

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Half Year Report

Project Ref No: IWT033

Project Title: Leveraging Action to Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Networks in Lao PDR

Country: Lao PDR

Lead Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society

Collaborator(s): Department of Forest Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Project Leader: Christopher Holmes

Report date and number: 30th October 2017 / IWTCFR2

Project website: <https://programs.wcs.org/laos>

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).

Activity 1.1: Information gathering surveys by WCS and partners in Lao PDR

Outputs: Major wildlife trafficking companies, individuals and traders continue to be monitored and dossiers updated. The information has been inputted into i2 for the production and dissemination of intelligence products as reported in activity 1.2 and 1.3.

Regular updates are provided to the Department of Forest Inspection and Interpol.

Activity 1.2: Maintenance of WCS Intelligence management and analysis system ensuring Lao PDR has access to a global database on IWT

Outputs: The IBM i2 Intelligence Management system is being utilised to record, maintain and analyse data on IWT in Lao PDR. During the reporting period 61 records/source documents relating to Lao PDR IWT were inputted.

Activity 1.3: Production and dissemination of intelligence products on three wildlife trafficking syndicates operating in Lao PDR.

Outputs: There have been 13 Intelligence products produced and disseminated. These include a situational analysis on ivory and rhino horn networks operating in Vientiane and Luang Prabang, dossiers on the major wildlife trafficking organisations, individuals, investigation reports and updates on the companies breeding and trafficking tigers.

Activity 2.1: Develop an informed and active media network of domestic and foreign journalists.

Outputs: During this reporting period 18 media articles were published exposing the role of Lao PDR in illegal wildlife trade.

A media launch, combined with an awareness campaign aimed at Chinese visitors visiting Laos, will be launched in the next reporting period.

Activity 2.2: Tri-lateral dialogue on IWT enforcement collaboration between Laos, Vietnam and China.

Outputs: A bi- lateral meeting between China and Lao PDR is planned for the next quarter. Provincial and central level officials will visit Lao PDR to meet with Lao law enforcement agencies and community groups to discuss opportunities for closer collaboration.

Activity 2.3: Technical and fiscal support to participation of key government agencies at global IWT events.

Outputs: During this grant reporting period Lao PDR has been subject to a CITES article Xiii procedure where they are required to report on possible non-compliance and enforcement of CITES regulations.

WCS provided technical support to CITES and Lao WEN agencies to prepare and participate in the secretariats mission to visit Lao PDR, prepare and submit the government's report and assistance with presenting a response at the Standing Committee 69.

Activity 2.4: Establish a regular IWT coordination forum to inform and activate bilateral donor agencies and diplomatic missions.

Outputs: WCS participates and contributes to regular forums on IWT including the WG15.7, an informal group of development partners involving a mixed group of embassies and international organizations which share information on wildlife and timber trafficking, and the Law Enforcement Technical Advisors group (LETAG) comprised of government, international law enforcement advisors and NGO's.

Activity 3.1: Technical assistance to DOFI and CITES MA to implement actions towards compliance with national and international IWT.

Outputs: Technical support given to CITES MA on the reporting of the National Ivory Action Plan and MIKE, progress reports and providing technical support to DOFI on a phase out strategy for tiger and bear farms in Lao PDR and training in wildlife and Ivory identification and evidence management to assist with the closure of Ivory trade hotspots.

Activity 3.2: Briefings to National assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government Inspectorate on IWT issues and responses.

Outputs: The Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture has been briefed on IWT issues and tiger farming.

Activity 3.3: Multi Agency workshops to plan and disseminate information responses to IWT

Outputs: Regular planning meetings have been held with Lao WEN agencies including the Department of Forest Inspection, Customs, Environmental Police specifically to share information and plan a response to closing the domestic ivory, and related trade, market within Lao PDR. A strategic plan has been developed and will be commenced upon the pending implementation of the new penal code.

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 no delayed, problems or unexpected developments in the implementation of this project.

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:	Yes/No	NA
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No	NA

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

Yes **No X** 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?

There are no other issues we wish to raise that this time.

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**