

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	283
Project title:	Strengthening transcontinental cooperation to combat IWT between Viet Nam and Mozambique
Country(ies):	Viet Nam, Mozambique
Lead organisation:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Collaborator(s):	Viet Nam Supreme People's Procuracy (SPP), Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Mozambique National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC)
Project leader:	Hoang Bich Thuy
Report date and number:	April 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media:	None

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 of September).

Output 1: Political commitment for cooperation between Viet Nam and Mozambique to combat IWT is strengthened through legal mechanisms and improved protocols.

As reported in the previous reporting period, a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) on criminal matters between Viet Nam and Mozambique was signed by the Prosecutor General of Viet Nam's SPP and Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique in December 2018. In this reporting period, the MLAT has been approved by the President of Viet Nam and is now waiting for final approval of Mozambique's Head of State.

As a next step, to continue strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, WCS is going to support the government counterparts in Viet Nam and Mozambique to organize the first annual meeting (tentatively in November 2019) on reviewing the progress towards combating transnational organized crime and the application of the MLAT on criminal matters in support of the fight against wildlife crime as well as agreement on priority actions for combating wildlife crimes. This bilateral meeting will be carried out with leveraged funds from the United State government through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Output 2: Enhanced capacity for cooperative law enforcement actions on IWT between Mozambique and Viet Nam.

Activity 2.3: Support the deployment of the Vietnamese liaison officer (VLO)

In this reporting period, the VLO continued to work with National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) and support WCS Mozambique and WCS Viet Nam in gathering information as reported in the below Output 3. She has been designing and preparing for the implementation of

a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey targeting Vietnamese citizens living in Mozambique as reported in the below Output 4.

Output 3: Viet Nam and Mozambique proactively share information and actionable intelligence on African rhino horn and ivory trafficking networks

Activity 3.1: Investigate and collect data on trafficking networks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Output 4: Vietnamese residents in Mozambique perceive a greater risk of partaking in wildlife crimes

Activity 4.1. Conduct KAP survey in Mozambique

As reported in the Year 2 annual report, we aimed to conduct an additional survey to overcome under-reporting of IWT-related issues and illegal behaviours in May 2019. However, the survey has now been rescheduled to November due to some logistical issues for the VLO and the schedule of the survey team. The KAP survey is now scheduled for November 2019. This time, we will adopt Specialised Questioning Techniques (SQTs) to elicit more truthful answers from the respondents. Two Vietnamese consultants were employed and will be trained in October 2019 on the survey techniques. With the seasonal fluctuation of Vietnamese population in Maputo, WCS has expected to interview as many as 100 Vietnamese citizens living there.

Activity 4.2 Develop a mitigation strategy and intervention development

Mitigation strategy and intervention will be developed with additional findings from the 2019 KAP mentioned in above Activity 4.1. WCS has reached out to some of our targeted partners who will be engaged to perform relevant interventions. We discussed with the Viet Nam

Embassy in Mozambique to propose a collaborative opportunity regarding awareness- raising activities for Vietnamese community in Maputo on Mozambican and Vietnamese laws and legislations related to IWT. We will also find alternative channels to reach to Vietnamese community in Mozambique including but not limited to Viettel Global and Viettel Construction, the telecom corporations operating in and sending their Vietnamese staff to Mozambique; and Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry who can help reach wider Vietnamese business community in general and those who operate in Mozambique and African countries.

All on-going efforts together with findings from the 2019 KAP are to ensure that an IWT- related communication plan for the Vietnamese community in Maputo is in place, which takes into consideration of all existing resources in and outside this IWT project and can be replicated to other African and Asian countries along the IWT networks.

Activity 4.3: Develop model zero tolerance policies for wildlife trafficking and gift giving by staff among Vietnamese companies in Mozambique

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between WCS and Viettel Construction - a key partner of Viettel Global for their infrastructure building in Mozambique was signed in August 2019. WCS has been working with the training and communication department of Viettel Construction to design a series of learning and communication materials (including infographics on wildlife related legislation and video featuring staff of Viettel Construction talking about wildlife protection) to educate and increase awareness of their staff, especially those who will be sent to the sites in other African and Asian countries, of the risks of partaking in wildlife trafficking.

Viettel Construction will contribute in cash and in-kind support in all production and execution, and commit to spread the messages and distribute learning materials across all their existing staff learning platforms. As the MOU has set the avenue for a 3-year partnership, WCS aims to design activities that engage the Viettel Construction top leaders to strengthen their institutional commitment on wildlife protection and CWT law compliance, as well as advocating for the promulgation of relevant internal policies.

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.

As explained in Activity 4.1 above, the KAP survey was delayed due to logistical issues for the VLO (visa applications) and our decision to invest into a new methodology. In addition, due to the fluctuation of Vietnamese population in Maputo over the last 6 months as well as the decision to use undercover method and specialised questioning techniques to minimize under-reporting, we will have to spend extra money for consultancy and implementation time (our researchers are expected to spend one month in Maputo for data collection only).

Secondly, as mentioned in Activity 4.2, we had conversations with the Viet Nam Embassy in Maputo and were advised that now only a small number of Vietnamese citizens reside permanently there. This deems a challenge for WCS to implement activities related to or targeting the Vietnamese in Mozambique and especially in Maputo. We also learned that Vietnamese community in Mozambique is having 'withdrawal' attitude towards IWT topics as they associate themselves with negative impression and consequences. This withdrawal has been and will likely cause difficulties in designing and implementing outreach/communication activities through official/formal channels. We have to take small steps each time to start changing their perception and behaviors.

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: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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?

No

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.**