

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report (Due 31 October)

Project Ref No	IWT031
Project Title	Combatting IWT in Cameroon through improved law enforcement and community empowerment.
Country(ies)	Cameroon
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) Cameroon, University College London,
Project Leader	Paul De Ornellas
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	31 October, 2016, (HYR1)
Project website	http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/dja-conservation-complex

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

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

ZSL has engaged in extensive consultation with communities bordering the Dja Faunal (Biosphere) Reserve (DBR) to identify suitable and willing candidates to participate in the project (Activity 1.1). The focus has been on communities strategically located within poaching and illegal wildlife transport hotspots. Sensitization and Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) processes have taken place in almost 40 communities. Eight communities in the southern sector (Bii, Ze, Zobefam, Yen, Akonetythe, Bosso, Mbouma, Oding) have so far been identified for further engagement in the project. Socioeconomic and perception survey methods have been finalised and these 8 communities were surveyed in September (Activity 1.2) with data analysis ongoing. These 8 communities will be the first in which community project activities commence.

Initial meetings have been held with the communities to discuss the ExCiteS programme and work is ongoing on the establishment of the data model, interface, and protocols (Activity 1.3). This activity was delayed by a serious illness in the ExCiteS team and their need to identify a new Research Associate to deliver the programme in Cameroon. Discussions have also been ongoing with these communities in relation to their NTFP use (Activity 1.8) and we are exploring linking our NTFP activities in the south with the Man & Nature program in the eastern Dja that works with communities to extract essential oils from rainforest trees for the international fragrance industry. Bush mango and njangsay harvesting are also being evaluated for commercial sale. Progress with this activity has also been delayed due to the challenges faced by the schedule of the ExCiteS team with whom it was important to have involved in the initial identification of communities. Stakeholder platforms (Activity 1.11) have been initiated through two illegal wildlife use workshops where southern Dja communities participated in the second one held in Djoum.

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

A review of existing law enforcement practices and capacity of the southern sector of the Dja (as part of a review of the whole Dja) and SFID-Djoum has been carried out to determine resource, training and technical support needs (Activity 2.1). This has resulted in the purchasing of equipment for DBR eco-guards to ensure they are fully equipped to carry out their roles. The DBR SMART system has been updated to version 3.3.1 that has many additional features and improved functionality and refresher training has been delivered to eco-guards and managers (Activity 2.2). Additionally, a total of 12 eco-guards have been trained in advanced patrolling fieldcraft involving elements such as patrol approaches and formations, conflict management, human rights, and field medical care in order to improve their patrolling skill, intelligence collection, and safety. We are providing ongoing technical support to the Conservation Service on the use of SMART for patrol planning, reporting, and adaptive management. We have seen an increase in patrol effort and patrol effectiveness (Activity 2.4). During this reporting period, 256 SMART-based patrol days have been carried out

in the DBR covering a total distance of 3,731 km resulting in 31% patrol coverage of the DBR core area (% patrol cover is based on the proportion of 5 km² grid cells through which a patrol passed at least once). These patrols have led to the arrest of 14 poachers, the seizures of 7 firearms, 70 live ammunition, 142 pieces of bushmeat, and the removal of 1,017 snare cables. We have provided an additional 6 backpacks, two tents, four headlamps, four sleeping mat, 24 pairs of batteries for GPS and one tarpaulins. For individual equipment, we have provided 8 MINFOF uniforms, 8 rubber boots, 8 berets, 8 belts and four pairs of heavy duty boots. This equipment was destined for the 22 DBR newly recruited eco-guards. ZSL continues to work with the forestry company SFID-Djourn that have concessions adjacent to the Dja Biosphere Reserve (Activity 2.3). ZSL trained wildlife teams in survey practices and monitoring and evaluation approaches and continues to implement SMART-based data collection in patrols and surveys to enhance and standardize data quality and to improve the impact of adaptive management. A mission to the Lorema Block in the southern Dja concession with four members of the concession wildlife team, their wildlife chief, and the Coordinator led to the camp of the ZIC (Zone d'Intérêt Cynégétique or Hunting Zone) Ayina. During this mission, the wildlife members who previously had patrolled without SMART data-gathering devices were able to see the difference in collecting data between one made manually and one made automatically with the Cybertracker software installed in their new PDA CEDAR CT4.

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

Training presentations by ZSL staff and partners were given to a diverse set of stakeholders at two workshops in the northern and southern Dja, respectively (Activity 3.1). The topics covered included: management and storage of the national seized ivory stockpiles; the role of forces of law and order (police, gendarmes) and of MINFOF agents (having the status of Judicial Police Officers with special jurisdiction) in following the judicial procedures in relation to wildlife crime cases and the role of the department of justice in combating wildlife crime (developed with officials of the Ministry of Justice - Prosecutors and Presidents of the courts of Abong-Mbang and Sangmelima); and the process of collecting and transmitting information by community support guards (developed with APIFED, a local NGO active in the Southern Antenna of the DBR (Djourn, Mintom). Presentations were delivered during 2 workshops held at Abong Mbang in the East and Sangmelima in the South Region, for MINFOF, the judiciary, and police and gendarmerie (Activity 3.2). The theme of these workshops was the control of illegal exploitation of wildlife and illegal trade. The workshops were intended to facilitate understanding of laws, responsibilities, authority, and the overall situation, as well as a foster a spirit of cooperation among different actors. A total of 95 people attended the two workshops with key participants including, the Prefect of the Upper Nyong Division, public prosecutors and Presidents to the courts, the head of the central MINFOF legal unit, Divisional Chiefs of Section for wildlife, agents of the DBR conservation service, including the Conservator, heads of sectors, anti-poaching unit, law enforcement service, eco-guards, representatives of forest companies PALLISCO, SFID Djourn, representatives of local NGOs and indigenous people's associations and representatives of local communities. Training needs assessments were carried out (Activity 3.3) and their results, as well as additional feedback received from participants, will be used to plan further training. ZSL now has a Law Enforcement Coordinator based permanently in Cameroon and a Law Enforcement Advisor responsible for work across Africa. This team is providing ongoing support in Cameroon to our partner law enforcement agencies to ensure appropriate information gathering, management, and case follow-up (Activity 3.5). We have identified a total of 12 cases currently pending with the court in Djourn that we are observing and assisting to move forward, where necessary.

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

There have been delays in assembling our full community engagement and law enforcement teams. Everyone is now in place and the foundation is set for rapid progress on all fronts. The majority of community and law enforcement field engagements have taken place in the latter half of this reporting period as competent staff were identified and initiated substantive activities in the field. Patrols of the protected area and forestry concessions, however, have been ongoing throughout the reporting period. Activity progress and

expenditures for community engagement and law enforcement, therefore, have lagged a bit, but are now rapidly catching up to the proposed activity timetable.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

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

no

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

Please send your **completed report by email** to Joanne Gordon at IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 001 IWT Half Year Report**