

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

(due 31 October)

Project Ref No	IWT032
Project Title	Countering Wildlife Crime: Livelihoods, Intelligence and Prosecution Capacity Building in Uganda
Country(ies)	Uganda
Lead Organisation	Tusk Trust
Collaborator(s)	Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Soft Power Education (SPE), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN)
Project Leader	<i>Dan Bucknell</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR1)	31/10/2016, HYR1
Project website	http://www.tusk.org/news/3-mar-2016-uk-government-invests-in-tuskas-anti-poaching-efforts

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

The grant disbursement was made on 6th May 2016, but activities were initially cash-flowed to meet the timetable; the period reported on is therefore Apr-Sep 2016.

Output 1 - Site identification: UWA offender and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) data was analysed and used alongside other spatial data to guide the selection of the project's field sites. For Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA), Rubirizi District was selected as the site for outputs 2 and 3. In Murchison Falls Conservation Area (MFCA), different sites were selected for output 2 and 3: Buliisa District, west of MFCA, for output 2, and Nwoya District (north of the park) for output. The site identification report is available upon request.

Output 2 - Community food gardens: In Buliisa District, SPE will work with 2x 25 member groups and have recruited and are currently training 1x 25 member community group.

UCF will follow the same format in Rubirizi, and – following training from SPE on methodology – are in the process of recruiting the first group for QECA. By sequencing the recruitment and training of groups in this way we will maximise learning across the output.

Output 3 – HWC mitigation: Through involvement in various fora, project partners have helped build consensus amongst the Ugandan conservation sector for adopting HWC mitigation strategies in wildlife crime areas.

UWA have identified and recruited scouts in various locations, including Nwoya. Working with UWA, UCF will support these teams to implement practical interventions in pilot sites at MFCA and QECA. UCF have also developed HWC data collection sheets for the community scout network.

Output 4: Capacity building within the intelligence and legal sectors of law enforcement

To date UCF have trained 40 UWA intelligence officers (IOs) and NRCN investigators/

prosecutors in information management and WILD LEO techniques. This training has streamlined data collection for network analysis; UWA has received training from the UK government on I2. This has resulted in significant arrests and improved prosecution techniques. To support evidence collection, 34 smartphones and various covert devices were distributed.

Under co-funding on Project Kingpin, 4 NRCN operatives have completed Advanced Motorcycle Rider training and have received 2 “boda boda” motorcycles for road surveillance. Support for ongoing investigation into 4 major criminal networks has also been provided, yielding 16 arrests to date in 2016, 13 of which have concluded or are undergoing prosecution (the rest skipped police bond). The concluded cases comprise 4 convictions, 3 of which received penalties from [REDACTED] UGX ([REDACTED]) or sentences of 1-2 years. One conviction received a custodial-only penalty of 8 months.

UCF have provided law diploma scholarships for 5 rangers to increase UWA’s legal capacity from 10 to 15 prosecutors. 3 existing UWA prosecutors are also being supported in LLB, LLM and a postgrad bar diploma.

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.

Project team: As per the approved change request, a new role has been created at UCF, with Marion Robertson being appointed to the position of Projects Coordinator. Marion came from project partners SPE, where she was replaced by Robert Okello. Following a disciplinary procedure, one project officer was let go during probation and was immediately replaced in September by a previously shortlisted candidate.

Intelligence interventions: Since the development of this proposal, numerous projects supporting capacity building in intelligence and law enforcement have emerged in Uganda, including WCS under their IWTCF project. To minimise duplication and maximise synergy, UCF have led coordination meetings with UWA, WCS and Maisha to clarify roles in training provision and other support. In addition, RUSI and UCF are to collaborate on the former’s IWTCF project to coordinate Illicit Financial Flow training in Feb 2017, and UCF will also be working with US Department of Interior (International Technical Assistance Program) to deliver Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation training in late 2016.

Forex fluctuation: Whilst efforts were made to protect against currency fluctuation, the British Pound has lost an unprecedented 25% in value over the last year, which will begin to impact the project as expenditure ramps up. UCF and Tusk Trust are looking for additional funding to cover any shortfalls.

These changes are not expected to impact the budget or 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:	Yes/No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

Under Output 4, UCF is coordinating with UWA and WCS to synergise the organisations' training and support to UWA Intelligence. UCF will focus its training and provision of equipment to support the creation of a technical surveillance team, the details of which are currently being finalised, whereas WCS will focus on building capacity amongst the analysts. In order to integrate the UCF and WCS trainings without duplication, UCF are considering sub-contracting training services for the technical team to Maisha, working closely under the supervision of our British security specialist.

In addition, the methodology and training content for NRCN is being discussed, to ensure activities provide the improved capabilities required yet remain compliant with government policies on training non-government personnel in certain skillsets.

Any changes to outputs, budget or timetable that may occur as these discussions are finalised will be shared with Defra via a change request.

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**