



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2021)

Project reference:	IWT 047
Project title:	Developing Investigation and Prosecution Capacity to Save Angola's Elephants
Country(ies):	Angola
Lead organisation:	Stop Ivory / EPI Foundation
Partners(s):	INBAC, MINAMB, PGR, EIA, WCS Uganda, USFWS, TRAFFIC
Project leader:	<i>Ruth Musgrave</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	<i>HYR5 – change request submitted for a project extension resulting from COVID-19. Extension granted.</i>
Project website/blog/social media:	www.elephantprotectioninitiative.org

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).

Progress between April to Sept 30th, 2021:

The project was initially due to complete in March 2020, however because of ongoing and persistent delays experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic the final activities continue to be delayed. As of March 2021, the key remaining activity was implementation of the offender's database, including training for Government staff, conclusion of phase 2 of the investigations into the ivory trade and a planned wrap up meeting to be held in Angola with the project partners to share the findings and activities undertaken during the project and to discuss options for building on these.

The last 6 months have seen some minor updates to the work undertaken previously on the legal framework for wildlife crimes in Angola as a result of updates to relevant laws including the penal code and these updates have been shared with project partners.

Throughout the 6 months covered under this report, communication with the project partners, has continued to ensure partners were updated on any changes to the project and opportunities to continue progress on activities. Ongoing travel restrictions has meant that communications have been via email, Whatsapp and Skype.

EPIF has an in-country consultant, Sr. Jose Agostinho, in place and he remains informally engaged on the project and will assist with implementation of the wrap up workshop when possible, including potential support to organising smaller online meetings and discussions if travel restrictions remain in place.

1. Strengthen the criminal justice system for wildlife crime

- *Activity 1.1: Combating Wildlife Crime & Legislative Best Practice: An Assessment of Angola's Legislation.* This activity was completed in a previous reporting period. However, recent changes to

the wildlife crime legislation have continued to be noted and a formal update will be added to the report on this activity if needed and will be outlined in the project wrap up meeting.

- *Activity 1.2: Guide to Wildlife Crime Charges in Angola.* This activity was completed in a previous reporting period and the report was formally launched during the Judicial Symposium in late 2019. The Guide has been shared with project partners and has been recently identified as the basis for the development of a mobile app for Prosecutors. This will be done under a separate project being implemented by TRAFFIC and as part of the app development relevant updates will be made to the Guide to reflect any recent changes to the relevant wildlife laws and regulations.
- *Activity 1.3: Introductory Sensitisation Workshop on Wildlife Crime for Police and Prosecutors.* This activity was completed in line with the project implementation plan.
- *Activity 1.4 Introductory Judicial Symposium on Wildlife Crime.* This activity was completed in a previous reporting period.
- *Activity 1.5 National Wildlife Criminal Offenders Database.* Remaining funding for this activity has been provided to support a USFWS funded project implementing a database for use in CITES permitting and offender tracking. This activity requires the provision of a training workshop and implementation of the database once travel is possible. Project partners are in discussion with government agencies to identify appropriate options for the training and possible alternatives if travel is not possible and training workshops remain constrained.

2. Investigate, analyse and take action to reduce domestic and trans-boundary ivory trade.

- *Activity 2.3 and Activity 2.4.* Discussions and sharing of information with Angolan law enforcement and EIA have continued via email and skype calls as the investigations have continued. Investigations in Angola have led to networks operating across sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria. EIA has recently been awarded funding by the US State Department, via INL, to continue work on these networks in Nigeria.

3. Stakeholders fully appraised of outcomes and impact of project activities and open access plan implemented.

- The materials developed continue to be made available in soft and hard copy across the government agencies INBAC, MINAMB and the PGR as well as with partners and stakeholders in the Angolan wildlife space; TRAFFIC, ICCF, USFWS, UNDP, UNODC.

4. Monitoring and evaluation:

- Updates to the log frame have been made in line with the requests for project extensions and in response to any feedback received from annual reports.

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.

Continued staff changes in the Ministry and INBAC have continued to provide setbacks to the implementation of some project activities. Project partners have struggled to get engagement from the Ministry to identify training options and to assist with convening partners for an online version of the wrap up meeting. These struggles have been consistent across other projects and for other organisations.

EPIF has started planning and communications regarding activities well in advance and will use in country consultant Jose Agostinho to help push things along in our absence on the ground. These challenges may have an impact on specific budget lines with travel costs not required but additional staff time needed to organise events and to ensure in country support from Jose Agostinho.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic,

please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The main cause of delays to the project has been the ongoing and protracted impacts of the COVID-19 virus and pandemic. Plans were in place for all activities to be finalised and for the wrap-up meeting to be held in late March 2020 when global lockdowns and travel restrictions were implemented. As a result, plans for this final project activity, which was to include presentations on the investigation activity along with updates on the legal guides (Output 1) would have been presented, had to be delayed.

At the time of this report some travel restrictions to Angola remain in place, including a requirement for quarantine on both arrival in Angola and return to international locations. EPIF is looking into options and the practicalities of holding the wrap-up meeting through virtual platforms but remains hopeful that the workshop will still be possible before the end of the project. Online workshops remain a challenge with many government staff in Angola still required to work from home and often without reliable internet connections. It is unclear at this point whether other activities that require travel to hold training workshops and install computer packages and infrastructure will be possible.

Planned activities to deliver an offender’s database to assist with strengthening the criminal justice system continues to be delayed due to travel restrictions. This activity requires a training visit and workshop by project partners USFWS and so has also been delayed as a result of the COVID-19 related restrictions. EPIF continues to work closely with USFWS partners and is working to identify possible options for remote training.

2c. 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

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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 additional issues other than to flag the ongoing impact of COVID-19 related restrictions as this is still having an impact on remaining activities. We have a number of active contracts with other organisations for some of this work and are not sure what will happen if the restrictions are ongoing and we are unable to travel as a number of them require time in Angola.

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.**