



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report



(due 31st October 2018)

Project reference:	IWT 036
Project title:	Implementing park action plans for community engagement to tackle IWT
Country(ies):	Uganda
Lead organisation:	IIED
Collaborator(s):	WCS-Uganda, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Village Enterprise, Uganda Conservation Foundation
Project leader:	Dilys Roe
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	31 st October 2018, (HRY2)
Project website/blog/social media etc:	https://www.iied.org/park-action-plans-increasing-community-engagement-tackling-wildlife-crime

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).

The project is proceeding to schedule as the summary report below indicates:

Output 1 (Scouts Programme): We purchased equipment for the scouts in the form of mobile phones for recording HWC incidents, boots, raincoats, torches, and one bicycle per village. Training sessions were held for the community wildlife scouts in May 2018. These comprised training on human wildlife conflict mitigation, first aid, and reporting via the phones. We have experienced a few technical problems – a number of the phones we bought have failed and the scouts also reported difficulties in having to pay to recharge the phones on a regular basis. We resolved this by purchasing solar chargers which we have distributed - one per village. These seem to be working well and the scouts are now collecting data on a regular basis and submitting it to UWA. UWA in turn will submit to WCS on a 1/4ly basis for analysis. we received HWC data for the first quarter from UWA, though it had some glitches due to form encryption but this has since been fixed. The scouts have reported that they need more bikes. This is beyond the project budget but we will look for other sources of funding for this.

The baseline survey of scout attitudes to conservation was conducted by Village Enterprise in May at the start of the enterprise development programme – reported on below.

In terms of the baseline IWT data – as we reported in our year 1 annual report, we decided not to sure data on snares because of the difficulty of detecting them in the area where the project is being implemented (Karuma wildlife reserve). Instead UWA agreed that we could use ranger patrol data collected through SMART. WCS have now trained the Karuma rangers to collect patrol data and this initial data will be used as the IWT baseline against which we will measure impact at the end of the project.

We were able to enlist the services of a masters student to work with the project over the summer on IWT “tip off” reporting. She designed a form for UWA rangers to record intelligence

received from local people and conducted a wide range of interviews to explore how tip offs were currently recorded, how often they were received and so on. She found that that ranger reporting of tip offs received was very ad hoc. Now, as a result of the project there is a standard form on which to record this information and the Karuma rangers are beginning to collect this in a more systematic way.

Output 2 (Enterprises)

Along with the households of the 50 wildlife scouts, Village Enterprise conducted a participatory wealth ranking and compiled a probability poverty index in order to identify a further 130 households to include in the enterprise programme. Baseline surveys of attitudes to conservation as well as consumption and expenditure were also completed. The 180 selected participants have been organised into 6 business savings groups (BSGs) with 30 participants in each, and training on enterprise development has been delivered to all. 60 new enterprises have been established – with 3 people involved in each enterprise. Of these, 42 are engaged in sunflower growing, 5 cabbage growing, 4 growing onions and 9 Simsim. Crop production is generally going well although they have been slightly challenged because of late rains and two cases of elephant damage in the seedling nurseries. WCS is going to explore with the scouts why this has happened and why the scouts were not able to prevent it. Village Enterprise is currently focussed on ongoing mentoring of the new enterprises.

Output 3 (UWA Community Conservation Unit)

The Community Conservation Policy has been revised by the UWA Community Conservation Unit and gone through several internal consultations with UWA senior management, law enforcement and other interest groups. The revised policy will now be presented to external stakeholders in a series of regional consultations starting in October before a final presentation for sign off by the UWA board – hopefully in January. A key challenge now is to develop an implementation plan and budget for the new policy so that the board signs off on something that is achievable.

Output 4 (Dissemination and communications) This output is a little behind schedule, however the first meeting of the Murchison Falls Coordination Forum – which will be a key mechanism for sharing information between different stakeholders - is now on track to be held in October 2018.

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.

We recently heard an announcement that UWA (along with UTB and some other parastatals) may be reabsorbed into the Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities. This would have significant policy implications – the Wildlife Act, which establishes UWA, would have to be repealed, for example. We don't expect this to happen quickly but it does also have implications for our efforts to revise the Community Conservation Policy, and for the Park Action Plan in general. We will keep a close eye on how this situation develops and any remedial actions that may be needed.

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 – not yet
Formal change request submitted:	No – not yet
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.

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

Nothing at this stage

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@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 e.g. Subject: IWT001 Half Year Report.**