



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



(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)

<b>Project reference:</b>	IWT042
<b>Project title:</b>	Combatting global wildlife cybercrime: building on the success in China
<b>Country(ies):</b>	China, Viet Nam, Tanzania, Cameroon
<b>Lead organisation:</b>	TRAFFIC International
<b>Collaborator(s):</b>	Tencent, SF-Express, China CITES Management Authority, Criminal Science and Technology Department, Nanjing Forest Police College, Cameroon CITES Management Authority, DHL eCommerce, Viet Nam E-commerce Association (VECOM), Viet Nam Automobile Transport Association (VATA), The Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA)
<b>Project leader:</b>	<i>XU Ling</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):</b>	2017 October 12, HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc:</b>	

**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).**

1.1 The desktop reviews to identify key locations and trade routes for wildlife trafficking relating to China (CN), Viet Nam (VN), Cameroon (CM) and Tanzania (TZ) were carried out and the results were discussed and summarized in the kick off meeting. (September. 2017, finished)

1.2 The kick of meeting and an online monitoring training workshop were organized in Beijing on 19-22 Sept. 2017. 16 representatives from TRAFFIC teams in mainland China, Hong Kong, VN, CM, TZ, US, EU, Japan and South Africa attended the workshop. During the workshop, attendees were trained on the methodologies for monitoring online wildlife trade. A meeting with Tencent took place on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept to discuss the collaboration with Tencent for the establishment of an internet company alliance against illegal wildlife trade. A half-day visit to Baidu was also organized. Baidu introduced their work on combating illegal wildlife trade and showed their interested to use Baidu Index to predict illegal wildlife trade trends (19-22 Sept. 2017, finished)

1.3 & 1.4 Monthly online monitoring surveys of the availability of illegal wildlife products on internet and social media platforms in CN have been conducted and the respective results are recorded for further analysis and for use in the annual report. (July- 2017, ongoing)

1.5 & 1.6 After the training held in Beijing, staff from the VN, CM, TZ offices are prepared to check the availability of illegal wildlife products on websites and social media platforms by using the methods they learned from the training. The plan is for each office to conduct one round of the one-off surveys by end of October 2017. (September- 2017, ongoing)

1.7 & 1.8 TRAFFIC has reached out to experts from Nanjing Forest Police College to carry out the analysis on the characteristics and combating techniques of wildlife cybercrime in China and Globally. The outline of the analysis is currently under internal discussion. Once the outline is confirmed, the analysis will be carried out by experts. (September- 2017, ongoing)

2.1 The online monitoring results in CN have been shared in a timely manner with managers of websites and social media (wechat) platforms, as well as enforcement agencies for their follow-up. Some illegal advertisements have been removed by the websites and some wechat accounts were banned based on TRAFFIC's monitoring results. Further investigations are being undertaken by enforcement agencies. More results will be reported once from the investigations of the enforcement agencies are completed. (July- 2017, ongoing)

2.2 The domestic training event for law enforcement agencies has been under preparation and is scheduled for November 2017. (July- 2017, ongoing)

2.3 The international enforcement training event in CN was discussed during the kick off meeting. TRAFFIC offices in VN, CM, TZ and other countries will approach local enforcement agencies for their participation. (September- 2017, ongoing)

2.4 TRAFFIC has enabled one representative from China Customs to attend the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group on 9-13 October 2017 in Singapore with the support from the project. (August- 2017, ongoing)

3.1 & 3.2 The first draft of the Chinese version of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual for e-commerce to deter and prevent illegal wildlife trade was finished. The draft is under internal review and will be sent out for external review in CN in October. A review workshop will be organized in November after the conclusion of the external review process. (July- 2017, ongoing)

3.4 The training for CN-based internet companies is being prepared preparation, e.g. by reaching out to relevant companies. (July- 2017, ongoing)

3.5 The international training event to support the use of the SOPs was discussed during the kick off meeting. Local social media and e-commerce companies in VN, CM, TZ and other countries, as well as global companies, will be approached to attend the event in CN. A contact person from Tencent was met to discuss about the event (September- 2017, ongoing)

4.1 The desktop research to identify key transportation industry stakeholders with link to CN in VN, CM and TZ was done. The results were discussed during the kick off meeting. (August-September 2017, finished)

4.2 & 4.3 Like the SOP Manual for e-commerce companies, the first draft of the Chinese version of the SOP Manual for logistic/courier companies was also finished. The draft will be sent out for external review in October and a review workshop will be organized in November after the external review. (July- 2017, ongoing)

4.5 The training on the SOPs for China-based courier/logistic companies is being prepared, e.g. reaching out to relevant companies. (July- 2017, ongoing)

**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.**

From the initial trial for the online monitoring during the training in Beijing, it seems that wildlife trade on regular e-commerce platforms is less common in CM and TZ than expected. As a result, very few target websites could be identified. TRAFFIC CM and TZ offices are now conducting wider searches by using the methodologies learned in the training. Details will be reported in the next reporting period. Based on the results, if necessary, TRAFFIC will discuss with LTS International on the changes.

**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 N
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No N
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No N

**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, not at this point.

**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.**