



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

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| Project reference: | IWT038 |
| Project title: | Strengthening intelligence-led enforcement approaches to combatting wildlife crime in Africa |
| Country(ies): | Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria |
| Lead organisation: | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| Collaborator(s): | MEF (RC), ANAC (MZ), NESREA, Customs (NG) |
| Project leader: | Emma J Stokes |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR1): | October 31 st 2019, HYR3 |
| Project website/blog/social media: | @WCS_Nigeria, @WCSMozambique, @WCS_Congo |

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: Enhanced national capacity of ROC, Mozambique and Nigeria to support intelligence-led policing actions.

Activity 1.1. Recruit and provide operational support to a regional law enforcement specialist

Progress to date: Ongoing. The Regional Law Enforcement (LE) specialist (Georges Nunes) recruited in Year 1 had their contract renewed again for a third year of the project in September 2019 and conducted field missions to both Mozambique and Republic of Congo during this reporting period. As of October 2019, a new regional post of Senior Analyst has been recruited in northern Congo through leveraged funding.

Activity 1.2 Develop Terms of Reference and provide operational support for intelligence/wildlife crime cell operating in Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique

Progress to date: Two collectors have been recruited for the intelligence cell in Niassa NR (one exclusively focused on Niassa NR and the other on the northern cell, based in Nampula). Both received a two-week training and mentoring on source and information management from the Regional LE Specialist during his field mission to Niassa in July 2019. Nine sources are now operational. A legal analyst was also recruited for Niassa NR who is currently compiling a database to facilitate case tracking and reporting. Finally, a new Law Enforcement Advisor was recruited for the Niassa National Reserve in Maputo towards the end of the last reporting period. They received on-the-job mentoring from the Regional LE specialist between January-April 2019.

Activity 1.3. Develop Terms of Reference and provide operational support for intelligence analyst/manager operating in Mozambique's National Wildlife Crime Unit

Progress to date: To date no intelligence analyst has been recruited for the national Wildlife Crime Unit, although candidate applications have now been reviewed and the recruitment window closed. This is anticipated to be finalized during the next reporting period.

Activity 1.4 Develop Terms of Reference and provide operational support for intelligence analyst/manager operating in the Wildlife Crime Unit in Sangha Department, Congo, in co-operation with Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park

Progress to date: No new recruitment during this reporting period, and operational on-the-job mentoring continued for the existing team. A 4-day source-handling training was conducted by our WCS Investigations Lead in May, focusing on risk assessment and personal security. Six staff from the Wildlife Crime Unit attended this training. The number of sources has been significantly expanded across the northern Congo landscape. Through leveraged funding (US State Department/Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs) we have also now recruited a WCS regional senior analyst to be based in the WCU office in Ouessou who arrived on 23 October and who will provide on-the-job mentoring to the existing team of four analysts as well as partner organizations operating in other protected areas in the broader northern Congo landscape.

Activity 1.5 Develop Terms of Reference and provide operational support for intelligence manager operating in Yankari Reserve, Nigeria

Progress to date: Our work in Nigeria over this reporting period has focused on intelligence gathering to boost law enforcement at Yankari Game Reserve (YGR) and Cross River National Park (CRNP). Following the induction received in Congo by the CRNP intelligence manager last year, efforts to improve understanding of trafficking networks has continued in CRNP. We have discovered an organised network around CRNP trafficking ebony from the national park and from neighbouring Cameroon, the trade is believed to be highly lucrative and the ebony is exported. We are collecting more information on the trade which appears to have the backing of well-connected politicians in the state. In YGR our informant network alerted us to the fact rosewood loggers were targeting the reserve in 2018 and we were able to arrest those involved. Since then there has been no attempt to resume logging inside YGR but the trafficking continues outside the reserve, within Bauchi State. We are working with the state authorities to review and revise the wildlife law to prohibit the logging of rosewood in the state.

Activity 1.6 Develop Terms of Reference and provide operational for intelligence/wildlife crime cell operating in Cross State in Nigeria

Progress to date: See Activity 1.5

Activity: 1.7 Provide on-the-job mentoring support to national wildlife crime analysts/managers through remote support and twice-yearly site field visits by the regional law enforcement specialist to each of Mozambique, Republic of Congo and Nigeria

Progress to date: During this reporting period the regional LE specialist has conducted two site visits to Mozambique (January – April 2019, and July – August 2019), and one visit to Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park between September and October 2019. In addition, and through leveraged funding, the regional LE advisor has expanded activities and implementation of intelligence-based protocols developed under this project, to a new site – Kahuzi Biega National Park – in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Output 2: Enhanced infrastructure, information gathering, and strategic support structures in place in protected areas in Nigeria, Republic of Congo and Mozambique to implement intelligence-led policing

Activity 2.1 Conduct intelligence-focused capacity assessment and scoping trip by regional law enforcement specialist in Nigeria, Republic of Congo and Mozambique to assess current systems of intel management and analysis

Progress to date: Completed.

Activity 2.2 Develop and provide operational support for implementation of Standard Operating Procedures for intelligence-led enforcement approaches for each of Niassa National Reserve, Yankari Game Reserve and Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park

Progress to date: SOPs developed and implemented for Congo. SOPs developed for Mozambique and in process of implementation by the new LE advisor for Niassa. SOPs shared with and currently being developed for Cross River and Yankari also.

Activity 2.3 Identify, procure and deploy intelligence management and analysis tools and necessary hardware in sites currently without (Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria and Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, Congo)

Progress to date: In Congo, ongoing on-the job training continues for the four analysts by the intelligence manager (see also Activity 3.1). Remote mentoring of the analyst by in Niassa NR by the regional LE specialist is ongoing. A needs assessment is currently being developed for Yankari GR and Cross River NP.

Output 3. Enhanced intelligence and investigative capabilities and infrastructure in provincial/national wildlife crime units in Nigeria, Republic of Congo and Mozambique

Activity 3.1 Identify, customize and deploy intelligence management and analysis tools and necessary hardware at national/provincial level (National Wildlife Crime Unit, Mozambique and Wildlife Crime Unit, Congo), to facilitate targeted enforcement action

Progress to date: A new senior analyst has been recruited for Congo through leveraged funding, but who will work to develop and populate a new i2 database for the northern Congo region, and provide on-the-job mentoring for the team of four analysts. In addition, we are currently conducting research into the CLUE case management software system that is fully compatible and integrated with i2. With the arrival of the new senior analyst in Congo, and the recruitment of the new analyst in Maputo in Mozambique we anticipate greater attention given to expanding the analytics in the next reporting period.

Activity 3.2. Conduct a training workshop on the legal and judicial process for district and provincial prosecutors in and around the Niassa Reserve in Mozambique

Progress to date: Completed in Year 2

Activity 3.4 Conduct a training on the judicial process and legal reform for departmental-level prosecutors, judges and gendarmerie in the Sangha and Likouala Departments of Northern Congo

Progress to date: Completed in Year 2

Activity 3.5 Convene a workshop and facilitate on-going discussions with NESREA on a partnership to establish a wildlife crime unit in Calabar, Nigeria

Progress to date: We are planning additional training for NCS staff in Port Harcourt and Lagos as an extension of the training workshop in Calabar held in March 2019, as well as logistical support for planned operations at Lagos airport. New funding (US State Department/Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs through the Elephant Protection Initiative) was leveraged for the recruitment of a CWT coordinator to be based in Abuja. The CWT coordinator will provide training and logistical support for the ongoing work by the Nigeria Customs Service.

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.

Whilst we have made good progress on Congo, and secondly in Mozambique, we are unlikely to fully meet deliverables in Nigeria for the reasons already outlined in our Annual Year 2 report and recognized in the report evaluator's comments. It is clear that the best strategy for supporting CWT work in Nigeria at this stage is a two-pronged approach that continues to invest in operational support and staff capacity at the landscape scale (Cross River and Yankari) whilst also continuing to create and capitalize upon opportunities for institutional support to Nigeria Customs Service through Mrs Ambimbola and WCS's newly recruited CWT coordinator at the national scale.

An additional challenge we have identified in Nigeria is with building engagement and political will to support prosecutions. In our previous reports we outlined challenges experienced with NESREA to this end. In Yankari Game Reserve for example we have strong state support in securing prosecutions from the Bauchi government through a co-management agreement with WCS, which enable us to fully capitalize upon efforts to strengthen information gathering and operational support for arrests. In Cross River however, we do not yet have full state-level buy in for prosecutions, and as we look to further strengthen intelligence-led enforcement efforts,

we are looking to better engage and support the National Parks Service in Cross River to take greater responsibility to this end. This will be a focus of the next – and final – six months of this program.

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

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| Discussed with LTS: | No |
| Formal change request submitted: | No |
| Received confirmation of change acceptance | N/A |

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?

We have attached requested responses from the AR2 evaluation.

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.

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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.**