle maintenance				
Vehicle insurance & taxes				
Communication (internet/phone) (30%)				
Materials to support community interventions (NTFP processing tools, VSLA resource materials etc.)				
Media programmes and print journalism costs				
Hand held PDA devices and IWaccessores of the PDA devices and IWaccess of the PDA devices of the				

Other<£1,000	
TOTAL	

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and <u>fully</u> explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by IWT?

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

We have gone from 30% coverage (% patrol cover is based on the proportion of 5 km² grid cells through which a patrol passed at least once) to 67% coverage over the course of this grant. To date, 80 ecoguards are equipped, trained and capable of carrying SMART based anti-poaching patrol with minimal supervision required. SMART Patrols have been extended to the other 03 sectors with head of sectors confidently evaluating patrol data, cleaning data, and producing useful reports. In addition, ZSL has created an IWT rapid response squad and is supporting river-based patrols along the DBR boundary, the Dja River, in order to improve the coverage and the mobility of the rangers.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2016-2017

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact: A significant reduction in illegal wildlife trade and its impact on elephants and other trafficked species, and poverty reduced in Cameroon		After a year only, impacts of law enforcement on targeted species is difficult to evaluate but, in general, as a broad indicator increasing direct encounters) of species such as elephants, gorilla, and chimpanzee are recorded during patrols	
Outcome: Reduced poaching of elephants and other trafficked species in the southern Dja landscape of Cameroon by empowering local communities, reinforcing livelihoods, improved wildlife protection and application of laws relating to wildlife crime in a hotspot for illegal wildlife trade in central Africa – leads to poverty reduction, improved governance and security.	Indicator 1: Communities report improved sense of empowerment in local decision making regarding wildlife crime and a reduction in the negative impacts of IWT affecting them from baseline levels (established by month 6) by end year 2.	10 CSN communities (among which 5 involved ExCiteS) have been established with IWT information received on elephants, ivories, bushmeats and poachers reported cases. Over 40 IWT incidents were reported by community members. 6 VSLAs were installed in 6 villages, with number of members varying from 09 to 50 for a total of 152 members 66 men and 86 women). 136 potential members for NTFP's production are being trained in 6 communities on production techniques to develop value chain with three target products: Bushmango, Moabi, Njansang	ExCiteS implementation will continue in 5 participating villages with data collection commencement. CSN activities will continue in the 10 villages. CSN activities will continue in the 10 villages with trainings and information coming from informants for law enforcement actions. NTFP trainings will continue with module 2 and 3 in 6 target communities. VSLAs activities continue in 6 target communities with savings and loans to improve livelihood and alleviate poverty.
	Indicator 2: Increase in arrests for wildlife trafficking offences and seizures of illegal wildlife products by at least 40% (<5 arrests in 2015 to date) by end year 2.	30 poachers were arrested within the DBR in this period	SMART reports

Indicator 3: At least 40% increase in successful prosecutions of IWT cases with appropriate sentencing in accordance with Cameroonian law by end year 2.	Not yet achieved, in progress	
Indicator 4: At least 40% decrease in incidents of poaching of elephants and other trafficked species in and around the southern Dja landscape by end year 2.	We are observing a slight decrease in the number carcasses found (07) and an increase in the number of seized firearms and ammunitions (18 and 105, respectively) for this reporting period though trends are not substantiated as yet.	For next grant period we will continue to support DBR CS in carrying informed patrols following the SMART approach. We will formalise the functionality of the rapid response units squad and organise more training for an effective river patrol. We will finalise the equipment of operation room in all 4 DBR sectors. For DBR, a performance based incentive system will be developed and validated to ensure ecoguards are motivated carrying out effective patrols.

Output 1: Communities
empowered and actively
engaged in monitoring
and management of
natural resources,
incentivised through
reinforced local
livelihoods.

Indicator 1: At least 10 communities utilising mechanisms (CSNs, ExCiteS) to enable them to monitor and report concerns regarding impacts of IWT, natural resource management and enforcement activity by end yr 2.

- 1.1. # incidents IWT related incidents reported by local communities by end yr 2 (from baseline determined at start of project).
- 1.2. # arrests and prosecutions resulting from reports from local communities by end yr 2 (from baseline determined at start of project).
- 1.3. Livelihood, 'well-being' and attitude metrics increase in participating communities by end yr 1 and 2 from baselines determined at the start of the project.

- 10 CSN communities (among which 5 involved ExCiteS) have been established with IWT information received on elephants, great apes, bushmeats and poachers (Annex 4, mission reports)
- 1.1 Over 40 IWT incidents were reported by community members.
- 1.2 In progress
- 1.3 In progress

Indicator 2: VSLAs established in at least 10 communities with participation of at least 15 people per VSLA of which at least 50% are women. VSLAs are self-sustaining, accruing savings for participants of at least 20,000cfa per annum (based on VSLA average elsewhere in Cameroon) and perceived as providing an incentive to participate in efforts to address IWT.

- 2.1. # VSLAs established by end vr 1 and 2.
- 2.2. # of community members participating in VSLAs by end year 1 and 2.
- 2.3. Value of savings accrued by participants per annum.
- 2.4. Perception survey metrics (defined in initial phase of project) demonstrate an increase in 'wellbeing' and attitudes towards IWT issues and law enforcement amongst VSLA members.

- 2.1. 6 VSLAs established and functioning by yr 1 (Annex 4, community engagement reports)
- 2.2. 152 community members are participating in VSLAs within which 19 are from Baka communities
- 2.3. For the 1st 3 months, the average saving per member is around 6,000 FCFA and less for Baka communities (660 FCFA per member) (Annex 4, social surveys)
- 2.4 In progress

Indicator 3: Improved value chains for NTFPs developed for producer groups in at least 10 communities leading to increased income by end yr 2 (from baseline determined at start of project) and perceived as providing an incentive to participate in efforts to address IWT.	 3.1 136 potential members for NTFP's production are being trained in 6 communities on production techniques to develop value chain with three target products: Bushmango, Moabi, Njansang (Annex 4, community engagement reports) 3.2 A participatory appraisal was carried out in 6 communities in order to establish baseline data related to income from NTFPs (Annex 4, NTFP reports) 3.3 In progress
3.1. # NTFP producers trained in improved production techniques.	
3.2. Income from NTFPs by end yr 1 and 2 compared to baseline at start of project.	
3.3. Perception survey metrics (defined in initial phase of project) demonstrate an increase in 'well-being' and attitudes towards IWT issues and law enforcement amongst community members involved in NTFP value chain.	
Indicator 4: Communities actively participating in stakeholder	4.1 3 platforms organized
platform	4.2 Community members, MINFOF/Eco-guards, FMO, Ministry of justice, local radio partners, NGOs (Annex 4, training reports)
4.1 # of platform meetings held	4.3 Collaboration strategies, discretion of informants, proactive measure, relevant information
4.2 Stakeholder groups represented on platform	communication methods
4.3 Minutes of stakeholder meetings	
consultation with potential villages lling candidates for involvement in	Eight potential communities have been visited and identified around DBR. The villages include Bii, Ze (mixed Baka and Bantu), Zobefam (mixed Baka and Bantu), Yen, Akonetythe (Baka), Bosso (Baka), Mbouma and Oding (Baka). Important contacts were established with communities, local law enforcement agents (particularly within MINFOF), NGOs, and forest concessions. An average of 4 meetings per Community were held to attain baseline information and gauge attitudes to forest resource use, local wildlife, and poaching and to gain an understanding of local relationships and

	power dynamics. Two – three meetings were held for each community for the establishment of VSLAs as well as training on NTFPs and sensitizations on the CSNs and ExCiteS (See field reports).
	Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) has been processed with the potential villages around priority sites.
Activity 1.2. Socioeconomic and perception surveys to characterise livelihood metrics, develop relevant metrics of 'well-being' and attitudes towards IWT issues and law enforcement.	Well-being and perception indicators were assessed through focus groups and KAP (knowledge, attitude, practices) surveys. Fifteen focus groups were surveyed in 6 villages for a total of 117 participants. A total of 128 (67 males and 61 female) were interviewed (See questionnaire and draft baseline report).
Activity 1.3. Development, in consultation with communities, of ExCiteS data model, PDA icon interface and associated protocols, socialisation of project through community	The preliminary visits to villages were carried out from 10 th September - 18 th October served to gauge the concerns and interests villagers have towards forest resources, wildlife, conservation regulations, and poachers.
workshops/events, participatory mapping, and mechanism for ongoing communication and reporting between communities and project team established	Eight villages were selected based on how strategic their locations are with regards to trafficking routes, as well as community characteristics. From here, the FPIC process can continue leading to the utilisation of Sapelli.
	From 3 rd February – 17 th March, ExCiteS data model has been introduced in 8 communities around the DBR using FPIC. 5 communities (2 indigenous and 3 Bantu) completed an FPIC form, indicating a good understanding of the project and consent to participate. A community protocol was established in 4/5 communities and a greater understanding by community members on how to engage with the Sapelli interface and successfully make reports. There is satisfaction and commitment to the project by community members as a result of being consulted and engaged in decision-making processes. At least 5 meetings were held in each village (see community selection and ExCiteS field report attached).
Activity 1.4. Implementation and ongoing support for ExCiteS implementation.	There is successful data transmission in 4/5 communities as evidenced by reports received both on receiver phones and GeoKey online server. (ExCiteS activity report)
	Community-specific Sapelli projects were created for two communities, with icon ideas collated for all the five communities.
	Important collaborators were identified and some actors noted – MINFOF agents, Eco-guards and Police Officials were briefed and involved in ongoing discussions.
Activity 1.5. ExCiteS information integrated into secure database with regular data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting.	Sapelli has been tested in 5 villages, Sapelli data will be received both on receiver phones (at ZSL) and GeoKey, where analysis, monitoring and reporting will be made.
Activity 1.6. Training sessions on VSLAs in participating communities.	Prior consultation visits were made in 11 villages to assess the financial and savings methods used by villagers, and then to present the VSLA's concept to communities. This was followed by the holding of 2 trainings in 6 selected villages (Bii, Ze, Yen, Bosso, Akonetye and Mbouma) on the 5 initial modules "Guidelines of procedures of the VSLAs". A third training was conducted from 14 th -18 th February as exchange sharing trip between new VSLA groups from Djoum and former groups of Dizangue (Lake Ossa Wildlife Reserve). A total of 12 people (6 men, 6 women) were part of this trip. This particular

		training session highlighted the role of the community agents within the group. A total of 152 persons (66 men, 86 women) are members of these VSLAs (see sharing trip, training field reports).
Activity 1.7. Establishment of VSLAs and regular (at least monthly) follow up visits to ensure functioning.		All the 6 created groups have started savings since January. The 6 active VSLAs count 152 members (86 women, 56.6%). They saved a total of CFA and loaned among themselves CFA, generating interests of 10% (CFA) that will be redistributed at the end of the cycle to all the group members.
Activity 1.8. Analysis of NTFP production in communities and identification of ways to enhance values (e.g. production, processing, storage techniques etc).		NTFPs have been identified in 6 villages we visited around Djoum. These are mostly used for subsistence purposes. Awareness has been raised in increasing the income through strengthening the ability of target communities to sell their NTFPs at fair prices in order to reduce villager's likelihood to assist poachers into the forest (particularly in Baka villages). Participating village groups were aware of the potential income from NTFP when improved storage and processing methods are applied. From this study, there is a high potential for NTFPs in the villages concerned, including wild mango (3645 KG), Moabi (3050 KG), Njansang (196.5 L), Balaka 743 KG). The most collected NTFP and an important source of income for these communities is Wild Mango (average annual income of CFAF (See ZSL/TF-RD contract and report)
Activity 1.9. Training of NTFP producer groups on improved production and equitable market access mechanisms and implementation of NTFP value chain enhancement activities.		Six producer groups in 6 selected villages around DBR are currently engaged in trainings to improve NTFP value chain in partnership with Tropical Forest and Rural Development. The training program is based on 4 modules including group structuring (held in February), Admin/finance management (scheduled to take place in April), storage and processing, and market access mechanism. At this point, group structure training has been completed in all 6 villages with trainings taking at least 2 days per village. Admin/finance management training will be starting few days from now (April). Storage and processing, and market access mechanism trainings will be following the NTFP's harvesting season which starts in May with the peak in August.
Activity 1.10. Ongoing support to communities for VSLA uptake and function, NTFP production enhancements and encourage communication for anonymously-reported IWT information via secure phone number.		Training sessions on NTFP production have started this year with an assessment of local productions in the 6 villages, through VSLA groups. 1 training module out of 4 is already covered. The report from this baseline is available. VSLAs, NTFPs, anonymous IWT reports are being channelled via secured phone numbers using our
		CSNs contact. The mechanism will be strengthened by the provision of phones, and radios to make target communities more performant in IWT reporting.
Activity 1.11. Establish ToR for multi-stakeholder platform and hold regular (at least 6 monthly) meetings with all stakeholders.		3 multi-stakeholder platforms were held in Abong-Mbang, Sangmelima and Djoum with the aims to build common strategies to efficiently fight against IWT and associated trade; raising awareness on current issues related to wildlife crime and strengthen communication strategies which better involve local communities. (ToRs and reports attached)
Output 2. Land managers (Conservation Service and timber company staff) have	Indicator 1: The DBR conservation service is supported and resourced to implement an effective adaptive	1.1 So far, a total of 24 training days were carried out over this reporting period. These training days were split as follows: 6 days (13th to 18th June) of data collection training for 28 rangers; 12 days (26th March-7th April) of patrolling and surveillance training by Retarius for 15 people; 6 days (29th - 30th November 2016; 16th-17th December 2016, 16th and 19th January 2017) for SMART planning

increased capacity to	management approach to site	and reporting training. The on-the-job training for patrol teams was ongoing and led by ZSL SMART
effectively protect wildlife.	based protection (SMART approach) in the DBR.	expert (see below).
		1.2 The number of days in patrol varies from 20 days/months (02 team for 10 days) to 30
	1.1. # days training provided to conservation service staff each	days/months (3 team of 8 men for 10 days)
	year.	1.3 From the start of this project till date 105 patrols were carried out and a total of 30 poachers people involved in gun hunting were apprehended, 18 firearms seized, 115 ammunitions seized and
	1.2. # days of patrolling per	206 pieces of bushmeat seized, 89 gunshots were heard.
	month (target of 20 days/month).	1.4 During this grant reporting period the DBR CS rangers were able to apprehend 30 people
	1.3. # incidents of poaching of trafficked species by end yr 2	
	(baseline determined at start of	
	project).	
	1.4. # of arrests for IWT related incidents (poaching,	
	possession/transportation of	
	products etc; baseline determined at start of project).	
	Indicator 2: Timber company	2.1 3 days of refreshing on data collection. An introduction on queries was done for the new chief
	wildlife protection teams trained and supported to implement an	2.2 The teams patrol at least 4 days per week for an average of at least 20 days per month
	effective adaptive management	
	approach to site based wildlife protection (SMART approach) in	2.3 Based on the annual report on anti-poaching missions: 02 arms, 14 cartridges and 132 snares were seized
	timber concessions.	
	2.1. # days training provided to	2.4 Based on the annual report on anti-poaching missions: 06 people were arrested
	timber company staff each year (baseline = 0).	
	2.2. # days of patrolling per	
	month (baseline = 0).	
	2.3. # incidents of poaching of trafficked species by end yr 2	
	(baseline determined at start of	
	project).	
	2.4. # of arrests for IWT related	

incidents (poaching,

possession/transportation of
products etc; baseline
determined at start of project).

Activity 2.1. Needs assessment for improved site based protection of southern sector of the DBR and SFID-Djoum timber concessions and SMART operationalization including; identification of equipment and other resource requirements, training needs, refinement of existing SMART data model and data collection sequence. Establishing implementation plans.

Prior the start of this grant, the SMART process in the DBR has just begun in the DBR northern sector and southern sector, involved with limited number of equipment and trained personnel. Based on a review of DBR site-based protection systems and available resources for effective patrol and law enforcement, needs were jointly identified by ZSL and DBR CS during the June 2016 SMART data model harmonisation workshop and also during the DBR evaluation meeting of the 29th and 30th of September 2016. This has led to the procurement of 25 full uniforms, the acquisition of a rapid respond squad Toyota 4x4 vehicle that was reinforced later with steel bars and winch. The needs for constant communication amongst the teams were addressed by providing GSM and sat phone communication means. The data model continues to be improved and was recently reviewed and updated due to uplift by CITES of species such as pangolins and grey parrots.

In 2015, a wildlife management assessment was conducted in SFID-Djoum logging concessions through another ZSL Cameroon project. At this time, SFID-Djoum already had a wildlife team – a chief and 4 members. Between this first state and the IWT project in April 2016, the team had been trained on SMART approach.

Activity 2.2. Equipment sourced, SMART training delivered to DBR senior management and eco-guards and SMART roll-out commenced.

Following the need assessment and subsequent meeting with conservation partners, a set of 25 MINFOF uniforms, berets, boots and socks were purchased in addition to the initial purchase (6 backpacks, two tents, four headlamps, four sleeping mat, 24 pairs of batteries for GPS and one tarpaulin). Also the acquisition of a Toyota 4x4 vehicle that has been reinforced with steel bars and winch will improve the quick deployment of the team in the field. The needs for constant communication amongst the teams were addressed by providing GSM and sat phone communication means (handsets and credits).

Following SMART setup and technical support provided from the onset, training is becoming over the recent year more advanced, focused on senior management in effectively using the SMART querying, planning and reporting capabilities. So far, a total of 24 training days were carried out over this reporting. These training days were split as follows: 6 days (13th to 18th June) of data collection training for 28 rangers; 12 days (26th March-7th April) of patrolling and surveillance training by Retarius (tactical trainers) for 15 people; 6 days (29th -30th November 2016; 16th-17th December 2016, 16th and 19th January 2017) for SMART planning and reporting training. The on-the-job training for patrol team was ongoing and led by ZSL SMART expert.

There is an increase in the number of firearms (08 to 18) and ammunitions (95 to 155) seized, poachers arrested (30 against 8 a year before) and we are increasing our patrol effort (20% increase from 1260 km to 5741 km). We have gone from 30% coverage (% patrol cover is based on the proportion of 5 km² grid cells through which a patrol passed at least once) to 67% coverage over the course of this grant. To date, 80 ecoguards are equipped, trained and capable of carrying SMART based anti-poaching patrol with limited supervision. SMART Patrols have been extended to the other

	03 sectors with head of sectors confidently reflecting on patrol data, cleaning them and producing reports. In addition, ZSL and MINFOF created a rapid response squad and have been supporting boat patrols along the DBR river to improve the coverage and the mobility of the rangers.
Activity 2.3. Training on SMART implementation to timber company wildlife teams and roll-out commenced.	Two PDA CEDAR CT4 and a 3-day training refresh on data collection have been provided in September 2016 to 5 people (the coordinator of management unit, the wildlife team chief and 3 members), including a practical exercise into the forest and an introduction on queries. We reviewed the data model, how to setup the PDAs, how to export the configurable data model from computer to the PDA, how to import the data from the device to the computer and visualize them on a map.
	Four people are patrolling with an average of at least 20 days per month (at least 4 days a week) and becoming familiar with the data model.
	The trainings on queries and reporting will be done with the new wildlife team chief
	We have discussed with the responsible on the division of their concessions in a grid with cells of 25 km² (as is done in the Dja Biosphere Reserve) in order to insure that they cover the entire concessions and are able to compare trends across landscapes.
Activity 2.4. Ongoing support by ZSL SMART technical advisor to DBR and timber companies, including monthly site visit, evaluation and review workshops every 6 months.	Following the initial setup and data collection training organised prior to this grant, advanced training on reporting and planning, as well as data collection refresher training, has been ongoing to ensure all the staff are capable of effectively patrolling according to agreed protocols. ZSL is providing patrol mobilisation funds and ensures patrol are carried out based on initial agreed plans (targets, areas to cover, number of days, etc.). So far despite the challenge of bringing together DBR senior staff at a single site, two evaluation meetings (November 2016 and January2017) have already been organised to discuss patrol performance and approaches and adapt patrols, if necessary. Monthly visits are organised in at least 01 of the 04 DBR sectors not only for troubleshooting, support and update, but also to confirm rangers are motivated and are going in the field. The ZSL SMART expert is carrying out a weekly supervision call to each head of sector to ensure thigs are moving well according to SMART standards.
	The sequence of SMART implementation as agreed with the DBR CS has reached a quite good level from poorly executed patrol with inconsistency in data collection to a targeted patrol containing meaningful data that informs the management. To date, all heads of sectors generate patrol reports for the conservator after debriefing and data cleaning with limited assistance.
	During the reporting period, one site visit has been done in the SFID-Djoum concessions for the monitoring of the activities related to wildlife including SMART implementation and another visit to train the team on a protocol of data collection before conducting the wildlife inventory in anticipation of the development of their future wildlife protection plan

Output 3: Enforcement agents, prosecutors and court house staff trained and supported in the implementation of laws relating to wildlife crime.	Indicator 1: At least 16 MINFOF agents, 15 law enforcement officers (gendarmes/police) and 6 judicial agents, receive training in the proper application of wildlife laws tailored to their specific role. 1.1. # of days training provided to enforcement agents each year (baseline = 0). 1.2. # cases of IWT crimes that result in arrests by end yr 2 (baseline determined at start of project). 1.3. # cases of IWT crimes that result in prosecutions by end yr 2 (baseline determined at start of project).	1.1 A total of 5 training workshops/causes were held with a total of 124 participants and a total number of 20 training days. Training and support documents on the content of the Law and the Decree of Application have been presented to Gendarmerie, Customs and Police officers working in and around the DBR in September 2016. Same has been done for officers of the Judiciary on relevant subjects related to the role of Judicial Police Officer with general Jurisdiction and Judicial (Gendarmerie and Police) and Judicial Police officers with special Jurisdiction (Customs and the sworn-in forestry and wildlife officers serving in MINFOF. The workshop aimed at highlighting the importance of respecting procedure for all wildlife cases for prosecution. Meanwhile, the attention of the Judiciary officers was drawn to gains made by applying the provisions of the law in writing out sentences that are appropriate for the violation. Two training and information workshops were held, in Yaounde 27 and 28 March 2017 and Douala 30 and 31 March 2017, for the newly created special Anti-poaching Units based in the Yaounde Nsimalen International Airport and the Douala International Airport. In the three workshops, participants were informed that the pangolin has been raised to Class A (totally protected species) using the circular of the Ministry for Forestry and Wildlife; as such trafficking in pangolin scales is now an offence. 1.2 ecoguards arrested 36 poachers in this period, up from 6 the previous year 1.3 In progress
	erials developed in consultation terials tailored to knowledge and earticipants.	Materials for the training were developed following consultation with the Judiciary, the Gendarmerie, the Police and the Customs, as well as with MINFOF.
Activity 3.2. Training courses delivered to enforcement agents, prosecutors and court house staff (3 per year).		Five trainings were delivered for the law enforcement officers with general jurisdiction - Gendarmerie and Police; for officers with special Jurisdiction Customs and sworn-in MINFOF staff; Prosecutors and community members.
		Focus was on the content of the Cameroon wildlife law with emphases on the importance of respecting procedure from seizure to reporting to the State Prosecutor and the role of the Judiciary in handing down maximum judgments as per the law to dissuade current and potential traffickers. In addition to the procedure, the attention of MINFOF staff was drawn to the sacredness of their work and the expected probity on their part.
		A total of 124 participants attended the courses, and all of them are key stakeholders, from forest sworn-in forest guards through anonymous community informants to law enforcement and Judiciary officers.
Activity 3.3. Training assert after training to assess part	essments conducted before and ticipant knowledge and	Assessment on the knowledge and understanding of participants was carried out immediately following the training, but there is an on-going process through a Whatsapp address created for that

understanding and obtain feedback. Information to be used to adapt future sessions and determine further training requirements.	purpose. Training needs assessment and their results are envisaged to be used in future training sessions and we are hopeful that the spirit of collaboration generated by these training would be enhanced and sustained.
Activity 3.4. Follow up training courses delivered based on evaluation and feedback.	We keep an ongoing relationship that enables all the parties to be in contact, share what was learned, how it is applied in the field and have feedback.
Activity 3.5. ZSL Law enforcement advisor provides ongoing support for case follow up and communicating progress of court cases and incidents of wildlife crime	We have worked with the Judicial Unit for MINFOF, the Regional Chiefs for Wildlife and Protected Areas for the East and the South as well as the MINFOF field staff charged with following up cases in court.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact https://linear.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions	
Impact: A significant reduction in illegal wildlife trade and its impact on elephants and other trafficked species, and poverty reduced in Cameroon .				
Outcome: Reduced poaching of elephants and other trafficked species in the southern Dja landscape of Cameroon by empowering local communities, reinforcing livelihoods, improved wildlife protection and application of laws relating to wildlife crime in a hotspot for illegal wildlife trade in central Africa – leads to poverty reduction, improved governance and security.	Indicator 1: Communities report improved sense of empowerment in local decision making regarding wildlife crime and a reduction in the negative impacts of IWT affecting them from baseline levels (established by month 6) by end year 2. Indicator 2: Increase in arrests for wildlife trafficking offences and seizures of illegal wildlife products by at least 40 % (<5 arrests in 2015 to date) by end year 2.	Workshop reports, Internal ZSL reports, Market information data, Household survey data on income and well being Community perception and well-being metrics (baselines established by month 6 MINFOF and NGO reports, police statements on trafficking cases, MINFOF database on ivory stock and other seized products ETIS reports and Cameroon government reports to CITES	Government continues to support international efforts to address IWT Empowerment of local communities contributes to reduced incidence of wildlife crime in SE Cameroon Strengthening law enforcement processes leads to a reduction in incidence of wildlife crime	
	Indicator 3: At least 40% increase in successful prosecutions of IWT cases with appropriate sentencing in accordance with Cameroonian law by end year 2. Indicator 4: At least 40% decrease in incidents of poaching of elephants and	Number of prosecutions, sentences, fines from court proceedings, Media reports on cases of wildlife crime in SE Cameroon DBR conservation service and logging company SMART reports		
	other trafficked species in and around the southern Dja landscape by end year 2.			

Output 1: Communities empowered and
actively engaged in monitoring and
management of natural resources,
incentivised through reinforced local
livelihoods

Indicator 1: At least 10 communities utilising mechanisms (CSNs, ExCiteS) to enable them to monitor and report concerns regarding impacts of IWT, natural resource management and enforcement activity by end yr 2.

- 1.1. # incidents IWT related incidents reported by local communities by end yr 2 (from baseline determined at start of project).
- 1.2. # arrests and prosecutions resulting from reports from local communities by end yr 2 (from baseline determined at start of project).
- 1.3. Livelihood, 'well-being' and attitude metrics increase in participating communities by end yr 1 and 2 from baselines determined at the start of the project.

Indicator 2: VSLAs established in at least 10 communities with participation of at least 15 people per VSLA of which at least 50% are women. VSLAs are self-sustaining, accruing savings for participants of at least 20,000cfa per annum (based on VSLA average elsewhere in Cameroon) and perceived as providing an incentive to participate in efforts to address IWT.

- 2.1. # VSLAs established by end yr 1 and 2.
- 2.2. # of community members participating in VSLAs by end year 1 and 2.
- 2.3. Value of savings accrued by participants per annum.

Socioeconomic and attitude survey reports; ExCiteS database and reports; ZSL database on IWT crime reports; police case reports; court records.

VSLA meeting reports; VSLA savings record books; attitudinal survey reports.

Reports on production end of NTFP value chain; socioeconomic survey reports; attitudinal survey reports.

Incentives offered through ExCites, VSLAs and improved NTFP value chains are sufficient to ensure long term community participation in efforts to fight IWT.

	2.4. Perception survey metrics (defined in initial phase of project) demonstrate an increase in 'well-being' and attitudes towards IWT issues and law enforcement amongst VSLA members.		
	Indicator 3: Improved value chains for NTFPs developed for producer groups in at least 10 communities leading to increased income by end yr 2 (from baseline determined at start of project) and perceived as providing an incentive to participate in efforts to address IWT.		
	3.1. # NTFP producers trained in improved production techniques.		
	3.2. Income from NTFPs by end yr 1 and 2 compared to baseline at start of project.		
	3.3. Perception survey metrics (defined in initial phase of project) demonstrate an increase in 'well-being' and attitudes towards IWT issues and law enforcement amongst community members involved in NTFP value chain.		
	Indicator 4: Communities actively participating in stakeholder platform		
	4.1 # of platform meetings held		
	4.2 Stakeholder groups represented on platform		
	4.3 Minutes of stakeholder meetings		
Output 2: Land managers (Conservation Service and timber company staff) have increased capacity to effectively protect wildlife.	Indicator 1: The DBR conservation service is supported and resourced to implement an effective adaptive management approach to site based protection (SMART approach) in the DBR.	Training schedules and attendance lists; monthly DBR SMART reports on patrol effort, team and individual performance targets, incidence of illegal activities and wildlife sign; police case reports.	
	DDK.	Training schedules and attendance lists;	

	 1.1. # days training provided to conservation service staff each year. 1.2. # days of patrolling per month (target of 20 days/month). 1.3. # incidents of poaching of trafficked species by end yr 2 (baseline determined at start of project). 	monthly SMART reports from wildlife teams on patrol effort, team and individual performance targets, incidence of illegal activities and wildlife sign; police case reports.	
	1.4. # of arrests for IWT related incidents (poaching, possession/transportation of products etc; baseline determined at start of project).		
	Indicator 2: Timber company wildlife protection teams trained and supported to implement an effective adaptive management approach to site based wildlife protection (SMART approach) in timber concessions.		
	2.1. # days training provided to timber company staff each year (baseline = 0).		
	2.2. # days of patrolling per month (baseline = 0).		
	2.3. # incidents of poaching of trafficked species by end yr 2 (baseline determined at start of project).		
	2.4. # of arrests for IWT related incidents (poaching, possession/transportation of products etc; baseline determined at start of project).		
Output 3: Enforcement agents, prosecutors and court house staff trained and supported in the implementation of laws relating to wildlife crime.	Indicator 1: At least 16 MINFOF agents, 15 law enforcement officers (gendarmes/police) and 6 judicial agents, receive training in the proper application of wildlife laws tailored to their specific role.	Training schedules and attendance lists; police case reports; prosecutor statements; court records of proceedings and judgements; media reports.	
	1.1. # of days training provided to		

enforcement agents each year (baseline = 0).

1.2. # cases of IWT crimes that result in arrests by end yr 2 (baseline determined at start of project).

1.3. # cases of IWT crimes that result in prosecutions by end yr 2 (baseline determined at start of project).

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

- 1.1. Participatory consultation with potential villages to identify suitable and willing candidates for involvement in project.
- 1.2. Socioeconomic and perception surveys to characterise livelihood metrics, develop relevant metrics of 'well-being' and attitudes towards IWT issues and law enforcement.
- 1.3. Development, in consultation with communities, of ExCiteS data model, PDA icon interface and associated protocols, socialisation of project through community workshops/events, participatory mapping, and mechanism for ongoing communication and reporting between communities and project team established
- 1.4. Implementation and ongoing support for ExCiteS implementation.
- 1.5. ExCiteS information integrated into secure database with regular data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting.
- 1.6. Training sessions on VSLAs in participating communities.
- 1.7. Establishment of VSLAs and regular (at least monthly) follow up visits to ensure functioning.
- 1.8. Analysis of NTFP production in communities and identification of ways to enhance values (e.g. production, processing, storage techniques etc).
- 1.9. Training of NTFP producer groups on improved production and equitable market access mechanisms and implementation of NTFP value chain enhancement activities.
- 1.10. Ongoing support to communities for VSLA uptake and function, NTFP production enhancements and encourage communication for anonymously-reported IWT information via secure phone number.
- 1.11. Establish ToR for multi-stakeholder platform and hold regular (at least 6 monthly) meetings with all stakeholders.
- 2.1. Needs assessment for improved site based protection of southern sector of the DBR and SFID-Djourn timber concessions and SMART operationalization including; identification of equipment and other resource requirements, training needs, refinement of existing SMART data model and data collection sequence. Establishing implementation plans.
- 2.2. Equipment sourced, SMART training delivered to DBR senior management and eco-guards and SMART roll-out commenced.
- 2.3. Training on SMART implementation to timber company wildlife teams and roll-out commenced.
- 2.4. Ongoing support by ZSL SMART technical advisor to DBR and timber companies, including monthly site visit, evaluation and review workshops every 6 months.
- 3.1 Training materials developed in consultation with relevant agencies. Materials tailored to knowledge and roles of each agency and participants.
- 3.2 Training courses delivered to enforcement agents, prosecutors and court house staff (3 per year).
- 3.3 Training assessments conducted before and after training to assess participant knowledge and understanding and obtain feedback. Information to be used to adapt future sessions and determine further training requirements.
- 3.4 Follow up training courses delivered based on evaluation and feedback.

3.5 ZSL Law enforcement advisor provides ongoing support for case follow up and communicating progress of court cases and incidents of wildlife crime.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)



Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to lwt-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	х
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with https://www.number.numb	х
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	х
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	х
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	х
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	- 1