



## Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report



(due 31st October 2017)

<b>Project reference:</b>	IWT032
<b>Project title:</b>	Countering Wildlife Crime: Livelihoods, Intelligence and Prosecution Capacity Building in Uganda
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Uganda
<b>Lead organisation:</b>	Tusk Trust
<b>Collaborator(s):</b>	Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Natural Resource Conservation Network (NRCN), Soft Power Education (SPE), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA),
<b>Project leader:</b>	<i>Dan Bucknell</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):</b>	31/10/2017, HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc:</b>	<a href="http://www.tusk.org/combating-wildlife-crime-in-uganda">http://www.tusk.org/combating-wildlife-crime-in-uganda</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UgandaConservationFoundationUCF/posts/1781196511921041">https://www.facebook.com/UgandaConservationFoundationUCF/posts/1781196511921041</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UgandaConservationFoundationUCF/posts/1853367731370585?notif_id=1509382632838301&amp;notif_t=like">https://www.facebook.com/UgandaConservationFoundationUCF/posts/1853367731370585?notif_id=1509382632838301&amp;notif_t=like</a>

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

**Output 1 - Site identification:**

Output 1 was mostly completed in FY1-Q1, with UWA offender and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) data used to identify pilot sites for this project and the production of a site ID report. Ongoing mapping of offender and HWC data forms part of the M&E of this project.

**Output 2 - Community food gardens:**

In both Buliisa (Murchison Falls Conservation Area) and Rubirizi (Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area) districts, the first 2 x 25 member groups have established irrigation systems and planted crops based on their permaculture garden designs, supported by a two-week permaculture course attended by project staff. Both gardens are producing a variety of yields not previously available in the areas and gaining steady support from lodge markets. An agreement has been reached with a service provider for links to markets training, with the training to be completed by November 2017.

A further 2 x 25 member groups have been selected across the two districts, and group members have undergone twice weekly trainings in group dynamics, constitution development, conflict resolution, and savings schemes (VSLA). The groups have developed budgets and designed and dug their gardens, with crops planted by FY2-Q3.

**Output 3 – HWC mitigation:**

*Nwoya District (MFCA) – 25 further scouts have been recruited and trained following an*

increase of the target numbers, as detailed in a previously approved change request. The 2 x 25 member groups act as “model groups” for the broader scout network to replicate. These 50 scouts received a two-day first aid training course, a need identified by the scouts themselves, as they often incur minor injuries whilst on patrol for elephants. Fifty scouts have also been taught how to make an organic elephant deterrent solution, developed in conjunction with the community. This has been distributed by scouts to vulnerable farmers who have reported positive initial results following the spraying of the solution on crops or hanging in bottles from fence lines. Further trials are being conducted. Non-palatable crops, including ingredients of the deterrent (chilli, ginger, garlic, neem trees) are being planted in frontline communities to both ensure that the deterrent production is sustainable and to secure community livelihoods in spite of elephant raids. HWC data is being collected by 20 scouts who have been trained in using the WILD COMMS tool on 20 smartphones that have been provided. Bicycles have been distributed to the scouts to support them in their work.

*Rubirizi District (QECA)* – All 25 scouts have been recruited and are working on a model of 5 scouts in each of 5 communities along the entire district-park boundary. As the scout programme is entirely new in Rubirizi (unlike Nwoya where scouts had received basic training from UWA with support from AWF), a three-day residential HWC workshop was held for these 25 scouts, covering topics including animal behaviour and HWC mitigation methods, facilitated by UWA and trainers from the Uganda Wildlife Training Institute. Upon “graduation”, scouts received waterproof jackets, torches, noise-making equipment and bicycles to support them in their roles. Scout teams have been instrumental in mobilising the community to conduct maintenance work on existing elephant trenches. A partnership has been agreed with the local district government and with the support of UWA to re-establish a Mauritius thorn hedge along part of the park boundary. Along a further section of the boundary, a beehive fence is being established by scouts who have been trained in bee-keeping. HWC data is being collected by 10 trained scouts using smartphones.

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

37 UWA intelligence officers (IOs) were trained in human intelligence techniques through contractor Maisha Consulting, bringing the number of IOs trained to a total of 50 under this grant. This is 2 IOs fewer than originally proposed due to staff availability during the course. Following on from this, 9 IOs from MFCA (5) and QECA (4) were given advanced motorcycle rider training, with all graduating the course and 7 motorcycles being donated to UWA. More intelligence equipment has been given to the unit to support their operations, including 25 DVRs, 25 telephone pick up microphones and 9 encrypted mobile phones with protective cases. Consultation has been held with UWA to establish the priorities for the remaining budget for intelligence equipment. 5 DVRs and 5 pick up microphones were distributed to NRCN.

A residential seminar for senior UWA management was brought forward slightly to capitalise on the experience of the WCS-funded Maisha mentor embedded at UWA until FY1-Q2. The seminar was facilitated by Maisha Consulting and trained 36 law enforcement wardens and sector supervisors, 6 conservation area managers and 11 managers and directors from UWA headquarters over the course of five days.

5 UWA staff have completed their law diplomas and 1 member of staff his postgraduate bar diploma course. This has increased UWA’s legal capacity from 10 to 15 prosecutors. 2 Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and 1 Master of Laws (LLM) courses are ongoing, and co-financing has been secured from the UCF WILD LEO Ranger Education Fund to fund the completion of these courses. Conversations are ongoing regarding the planned further workshops for the legal sector, with these activities due to be implemented in FY2-Q3 and Q4.

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

**Intelligence capex:** UWA reneged on their request for second hand motorcycles due to procurement regulations, meaning that we were only able to provide 7 motorcycles rather than the 9 bikes originally stated – budgets will be scrutinised to see whether savings can be made elsewhere to facilitate the purchase of these final 2 motorbikes. If not, a change request will be submitted. This change is 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 (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. **N/A**

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

**Project staffing:** Two project officers from the QECA office have departed the project following resignation or disciplinary procedure. One replacement project officer with vast community experience has been identified for the more senior role and a recruitment process is ongoing to replace the second. A named project staff and percentage of time increment will be needed for the UCF projects manager, to cover the proportionally larger amount of time being spent on project implementation and field staff management. Finally, Robert Okello has resigned from his position at project partners SPE, and will be replaced in November once a suitable candidate has been identified. A change request will follow to capture these amendments to the project team, once the details of the future team and their roles and responsibilities have been finalised.

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year’s annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R3 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.**

**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 Victoria Pinion at [IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@itsi.co.uk). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: IWT001 Half Year Report.**