



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin Report” guidance: (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2019

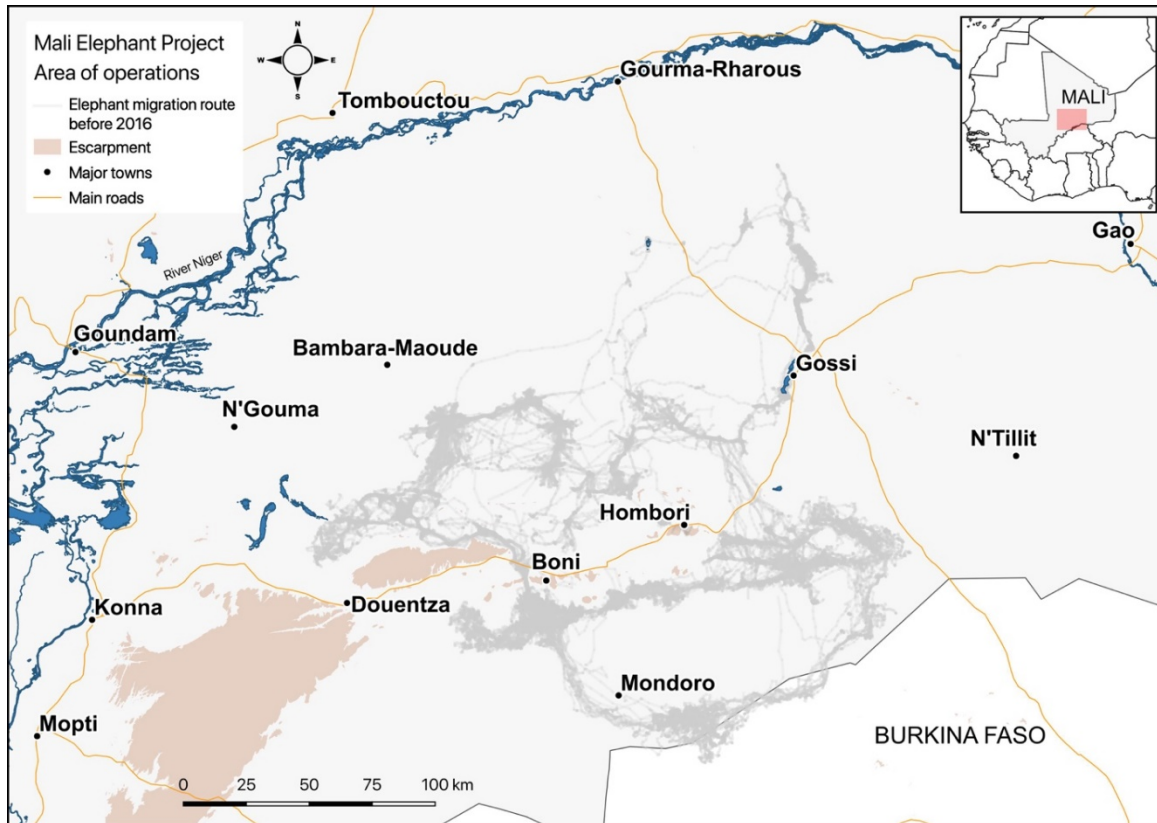
IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT050
Project title	Developing elephant eco-guardians: fundamental for co-ordinated anti-poaching/trafficking initiatives in Mali.
Country/ies	Mali
Contract holder Institution	The WILD Foundation
Partner institution(s)	The Mali Government: Ministry of the Environment, with its Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF) as the principle contact; plus other Ministries as appropriate but particularly the Ministries of Defence and Territorial Administration. Chengeta Wildlife Local communities British and American embassies The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)
IWT grant value	£355,055
Start/end dates of project	1 st July 2018 – 31 st March 2021
Reporting period (e.g. April 2017-Mar 2018) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	July 2018 – March 2019 Annual Report 1
Project leader name	Dr Susan Canney
Project website/blog/social media	Website: https://www.wild.org/mali-elephants/ Blog: https://www.wild.org/category/blog/mali-elephants-blog/ Twitter: @MaliEleProject Facebook in Mali: https://www.facebook.com/gourmamali/ WILD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/wildfoundation/
Report author(s) and date	Sophia Leroy, Susan Canney, 30 April 2019

NB text shown in red is not to be shared publicly to protect the field team and eco-guards associated with the project.

1. Project rationale

The approximately 300 elephants of the Gourma region are one of only two desert-adapted populations and the northernmost in Africa, making an annual migration to find food, water and refuge across an area of 32,000 km² (see area map below). This internationally important isolated population is classified as “vulnerable”, listed on Appendix II of CITES, and protected by a regional MoU.



Meanwhile 85% of the 265,000 human inhabitants (2009 census) rely on subsistence livelihoods, but increasing human pressure has resulted in desertification, habitat loss and degradation, reduced environmental and social resilience, and impoverished livelihoods that exacerbate human-human conflicts and human-elephant conflict. There is, however, great local support for the MEP’s model of elephant-centred community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), developed since 2009.

Before 2012 the killing of elephants was rare, but a government coup, armed rebellion and jihadist insurgency allowed weapons and lawlessness to proliferate, and trafficking networks to extend their influence across this vast, remote region. It is still highly insecure, and high levels of youth unemployment have provided fertile ground for banditry and jihadist recruitment. All of this exacerbates poaching both directly and indirectly.

Community protection contained poaching for 3 years but a decrease in security and sudden aggressive targeting of the elephant range by traffickers led to a severe escalation in 2015 when >20% of the population was killed. Since the deployment of Mali’s first anti-poaching unit (APU) in February 2017 the level of poaching has drastically reduced.

This project aims to maintain this positive momentum by boosting the effectiveness of eco-guardians, thereby reinforcing community engagement, and improving the capacity of the APU to apprehend traffickers.

2. Project partnerships

This initiative builds on local structures and trust developed over the past 15 years of continual engagement with elephant-range communities, multi-level government partners and enforcement agencies and international development and peacekeeping agencies. Over this time an integrated and synergistic model has been developed whereby project actions are mutually supportive and deliver multiple social and environmental benefits. Specific partner institutions involved in this project include:

- the Mali Government's Ministry of the Environment, with its Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF) as the principle contact, plus other Ministries as appropriate but particularly the Ministries of Defence and Territorial Administration. The Minister of the Environment has asked the project to support DNEF in developing Mali's strategy for elephant protection and conservation. DNEF is the government agency responsible for nature conservation, and their authorisation is required to allow the project to operate. Keeping the DNEF engaged remains a constant challenge, as historical underinvestment, poor training and lack of resources over many years compounded by weak governance has left DNEF with little competence and low morale. However, the project is working hard to mitigate these problems with respect to elephant conservation and has over the past year managed to establish a protocol for regular reporting on expenses, vehicle use and patrols which the DNEF now shares on a monthly basis. The project also works closely with top levels of the Malian Army in planning the military support to anti-poaching that has become necessary due to the decrease in security since 2015, including the engagement of the Malian air-force who provides the mechanics for the aerial surveillance.
- Chengeta Wildlife who provides the anti-poaching training to the government unit composed of DNEF foresters and military personnel. The past year has seen Chengeta Wildlife strengthen their engagement in Mali, with the provision of an additional trainer and an increase in the number of training weeks from 2 to 5 for each session as a response to the deteriorating security.
- Local communities: The project engages initially with the community leaders and any members of the community who wish to attend a "general assembly" to discuss issues and challenges for them and for the elephants; before moving on to potential solutions. As their livelihoods are mostly subsistence much of the conversation revolves around the availability of natural resources, the reasons for degradation and the need for a management regime that all respect. These meetings may last several days or take place over several different occasions. A representative management committee of elders is elected to determine the rules of resource management and any zonation while community eco-guardians patrol to ensure compliance. Eco-guards are also engaged by the project to gather information on elephant locations, movements, behaviour carry out habitat monitoring and support the implementation of resource management systems agreed by the community.
- British and American embassies who have provided key advice and strategic support, facilitation with contacts related to the project's work; and attending key meetings at the Ministry when appropriate to demonstrate the interest of the international community in Mali's elephants. The project updates the British Embassy because of existing Darwin Initiative and IWT grants, and the use of British technicians; and the American Embassy due to a long-standing relationship stretching back to 2002. Additionally, it is now working with British and American counter-trafficking initiatives to combat the trafficking of ivory and wildlife parts.
- The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA): MINUSMA provide financial, logistical, technical and political assistance towards anti-poaching activities. It also provides a valuable co-ordination role between the project and bilateral partners. The MINUSMA is currently supporting the deployment of the aerial surveillance to complement anti-poaching operations, as well as the construction of a perimeter wall around the future military base at Douentza from which the plane will operate. The mission is regularly involved in high-level meetings to push forward the implementation of the above activities, including the latest multi-stakeholder mission to Douentza from 18th to 21st March which enabled the physical delimitation of the wall boundaries.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1. The capacity and motivation for eco-guardians to lead and promote elephant conservation activities is increased through training and the formalisation of their occupations,

Activity 1.1 Training workshops for community eco-guardians (five 2-day workshops in year 1: five 1-day workshops in years 2-3). The training of community eco-guardians was carried out as planned: 42 eco-guardians from 8 core communes received training in the use of GPS to report elephant locations amounting to a total of 38 days of training (9 workshops lasting between 3-8 days). In addition, 32 eco-guardians carried out vegetation/wildlife surveys over a period of 17 days as part of their training: 30 eco-guardians carried out two 8-day vegetation surveys in Daroma and Sartatane, and 2 eco-guardians carried out a 1-day repeat W-transect in Inani under the supervision of the field team. An additional 9 eco-guardians received training in conducting social surveys in September 2018.

Activity 1.2 Incentive payments are made on a monthly basis to the 50 best-performing eco-guardians in return for CBNRM and elephant protection activities. Of the 673 eco-guardians registered with the project, 513 eco-guardians from 9 communes received incentive payments for elephant monitoring; 143 for habitat monitoring and for collecting information on wildlife; 23 to take GPS readings and photos.

Activity 1.3 Monitoring of eco-guardian activities by community leaders and MEP field team. The MEP field staff is in regular phone communication with its network of eco-guardians who report on elephant location (see below Output 2) For activities which require advanced training such as W-transects (Activity 1.1) eco-guardians carry out the activity under the supervision of the MEP field staff; for activities such as habitat monitoring and firebreaks (Activity 1.2), which form part of the CBNRM conventions, the responsibility for implementation rests on the community leaders and activities are often implemented under the supervision of one responsible eco-guardian. Participating eco-guardians must sign a list of attendance, countersigned by the project (Appendix 4.5).

Activity 1.4 Annual household surveys with the 50 eco-guardians that receive training and incentive payments. The baseline surveys have had to be postponed as it has been too risky for the field team to travel out to the sites to conduct the surveys (see Output 1 under section 3.2).

Activity 1.5. Activities related to the launch of the process of formal recognition of the eco-guardian role. The role of eco-guardian has been recognised in commune-wide conventions. National recognition is not possible under the circumstances (see Output 1 under section 3.2).

Output 2. The anti-poaching unit (APU) conducts effective proactive and reactive operations

Activity 2.1

Activity 2.2 APU conduct proactive missions for >15 days/month across all 8 core communes of the elephant range. The APU patrolled an average 4.1 days/month during the project period (see the narrative under Output 2 below for further details).

Activity 2.3. APU responds to poaching related activity (reactive missions) across all 8 core communes of the elephant range. The APU did not respond to the October poaching incident (see Output 2 for further details).

Activity 2.4. APU mission reports created, analysed and synthesised into quarterly reports. The APU is now providing the project with monthly reports on expenditure, patrols and vehicle use. This is a significant achievement that required a great deal of effort on the part of the UK and field team. These are then summarised into activity/expenses reports and patrols are entered into a database and mapped using GIS (Appendix 4.3).

Output 3. A census of the total elephant population is conducted by aerial surveillance and local communities counting simultaneously.

Activity 3.1 Elephant census strategic plan and methods completed and accepted by project partners and census participants. The strategic plan has been disseminated and the protocol drafted, the project is now awaiting approval from partners and participants. The next step is to

undertake a pilot census in May 2019 to assess the feasibility and to adjust the methodology accordingly. In particular it is necessary to know what is possible with the aircraft in relation to elephant locations

Activity 3.2 – 3.5 To be completed Y2-3.

Output 4. Training materials are produced and distributed to community eco-guardians and APU personnel; and project progress and lessons learned are disseminated to the wider national and international community.

Activity 4.1 Field manual for community eco-guardians written and distributed. The first draft has been drafted and is under review by the field team, however it is to be noted that most of the ecoguardians are illiterate and training is mostly practical.

Activity 4.2 Field manual on elephant monitoring for APU written and distributed. This has been delayed due to the inexperienced nature of the recent APUs with all available time and effort needed in training them to operate in a way that minimises risk.

Activity 4.3 Elephant census report written and distributed. To be completed Y3.

Activity 4.4 Article(s) on community-based elephant monitoring and protection written and submitted to peer-reviewed journal. To be completed by end of project.

Activity 4.5. Blogs written and published online/ Activity 4.6. Conference / symposium presentations delivered. This activity is an ongoing part of the project's work and will continue in Y2-3. Two blogs and 1 educational video (animation) explaining the project approach in just 3 minutes have been published online (see section 3.2, Indicator 4.5) and the project director has given 6 talks/presentations (see section 3.2, Indicator 4.6). The project is cautious about publicising too much of its approach in the blog given the deteriorating security.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. The capacity and motivation for eco-guardians to lead and promote elephant conservation activities is increased through training and the formalisation of their occupations,

Given the high level of insecurity in the elephant range only truly motivated and dedicated young men are accepted as eco-guards. They are selected by the community in a public and transparent process whereby the role of an eco-guard is discussed by drawing up a list of criteria which includes an eco-guard's essential qualities. Individuals are then proposed and selected by the community. The role of eco-guard provides an occupation for these young men. In times of peace, experience has suggested that providing incentive payments would become unnecessary once the benefits of these systems are felt and the practices become habitual. In times of conflict and insurgency, however, the continual disruption, the social discord engendered by insurgency and lawlessness means that it is important to continually reinforce these systems and engage as many of the youth as possible (Indicator 1.2) while increasing their capacity to provide useful information. 42 eco-guards have for instance been trained in the use of GPS (this enables the mapping of elephant distribution and project activities), 32 of them in vegetation/wildlife surveys, and 9 in social survey methods (section 3.1 and Indicator 1.1 below). As a result, the capacity of eco-guardians to carry out their activities has already been increased: in addition to reporting elephant locations, many eco-guards now provide GPS coordinates at the same time. This is a huge improvement on the past and saves the project staff a lot of time when mapping elephant distribution (Appendix 4.1 and 4.2). In December, an additional 23 eco-guards also received incentive payments for taking GPS readings of firebreaks carried out to protect pastures from wild fires, an activity essential to CBNRM.

The long-term plan is for the eco-guard role to be recognised at the national level, however, under the violent circumstances the Government currently has other priorities. Nevertheless, 3 commune-wide conventions have been finalised which officially recognise the central role played by eco-guards in CBNRM. These conventions, which are agreed by the communities, their traditional leaders and elected representatives at the commune-level by way of consensus, help cement the status of eco-guards within their communities and should also facilitate their recognition at a higher level at a later stage.

The deteriorating security situation in the elephant range (section 3.4, Outcome Assumption 1) has limited the ability of the project staff to travel out to the sites to conduct social surveys. As a

result, the baseline survey of eco-guardians which was due to take place in Y1 (Indicator 1.3) had to be postponed.

1.1. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians selected from across the elephant range receive advanced training in monitoring elephant movements and key habitats, (15 days of workshops), with follow-up refresher training in year 2 and 3 (five 1-day workshops/year). Baseline 0; progress Y1: 42 eco-guardians trained in the use of GPS during 9 workshops lasting 3-8 days; 32 eco-guardians trained in how to conduct vegetation /wildlife surveys during 3 workshops of 1-8 days; 9 eco-guardians trained in conducting social surveys. While the number of workshops/eco-guardians trained is a measure of effort more than capacity, the fact that eco-guardians are now able to provide GPS coordinates with elephant locations or as part of other activities is a measure of the workshops' success.

1.2. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians from across the elephant range receive monthly incentive payments following their selection in year 1 and continuing throughout the project. Baseline: 673 registered eco-guardians; Progress Y1: 513 eco-guardians from 9 communes received incentive payments for elephant monitoring; 143 for habitat monitoring and collect information on wildlife; 23 to take GPS readings and photos.

1.3. Household income for the 50 best-performing eco-guardians increases by 20% in year 1 and is maintained at/above the same level for year 2 and 3 (baseline income to be determined in year 1). Progress Y1: Delayed due to insecurity.

1.4. The role of community eco-guardians as leaders of CBNRM and elephant monitoring activities is formally recognised in commune-wide CBNRM agreements. Target: Formal recognition of the role in 6/8 core communes by end of year 2, 8/8 by end of project. Progress Y1: Eco-guardian role recognised in 3 commune-wide conventions.

Output 2. The anti-poaching unit (APU) conducts effective proactive and reactive operations

The APU's operations is based on a tri-partite protocol between WILD, FAMa (the Malian Armed Forces) and the DNEF. Under this protocol 6 DNEF foresters assisted by three sets of 30 military personnel are to be rotated on a six-months basis. The first unit, which performed extremely well (see IWT 018), was rotated out at the beginning of 2018, having served for a year. The new recruits proved much younger and more inexperienced, requiring substantial training before they could operate autonomously. The high number of attacks in the elephant range at the time also meant that they were initially reluctant to leave the base and carry out patrols without the trainers. The October 2018 training session had to be postponed due to the high level of insecurity from G5-Sahel operations and many IED attacks, and the APU's military personnel was requisitioned to assist in G5 counter-operations meaning the unit was unable to respond to the October poaching incident (Indicator 2.3). The result is an average of 4.1 patrols/month between July 2018 and March 2019 (Indicator 2.2), below the target of 15 days/month which was based on the performance of the first unit deployed in 2017. The project director travelled to Mali in November and a crisis meeting was organised to discuss the APU's performance and what could be done about it. A new military commander of GTIA was appointed in Douentza in the second week of November who proved keenly engaged in the anti-poaching mission. Briefed by the Project's Field Manager and Security Advisor on the 13th December, he immediately ordered the unit out on patrol. Two weeks later however, the unit was rotated out again and replaced by the third set of recruits. They received their first training in January-February of this year and had already conducted two patrols of 4 and 3 days respectively in January before the trainers arrived.

The idea for the unit to use CyberTracker has been difficult to implement. The server used to upload/download patrol data was down for several weeks and for the duration of the training session which took place in July-August. This technical issue was outside of the project's control and prevented the APU from uploading any patrol data to the server. This issue has now been resolved; however, a new reporting system is currently under development which will render the server obsolete. Until then the project has set up a database of patrols based on the reports received from the APU chef de brigade and from the APU trainers; these include GPS coordinates of the patrol itineraries, which have enabled the mapping of patrols (Appendix 4.3).

However, there is a reluctance among the military elements for their position to be tracked as they cite fear of a security breach that puts them in danger.

2.1. # of community reports of elephant presence/absence increases from 15/month across the elephant range (baseline for 2016-17) to 20/month by year 2 and 30/month by end of project. Progress Y1: The project received a total of 184 reports during the reporting period, equivalent to 20.4 reports/month. These are compiled at the end of each month by the MEP field staff and forwarded to the UK team.

2.2. # of days/month on which proactive missions are conducted by the APU. Target: 15 days/month from year 1 and maintained throughout project. Baseline: 6 days/month, 2017-18. Progress Y1: 4.1/month. This target needs to be reviewed in the light of the decreasing security and the inexperience of the APU. Maintaining the baseline would already be a significant achievement.

2.3. % of poaching activity responded to by APU (i.e. reactive missions). Target: 100% response rate by end of year 1, maintained throughout project duration. Baseline 2016-17: 15%. Progress Y1: 1 poaching incident in October, not responded to because October was a month of intense insecurity with G5-Sahel operations and many IED attacks. The APU was requisitioned this month to support the army.

2.4. Proportion of elephant range monitored/protected effectively by the APU across the year (depending on elephant movements). Target = 8 core communes monitored and protected from year 1 to project end. Progress Y1: APU patrols covered 16 communes, including the 9 communes. 53% of the patrols were spent in 4 communes (Dangol-Bore, Haire, Korarou, Debere) where the elephants have been spending most of their time (Appendix 4.2 and 4.3).

Output 3. A census of the total elephant population is conducted by aerial surveillance and local communities counting simultaneously.

The census is due to take place in Y2. The strategic plan has been disseminated and the protocol drafted (3.1), the project is now awaiting approval from partners and participants. Trial counts will be conducted in May 2019 to help with the refinement of the protocol.

3.1. Strategic plan and methodology document for the elephant census completed and accepted by all partners by end of year 1. Progress: Strategic plan disseminated; protocol drafted. Project partners/participants to review it.

3.2 -3.5 To be completed Y2-3.

Output 4. Training materials are produced and distributed to community eco-guardians and APU personnel; and project progress and lessons learned are disseminated to the wider national and international community.

The training manual for eco-guards has been drafted and is under review by the field team (Appendix 4.7). Drafting of the training manual for the APU has been delayed (see Activity 4.2 under Section 3.1).

The project director represents the project at all major national and international events relating to conservation, elephants and IWT. This included the IWT Conference in London in October 2018, where the project director gave a talk and a poster presentation during two side-events (4.5). Two blogs and one promotional video animation elaborated in collaboration with Oxford Sparks have also been published online (4.4). In addition, the project employs a dedicated media person who is responsible for the project's online presence on social media (Facebook and Twitter).

4.1. Field manual written and distributed for community eco-guardian monitoring by end of Q3 in year 1. Progress Y1: Field manual drafted and under review.

4.2. Field manual for APU elephant monitoring, including working effectively with communities, drafted by end of Q3 in year 1 and updated annually as necessary. Progress Y1: postponed (see activity 4.2 above)

4.3. Elephant census report completed and distributed to partners and stakeholders by end of Q3 in year 3. To be completed Y3.

4.4. Article(s) on community-based elephant monitoring and protection submitted to peer-reviewed journal by end of project. To be completed by end of project.

4.5. Quarterly newsletter and blog updates (via the MEP website and other internationally distributed blogs e.g. National Geographic) to reach the wider international community.
Progress Y1: 2 blogs, 1 video and ongoing

- [Persisting so that Nature Prevails: the Mali Elephant Project in 2018](#) by Susan Canney, 1st Nov. 2018
- [Working together brings the impossible within reach in Mali](#) by Susan Canney, 30th Nov. 2018
- Oxford Sparks video animation, Oxford University, explaining the project in 3 minutes <https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/protecting-elephants-protecting-humans> plus linked website aimed at outreach to schools in particular.

4.6. Two conference/symposium presentations per year. Progress Y1: 6 talks and ongoing

- Presentation at the WildCru Conservation Geopolitics Forum in Oxford, March 2019
- Presentation at the University of Surrey Masters in Sustainable Development, Dec 2018
- Presentation to three local community groups in Oxford in October and November 2017, and November 2018
- Poster presentation at the Evidence to Action event linked to the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London, Oct 2018
- Presentation at the “Community Voices” event linked to the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London, Oct 2018
- Presentation to the Global Environment Summer Academy in July 2018

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome Community eco-guardians and enforcement agencies monitor and protect elephants across their range, preventing poaching, providing respected occupations, and improving multi-dimensional security.

0.1. Monthly elephant poaching rate is reduced to <1 / month by end of year 1; 0.5 / month by end of year 2; and 0.25 / month by end of year 3. Baseline: 3 / month, Jul 2016 – Jun 2017).
Progress: 0.11/month in Y1 (1 poaching incident in 9 months).

0.2. # of eco-guardians actively and regularly monitoring elephants in key areas throughout the elephant range reaches 50 by end of year 1 and is maintained or increases through the project period (baseline: 11 eco-guardians from 6/8 core communes regularly reporting elephant movements in 2016-17). The baseline represents the number of eco-guardians who provided >10 reports each on elephant locations in 2016-2017 (this should have been made clearer in the application). Upon reflexion this measure offers an incomplete picture as it is to a great extent dependent on elephant distribution, i.e. eco-guards tend to patrol their home areas and surrounds which may or may not have any elephants at a particular time of year. Therefore, it would be better to complement this information with the total number of eco-guards who report on elephants each reporting period.

An increase/decrease in the number of informants is to some extent an indication of the level of motivation of community eco-guards (Output 1), as they provide this information on a purely voluntary basis. At the same time, as explained under Output 2, it has become increasingly risky for local communities to provide information for fear of retaliation, so a decrease in the number of informants could also reflect an understandable reluctance to cooperate. Nevertheless, while the project provided incentives for elephant monitoring to eco-guards in 9 communes of the elephant range, it must be noted that reports came from 13 communes, i.e. a number of eco-guards provide information whether they receive payments or not.

Progress Y1: 35 informants in 13 communes from July 2018 to March 2019 (compared to 49 over the same period the previous year), of which 12 have reported >5 sightings each, and 4 >10 sightings.

0.3. # of days/month proactive and reactive APU missions. Target: ≥15 days/month by end of Q2 in year 1, maintained throughout project period. Base-line: 6 days/month in 2016-17.

Progress Y1: 4.1 days/month. The target is no longer appropriate. 15 days/month was based on the target applied to the first cohort of anti-poaching rangers (who stayed in place for a whole year, despite army policy that each cohort stays for 6 months).

4.1 days/month is consistent with the amount of money provided for fuel over the past 9 months. The project initially only provided enough money for this amount of patrolling until reporting on finances and activity had reached the required standard. This has now been achieved however the second two cohorts that have been in post over the last year have been inexperienced, requiring basic training before addressing anti-poaching skills. This was unforeseen and means that much more training time had to be spent in the base than in-operations. At the same time the security situation has deteriorated and the unit is the only enforcement unit operating in numbers of less than 50 individuals at a time. The in-operations training scheduled for October 2018 had to be cancelled due to large scale G5 Sahel operations and a concentration of jihadist attacks, making it particularly dangerous for trainers to operate in the elephant range, and resulting in the unit being requisitioned by the army for the month of October. Despite this it appears that the unit does have a deterrent effect (very low poaching levels when it is in place), but the target number of patrol days per month needs to be changed to > 4/month.

0.4. Census of total elephant population to be completed Mar-June, year 2-3. Base-line: zero (last aerial census completed in June 2015). To be completed Y2.

0.6. Elephant range communities perceive that the system enhances multi-dimensional security by end of project (indicated by positive changes detected from mixed methods perception surveys). Progress Y1: Baseline survey delayed to due insecurity.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome-level assumptions:

Assumption 1 - The security situation does not deteriorate, and the project and its partners continue to be able to operate (Note: the MEP is the only NPO to have continued to operate throughout the conflict). The security situation has indeed deteriorated as the main battle front has moved south right into the elephant range, triggering a rise in the number of violent incidents (Annex 4.4), including in major towns such as Douentza. In response, the number of counter-operations in the area has also increased and the French Barkhane force has established an advanced post in Gossi, in the north of the range, from which it launched an offensive targeting a base of jihadist militants in a forest usually frequented by elephants. Of course, this poses major logistical challenges as many of the project's activities are curtailed by the risk of travelling in the area and every activity requires more time and more resources. Despite these threats, the project field staff remains fully committed and the project has continued its operations. The project director convened a crisis meeting with the project staff during her last visit to Mali to discuss these risks and their implications, but the field staff adamantly reaffirmed their commitment and the necessity to continue, on the grounds that unlike others who suffer abduction, they are from the area, they behave as and are respected as part of the local community for their long-term engagement and genuine desire to help. The team keep abreast of the security situation throughout the elephant range so they know where and when to travel, and use local-brand motorbikes or public transport dressed as peasants whenever they have to travel.

Assumption 2 - The Malian government (and other partners) remains committed to developing an effective elephant protection strategy and enforcing its laws on poaching (Note: the MEP

has developed good relationships with government personnel at all levels, and is in regular correspondence with the parliamentary working group for conserving wildlife and natural resources. Other partners such as MINUSMA are committed to providing continued support). The government is in chaos and highly dysfunctional and providing the necessary capacity requires continued engagement, continual prompting and monitoring. This is particularly true within the DNEF administration where the lack of engagement made itself apparent in the running of the APU in 2018. The key committed individual within the Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (the Directeur-Adjoint) has retired and his place taken by a relatively young replacement, who will be too weak to make any impact. The local Chef de Cantonnement is honest and has enforced financial and patrol reporting procedures. The military, by contrast, are committed to respect their part of the protocol at high levels, however the high rate of turn-over makes continuity a continual problem, something that is mitigated by the project's security advisor. At local levels the commitment of the local commandant depends on the individual, but he also changes every 6 months.

Assumption 3 - Improved monitoring and law enforcement results in a reduction in the poaching rate. This seems to be the case. The few poaching incidents that took place at the beginning of 2018 while the second APU was unable to leave its base suggest that patrolling acts as a deterrent to poachers.

Assumption 5 - Increased government presence improves security. This is difficult to demonstrate at the moment given that the Government is totally absent from the area. What is clear is that the lack of Government leaves the door open to a number of abuses, as violence against civilians increases (>100 were killed in March in inter-ethnic violence in Ogossagou, Bankass district) and communities resort to their own means to protect themselves. (*Livre Blanc de la société civile pour la paix et la sécurité au Mali*, SIPRI, 2019), however in a context of such insecurity (the MINUSMA is still the most dangerous UN Peace-keeping operation in the world), the APU cannot by itself ensure the return of security to the area.

Assumption 6 - The Gourma communities remain committed to CBNRM and elephant protection initiatives (Note: community support for the project remains strong and continues to extend to additional communities due to the delivery of tangible benefits). Communities have continued to demonstrate strong commitment to elephant-centred CBNRM. In addition to monitoring elephants and habitats eco-guardians are also engaged in the creation of firebreaks to protect pastures from wild fires during the dry season. This year, this activity proved so successful that a number of volunteers, both men and women, joined in to lend a hand creating nearly 1,390 km of firebreaks in just three months. As a result, only one wild fire broke out which was quickly put out by the eco-guardians, as opposed to between 10 and 20 in recent years in this area.

Output Assumptions:

Assumption 1 - The security situation does not deteriorate to a level that prevents the eco-guardians from operating. This assumption still holds true.

Assumption 2 - The Gourma communities remain committed to CBNRM and elephant protection initiatives. See Outcome Assumption 5.

Assumption 3

Assumption 4 - Weather and security conditions do not hamper aerial surveillance activity. This assumption relates to activities in Y2.

Assumption 5 - Community eco-guardians are able and willing to lead the ground surveys and the community participants follow the methodology. This assumption relates to activities in Y2.

Assumption 6 - Materials are prepared and disseminated according to the work-plan. The ever-changing situation on the ground means that activities often have to be postponed and so the work-plan is constantly being reviewed to adapt to the changing circumstances. However, the

project has produced all the materials listed in the application, except the manual for the APU which will be drafted in Y2.

4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation

Impact: In Mali elephant poaching and ivory trafficking are eliminated through improved information management and co-ordination of local, national and regional actors.

The rate of poaching has been greatly reduced (see section 6) despite the challenges associated with the deployment of the second APU in 2018. Mali sits at a crossroads of trafficking routes, of which ivory is but one of them. Tackling poaching in Mali therefore contributes to tackling a much wider network of organised crime in the region, as influential individuals or families tend to engage in several types of trafficking at the same time. In so doing the project also contributes to improving security, which is essential to both development and wellbeing.

5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declaration and Kasane Statement

The project contributes to:

1. Strengthening law enforcement and the role of the criminal justice system through the creation of a government anti-poaching system from scratch, beginning with an anti-poaching ranger force in the elephant range, and working with bilateral partners to involve the other relevant government enforcement agencies.

The project contributes to the following commitments under the London Declaration:

- XIII. Invest in capacity building to strengthen law enforcement to protect key populations of species threatened by poaching
- XIV. Establish and maintain national cross-agency mechanisms
- XVII. Recognise the negative impact of illegal wildlife trade on sustainable livelihoods and economic development –.
- XVIII. Increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradicate poverty

The project contributes to the following commitments under the Kasane statement:

C. STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Support the strengthening and, if necessary, the establishment of regional wildlife enforcement networks

D. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (see section 7 below)

Promote the retention of benefits from wildlife resources by local people where they have traditional and/or legal rights over these resources.

Support work done in countries to address the challenges that people, in particular rural populations, can face in living and coexisting with wildlife, through the wider project.

Establish, facilitate and support information-sharing mechanisms

Support work by countries and intergovernmental organisations, as well as nongovernmental organisations, that seeks to identify the situations where, and the mechanisms by which, actions at the local level, can reduce the illegal wildlife trade

6. Impact on species in focus

Despite the worsening security situation and the challenges associated with the deployment of the second anti-poaching unit in 2018 the poaching rate has been significantly reduced from 83/year in 2015, to 51 in 2016, 9 in 2017 and 13 in 2018. The first unit, who operated between

February 2017 and February 2018, proved extremely motivated and competent, and the effects were immediately apparent on the ground where the number of reported poaching incidents declined from an average of 6.92/month (± 2.02) in 2015, to 4.25/month (± 1.71) in 2016 and 0.75/month (± 0.75) in 2017. No elephants were poached for 13 consecutive months from April 2017 to March 2018. The slight increase from 2017 to 2018 after 13 months of no poaching is likely attributable to the net decrease in anti-poaching operations while the second team was being trained up. However, this shows that a well-trained and operational unit represents a powerful deterrent and that efforts should be maintained

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

Raising the profile of the eco-guardians benefit local people and the environment in the following ways:

- Eco-guardians provide the crucial role in CBNRM through (a) ensuring that infringements of community NRM rules are detected and (b) conducting NRM protection activities (c) supporting the women in livelihood initiatives that support CBNRM. Livelihood improvements include:
 - The increased availability of natural resources resulting in increased income (e.g. in 2015 one community of 75 households earned \$24,000 from sustainable pasture management, plus healthier, more valuable animals).
 - Empowerment to manage resource use at sustainable levels using methods that are familiar and part of local culture. This prevents the degradation of natural resources and biodiversity which undermines ecosystem resilience to cope with the variable climate; and social resilience by increasing competition for increasingly scarce resources.
 - Improving local community governance, food and energy security.
 - Promotion of social cohesion and reconciliation
 - Reduction in human-elephant conflict.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

This project supports gender equality indirectly in the following ways:

- Eco-guards also protect the resource-base for local livelihoods (piloted through a Darwin Initiative project), some of which target women through the development of income-generating activities based on CBNRM. For example, firebreaks carried out by eco-guards protect pastures; this enables communities, including women engaged in livestock fattening schemes, to feed their livestock throughout the long dry season. These can then be sold at markets at a higher price together with any surplus hay.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

The MEP has a well-established system of monitoring project progress which involves regular (several times per day) communication between the field manager and project director, enabling rapid adaptation of planned activities depending on the situation on the ground. This is essential given the dynamic security situation in central Mali and the effectiveness is demonstrated by the ability of the field team to continue operating despite the challenging conditions in recent years. On a monthly basis the field manager, field office manager and field assistants compile information received from community members and recorded during field monitoring activities (e.g. elephant locations); poaching activity; CBNRM activities and agreements; household and perception surveys; training / workshop outputs into monthly reports which are forwarded to the project director and UK project assistant with a list of corresponding expenses and receipts. Data are entered into primary databases by the field

team before being sent with the monthly reports to the UK project assistant for validation and entry into master databases. The UK project assistant sends monthly reports to the project director which summarise the current status of project activities and expenses for review. There are much more data that could be collected and analysed to better quantify the impact of the project; however, M&E is clearly a challenge for the field team, particularly when the UK team is not present on the ground. The project is working on finding ways to provide additional support to address this.

The APU and the DNEF now provide monthly reports on expenditures, vehicle use and patrols to the field team and the UK team. Expenditures are checked by the grant and financial manager, while patrols are entered into a master database and mapped in GIS by the UK project assistant.

10. Lessons learnt

Keeping the anti-poaching unit functioning has been and remains a challenge, mainly due to the repeated delays in GEF funding (see section 13), compounded by a change in the focal point at MINUSMA causing delays in grant administration, and delays in EU funding. As the project had had to mobilise funds from various sources to keep it operational, this has put huge strains on the rest of the project's operations.

The existence of the anti-poaching unit appears to act as a deterrent (section 6). The Gourma is complex with many groups operating, often with several shifting agendas and affiliations, so it is difficult to say with certainty what is happening, however, experience seems to suggest that the presence of an operational anti-poaching unit represents a deterrent and is essential to maintain in operation. Additionally, it provides a precedent and a body which can be supported and developed by those with deeper pockets to play a key role in acting against trafficking in central Mali.

Beyond the monetary aspect, adaptability and community support remain key. Plans often have to change at the very last minute and ensuring enough flexibility to enable the project to operate while respecting the agreed work plan can be challenging at times.

11. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Comments in the award letter:

- *"The links of the proposed project to improved agriculture were not clear in the application."* – Please refer to section 7.
- *"It was unclear how the proposed project would be additional to the planned GEF/EU project."* – The project funded under this agreement is not included in the GEF/EU project. The idea of the engaging the community in monitoring the impacts of their actions (including the elephant census) came after those project documents were written. It is meant to further support the process of professionalisation of the eco-guard role and sits within the broader context of anti-poaching and CBNRM supported by the GEF and the EU (section 13).
- *"Logframe indicators are inconsistent with the application's narrative, for example when referring to a baseline of only 11 eco-guards at the start of the project."* – Please refer to indicator 0.2 under section 3.3.
- *"There were some concerns of project sustainability if legal frameworks are not dealt with, e.g. will people remain as eco-guards if criminal network influences increase in the region and lawlessness continues to proliferate."* – The project is committed to work towards their recognition and finalising commune-wide conventions is one step in the right direction.
- *"It was not clear where the '100%' co-financing is from. The percentages indicated in the application form and budget spreadsheet do not match."* – The 100% co-financing is based on a misunderstanding. What was meant was that 100% (99%) of the cofinancing, amounting to 27% of the total cost of the project, has been secured (as per the budget).

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

13. Sustainability and legacy

The project enjoys high profile in Mali, within the government, MINUSMA and certain embassies. Because the project works closely with government the Minister is well briefed and the project provides a high level of technical support to the MEADD and DNEF in planning and management. The recruitment in 2018 of the retired Colonel-Major as project advisor on aspects linked to security and the anti-poaching unit also provides direct access to the highest levels of the military which mitigates the problem of a high turn-over of personnel.

GEF funding has been secured to support anti-poaching training and operations but has suffered repeated delays (now amounting to over 2 years). While the agreement with the government has been signed and project personnel are being recruited it is still unclear when the GEF project will effectively start. GEF funding will be channelled through the DNEF as the aim is ultimately for the anti-poaching unit to come under the umbrella of the government. In the meantime, the MEP has had to work hard to mobilise funds to bridge this gap and prevent the unit from being dismantled. The EU contract has now been signed and the project is awaiting the disbursement of funds that will help support the costs of the trainers and aerial surveillance (in addition to the community work). However, it could still take up to two months before any money becomes available.

The project plans to accompany local communities in establishing CBNRM systems, in which eco-guards play centre-stage, until the benefits are evident and the practices become habitual. The long-term goal is for the whole of the elephant range to be managed sustainably under such systems. Evidence from individual communities suggests that without the conflict progress could have been rapid, however the enormous upheaval of the conflict and insecurity has impeded this process and the resources required to establish a government APU have reduced those available for CBNRM. In times of peace the project would not have to repeatedly pay incentive payments to the ecoguards because activities could continue unhindered, parts of the community could work together easily, markets would be open, travel would be without risk etc. They would soon be experiencing the tangible benefits of their actions without distraction. However, while trying to act in a situation of lawlessness, turn back an insurgency, and fight against factors that are actively mitigating against social cohesion (the biggest factor influencing rapidity of uptake), the MEP has to keep up these payments. This project will help by helping raise the profile and performance of the ecoguards, while tangible benefits in the form of reduced HEC and improved livelihoods will encourage community engagement in elephant conservation.

14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

The project acknowledges the contribution of the IWT Challenge fund and uses the well-recognised UK Government Aid logo on all presentations and papers, and in all engagements with the Malian government and international agencies in particular. This is supported by the engagement of the British Embassy which makes the UK well-recognised as a key player, and its support to the MEP through MINUSMA Trust Fund. All articles recognise the role of project partners with a hyperlink to a [page](#) where the UK aid logo is amongst the most prominent. It is listed as a major donor/partner. The project requests this acknowledgement in all media pieces although this is not always respected. The logo was going to be painted on the doors of the anti-poaching vehicles although this was not thought to be a good idea as it would likely invite jihadist attack.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (July 2018-March 2019)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2018/19 Grant	2018/19	Variance %	Comments (please explain)
---	---------------	---------	------------	---------------------------

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2018-2019

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2018 - March 2019	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>In Mali elephant poaching and ivory trafficking are eliminated through improved information management and co-ordination of local, national and regional actors.</p>			
	<p>0.1. Monthly elephant poaching rate is reduced to <1 / month by end of year 1; 0.5 / month by end of year 2; and 0.25 / month by end of year 3. Baseline: 3 / month, Jul 2016 – Jun 2017).</p> <p>0.2. # of eco-guardians actively and regularly monitoring elephants in key areas throughout the elephant range reaches 50 by end of year 1 and is maintained or increases through the project period (baseline: 11 eco-guardians from 6/8 core communes regularly reporting elephant movements in 2016-17).</p> <p>0.3. # of days/month proactive and reactive APU missions completed Target: ≥15 days/month by end of Q2 in year 1, maintained throughout project period. Base-line: 6 days/month in 2016-17.</p> <p>0.4. Census of total elephant population to be completed Mar-June, year 2-3. Base-line: zero (last aerial census completed in June 2015).</p> <p>0.5. Number of elephant range communes monitored in synergy by community eco-guardians + APU.</p>	<p>0.1. Poaching rate has been reduced from an average of 3 incidents/ month (Jul 2016-Jun 2017) to 1/ month (Jul 2017-Jun 2018) and 0.11/ month (Jul 2018-Mar 2019). # elephants killed during reporting period = 1 (Oct 2018).</p> <p>0.2. 513 eco-guards from 9 communes engaged in elephant monitoring. 184 reports of elephant sightings in 13 communes from 35 informants, 12 of which have reported sightings >5 times during the project period (4 of them provided between 13 to 36 reports), however this indicator needs review (see section 3.3 above).</p> <p>0.3. This indicator also needs review (see section 3.3 above)</p> <p>0.4. To be completed in Year 2.</p> <p>0.5. APU patrols covered 16 communes, including 9 core</p>	<p>0.1 Continue to support APU patrols and elephant monitoring by eco-guardians.</p> <p>0.2 Continue to provide incentive payments to a maximum number of eco-guardians.</p> <p>0.3 The project will continue to put pressure so that the APU increases the # of patrol days each month.</p> <p>0.4. Elephant census planned to take place in May 2019.</p> <p>0.5 Same as 0.3</p>

	<p>Baseline = zero. Target = 6/8 core communes across range by end of year 2, 8/8 by end of project.</p> <p>0.6. Elephant range communities perceive that the community-APU system enhances multi-dimensional security by end of project (indicated by positive changes detected from mixed methods perception surveys).</p>	<p>communes also monitored by eco-guards. [53% of the patrols occurred in 4 communes (Dangol-Bore, Haire, Korarou, Debere) due to elephant distribution]</p> <p>0.6. No baseline survey due to insecurity preventing field staff from travelling.</p>	<p>0.6 The project will continue to monitor the situation to see if a window of opportunity opens.</p>
<p>Output 1. The capacity and motivation for eco-guardians to lead and promote elephant conservation activities is increased through training and the formalisation of their occupations, enabling them to work in synergy with the APU.</p>	<p>1.1. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians selected from across the elephant range receive advanced training in monitoring elephant movements and key habitats, (15 days of workshops), with follow-up refresher training in year 2 and 3 (five 1-day workshops/year).</p> <p>1.2. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians from across the elephant range receive monthly incentive payments following their selection in year 1 and continuing throughout the project.</p> <p>1.3. Household income for the 50 best-performing eco-guardians increases by 20% in year 1 and is maintained at/above the same level for year 2 and 3 (baseline income to be determined in year 1).</p> <p>1.4. The role of community eco-guardians as leaders of CBNRM and elephant monitoring activities is formally recognised in commune-wide CBNRM agreements. Target: Formal recognition of the role in 6/8 core communes by end of year 2, 8/8 by end of project.</p>	<p>1.1 42 eco-guards from 8 core communes received training in the use of GPS to report elephant locations amounting to a total of 38 days of training (9 workshops lasting between 3-8 days). In addition, 32 eco-guards were trained in vegetation/wildlife surveys over a period of 17 days.; 9 in social survey methods.</p> <p>1. 513 eco-guards from 9 communes received incentive payments for elephant monitoring; 143 for habitat monitoring and collect information on wildlife; 23 to take GPS readings and photos.</p> <p>1.3 No baseline survey due to a rise in insecurity</p> <p>1.4 3 commune-level conventions which formalise the role of eco-guards have been agreed in Hombori, Gandamia and Korarou. (The process creating these conventions was not funded by IWT but the role of the ecoguards are formally recognised within them).</p>	

<p>Activity 1.1 Training workshops for community eco-guardians (five 2-day workshops in year 1; five 1-day workshops in years 2-3).</p>	<p>Target for Y1 completed: 9x 3-8 day workshops on the use of GPS for 42 eco-guardians; 17 days of training in habitat survey for 32 eco-guardians; 9 in social survey methods.</p>	<p>Training will continue during Y2-3 to reinforce skills already learnt and train new eco-guardians.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2 Incentive payments are made on a monthly basis to the 50 best-performing eco-guardians in return for CBNRM and elephant protection activities.</p>	<p>Target for Y1 completed.</p>	<p>The project will continue to provide incentive payments to as many motivated and responsible youths as possible until the security situation improves.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3 Monitoring of eco-guardian activities by community leaders and MEP field team.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>The project will continue with the current protocol.</p>
<p>Activity 1.4 Annual household surveys with the 50 eco-guardians that receive training and incentive payments.</p>	<p>Not completed due to rising insecurity.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor the situation to see of a window of opportunity opens.</p>
<p>Activity 1.5. Activities related to the launch of the process of formal recognition of the eco-guardian role.</p>	<p>Ongoing. 3 commune-wide conventions recognise the role of eco-guardians.</p>	<p>The project will continue to encourage the establishment of commune-wide conventions through its network of eco-guardians and by engaging with the Mayor's office of each commune.</p>
<p>Output 2. The anti-poaching unit (APU) conducts effective proactive and reactive operations</p>	<p>2.1. # of community reports of elephant presence/absence increases from 15 / month across the elephant range (baseline for 2016-17) to 20 / month by year 2 and 30 / month by end of project.</p> <p>2.2. # of days/month on which proactive missions are conducted by the APU. Target: 15 days/month from year 1 and maintained throughout project. Baseline: 6 days/month, 2017-18.</p> <p>2.4. Proportion of elephant range monitored/protected effectively by the APU across the year (depending on elephant movements). Target = 8 core communes monitored and protected from year 1 to project end.</p>	<p>2.1 The project received a total of 184 reports on elephant sightings from eco-guardians, i.e. 20.4/month.</p> <p>2.2 4.1 days/month. This target needs revision due to changed circumstances described in section 3.3 above.</p> <p>2.3</p>

		2.4 APU patrols targeted a total of 16 communes, including the 9 where eco-guards received incentives for monitoring elephants. 53% of these patrols were carried out in 4 communes where the elephants have been spending most of their time.	
Activity 2.1 Community reports on elephant movements are collected, processed		Ongoing.	Continue as before.
Activity 2.2 APU conduct proactive missions for >15 days/month across all 8 core communes of the elephant range.		Patrols ongoing but target needs revision to match the new situation.	Revise target
Activity 2.3. APU responds to poaching related activity (reactive missions) across all 8 core communes of the elephant range.		Circumstances prevented this on the one opportunity that presented itself	Continue with training
Activity 2.4. APU mission reports created, analysed and synthesised into quarterly reports.		Ongoing.	Continue as before.
Output 3. A census of the total elephant population is conducted by aerial surveillance and local communities counting simultaneously.	<p>3.1. Strategic plan and methodology document for the elephant census completed and accepted by all partners by end of year 1.</p> <p>3.2. # of days of elephant census training completed by community eco-guardians. Target: 3 days for 132 participants in Q3-4 of year 2. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.3. # of days of ground census surveys completed. Target: 10 consecutive days of ground surveys completed, Q4 of year 2 – Q1 of year 3. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.4. # of days and flight hours of aerial surveys completed. Target: 5 consecutive days of aerial surveys completed, Q4 of year 2 – Q1 of year 3. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.5. Census data analysed and report completed by end of Q2 in year 3. Baseline: last aerial census completed June 2015. No community censuses have ever been conducted.</p>	<p>3.1 Strategic plan disseminated; methodology drafted.</p> <p>3.2 To be completed Y2</p> <p>3.3 To be completed Y2</p> <p>3.4 To be completed Y2</p> <p>3.5 To be completed Y3</p>	
Activity 3.1 Elephant census strategic plan and methods completed and accepted by project partners and census participants.		Completed 90%.	Partners to approve strategic plan and methods.

Activity 3.2. Elephant census training provided to community eco-guardians, APU personnel and other participants (3 days for 132 participants).	To be completed Y2.	
Activity 3.3. Ground census completed by communities, APU and other participants during 10 consecutive days.	To be completed Y2.	
Activity 3.4. Aerial census completed by aerial surveillance unit during 5 consecutive days.	To be completed Y2.	
Activity 3.5. Census data collated and analysed and report completed and distributed to all partners and stakeholders.	To be completed Y3.	
<p>Output 4. Training materials are produced and distributed to community eco-guardians and APU personnel; and project progress and lessons learned are disseminated to the wider national and international community.</p>	<p>4.1. Field manual written and distributed for community eco-guardian monitoring by end of Q3 in year 1.</p> <p>4.2. Field manual for APU elephant monitoring, including working effectively with communities, drafted by end of Q3 in year 1 and updated annually as necessary.</p> <p>4.3. Elephant census report completed and distributed to partners and stakeholders by end of Q3 in year 3.</p> <p>4.4. Article(s) on community-based elephant monitoring and protection submitted to peer-reviewed journal by end of project.</p> <p>4.5. Quarterly newsletter and blog updates (via the MEP website and other internationally distributed blogs e.g. National Geographic) to reach the wider international community.</p> <p>4.6. Two conference / symposium presentations per year.</p>	<p>4.1 Field manual drafted. Awaiting review by field team.</p> <p>4.2 This has been delayed (see section 3.1 above)</p> <p>4.3 To be completed Y3.</p> <p>4.4 To be completed by end of project.</p> <p>4.5 2 blogs on the WILD/MEP website and 1 media video with Oxford Sparks (see section 3.2)</p> <p>4.6 6 talks/presentations by the project director (see section 3.2).</p>
Activity 4.1 Field manual for community eco-guardians written and distributed.	Completed 90%.	Field team to approve the draft.
Activity 4.2 Field manual on elephant monitoring for APU written and distributed.	Delayed	To be completed once APU is trained and fully operational, as this is the priority.

Activity 4.3 Elephant census report written and distributed.	To be completed Y3.	
Activity 4.4 Article(s) on community-based elephant monitoring and protection written and submitted to peer-reviewed journal.	To be completed by end of project.	
Activity 4.5. Blogs written and published online.	Ongoing: 2 blogs and 1 video published.	The project will continue to publish blogs regularly.
Activity 4.6. Conference / symposium presentations delivered.	Ongoing: 6 talks/presentations.	Continue to represent the project at major conferences.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: (Max 30 words) In Mali elephant poaching and ivory trafficking are eliminated through improved information management and co-ordination of local, national and regional actors.</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words) Community eco-guardians and enforcement agencies monitor and protect elephants across their range, preventing poaching, providing respected occupations, and improving multi-dimensional security.</p>	<p>0.1. Monthly elephant poaching rate is reduced to <1 / month by end of year 1; 0.5 / month by end of year 2; and 0.25 / month by end of year 3. Baseline: 3 / month, Jul 2016 – Jun 2017).</p> <p>0.2. # of eco-guardians actively and regularly monitoring elephants in key areas throughout the elephant range reaches 50 by end of year 1 and is maintained or increases through the project period (baseline: 11 eco-guardians from 6/8 core communes regularly reporting elephant movements in 2016-17).</p> <p>0.3. # of days/month proactive and reactive APU missions completed based on community-derived information. Target: ≥15 days/month by end of Q2 in year 1, maintained throughout project period. Base-line: 6 days/month in 2016-17.</p> <p>0.4. Census of total elephant population to be completed Mar-June, year 2-3. Base-line: zero (last aerial census completed in June 2015).</p> <p>0.5. Number of elephant range communes monitored in synergy by community eco-guardians + APU. Baseline = zero. Target = 6/8 core</p>	<p>0.1. Database of elephant mortalities; monthly summaries and maps of poaching incidents following Monitoring of Illegally Killed Elephants (MIKE) guidelines (compiled by APU and MEP field team, verified and updated by MEP monitoring officer).</p> <p>0.2. Eco-guardian database of measures of activity and effectiveness, monitored by MEP field team (e.g. lengths of firebreaks created to protect pasture; number of days training attended; number of elephant reports submitted).</p> <p>0.3. Monthly APU mission reports; Cybertracker mission reports, remotely uploaded to secure online server.</p> <p>0.4. Report from elephant population census, compiled by MEP staff, community representatives and DNEF personnel.</p> <p>0.5. Biannual reports on APU and community monitoring activities for each commune, depending on elephant presence.</p>	<p>The security situation does not deteriorate and the project and its partners continue to be able to operate (Note: the MEP is the only NPO to have continued to operate throughout the conflict).</p> <p>The Malian government (and other partners) remains committed to developing an effective elephant protection strategy and enforcing its laws on poaching (Note: the MEP has developed good relationships with government personnel at all levels, and is in regular correspondence with the parliamentary working group for conserving wildlife and natural resources. Other partners such as MINUSMA are committed to providing continued support).</p> <p>Improved monitoring and law enforcement results in a reduction in the poaching rate.</p> <p>Increased government presence improves security.</p> <p>The Gourma communities remain committed to CBNRM and elephant protection initiatives (Note: community support for the project remains strong and continues to extend to additional communities due to the delivery of tangible benefits).</p>

	<p>communes across range by end of year 2, 8/8 by end of project.</p> <p>0.6. Elephant range communities perceive that the community-APU system enhances multi-dimensional security by end of project (indicated by positive changes detected from mixed methods perception surveys).</p>	<p>0.6. Before (year 1) and after (year 3) perception surveys with >100 households sampled from five key areas of the elephant range.</p>	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. The capacity and motivation for eco-guardians to lead and promote elephant conservation activities is increased through training and the formalisation of their occupations, enabling them to work in synergy with the APU.</p>	<p>1.1. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians selected from across the elephant range receive advanced training in monitoring elephant movements and key habitats, (15 days of workshops), with follow-up refresher training in year 2 and 3 (five 1-day workshops/year).</p> <p>1.2. The 50 best-performing eco-guardians from across the elephant range receive monthly incentive payments following their selection in year 1 and continuing throughout the project.</p> <p>1.3. Household income for the 50 best-performing eco-guardians increases by 20% in year 1 and is maintained at/above the same level for year 2 and 3 (baseline income to be determined in year 1).</p> <p>1.4. The role of community eco-guardians as leaders of CBNRM and elephant monitoring activities is formally recognised in commune-wide CBNRM agreements. Target: Formal recognition of the role in 6/8 core communes by end of year 2, 8/8 by end of project.</p>	<p>1.1. Eco-guardian registers; training registers; photographs; workshop reports.</p> <p>1.2. Eco-guardian registers and incentive payment receipts signed/marked by eco-guardians.</p> <p>1.3. Annual household surveys for the 50 eco-guardians.</p> <p>1.4. Commune-wide CBNRM agreements, signed by elected community leaders and representatives.</p>	<p>The security situation does not deteriorate to a level that prevents the eco-guardians from operating (Note: the young men prefer this occupation to joining armed groups as it is less risky and earns respect).</p> <p>The Gourma communities remain committed to CBNRM and elephant protection initiatives.</p>
<p>2. The anti-poaching unit (APU) conducts effective proactive and reactive operations based on eco-guardian monitoring reports.</p>	<p>2.1. # of community reports of elephant presence/absence increases from 15 / month across the elephant range</p>	<p>2.1. MEP community reporting database, updated monthly; Cybertracker reports when security permits.</p>	<p>Community eco-guardians continue to provide information to the APU, the project and its partners.</p>

	<p>(baseline for 2016-17) to 20 / month by year 2 and 30 / month by end of project.</p> <p>2.2. # of days/month on which proactive missions are conducted by the APU. Target: 15 days/month from year 1 and maintained throughout project. Baseline: 6 days/month, 2017-18.</p> <p>2.3. % of eco-guardian reports of poaching activity responded to by APU (i.e. reactive missions). Target: 100% response rate by end of year 1, maintained throughout project duration. Baseline 2016-17: 15%.</p> <p>2.4. Proportion of elephant range monitored/protected effectively by the APU across the year (depending on elephant movements). Target = 8 core communes monitored and protected from year 1 to project end.</p>	<p>2.2. Quarterly reports from analysis of Cybertracker anti-poaching mission data (uploaded remotely to secure server accessed by MEP staff).</p> <p>2.3. Triangulation of MEP community reporting database & Cybertracker reports from APU missions.</p> <p>2.4. Quarterly reports from analysis of Cybertracker anti-poaching mission data (uploaded remotely to secure server accessed by MEP staff).</p>	
<p>3. A census of the total elephant population is conducted by aerial surveillance and local communities counting simultaneously.</p>	<p>3.1. Strategic plan and methodology document for the elephant census completed and accepted by all partners by end of year 1.</p> <p>3.2. # of days of elephant census training completed by community eco-guardians. Target: 3 days for 132 participants in Q3-4 of year 2. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.3. # of days of ground census surveys completed. Target: 10 consecutive days of ground surveys completed, Q4 of year 2 – Q1 of year 3. Baseline: zero.</p> <p>3.4. # of days and flight hours of aerial surveys completed. Target: 5 consecutive days of aerial surveys completed, Q4 of year 2 – Q1 of year 3. Baseline: zero.</p>	<p>3.1. Published document and agreement signed by all partners: MEP, DNEF, community representatives.</p> <p>3.2. Training attendance registers; reports; photos; certificates; aviation log book copies.</p> <p>3.3. Field data sheets; maps; photos and census report.</p> <p>3.4. Aviation log book copies; field data sheets; maps; photos and census report.</p>	<p>Weather and security conditions do not hamper aerial surveillance activity.</p> <p>Community eco-guardians are able and willing to lead the ground surveys and the community participants follow the methodology.</p>

	<p>3.5. Census data analysed and report completed by end of Q2 in year 3. Baseline: last aerial census completed June 2015. No community censuses have ever been conducted.</p>	<p>3.5. Report from elephant population census, compiled by MEP staff, with input from participants and external consultants.</p>	
<p>4. Training materials are produced and distributed to community eco-guardians and APU personnel; and project progress and lessons learned are disseminated to the wider national and international community.</p>	<p>4.1. Field manual written and distributed for community eco-guardian monitoring by end of Q3 in year 1.</p> <p>4.2. Field manual for APU elephant monitoring, including working effectively with communities, drafted by end of Q3 in year 1 and updated annually as necessary.</p> <p>4.3. Elephant census report completed and distributed to partners and stakeholders by end of Q3 in year 3.</p> <p>4.4. Article(s) on community-based elephant monitoring and protection submitted to peer-reviewed journal by end of project.</p> <p>4.5. Quarterly newsletter and blog updates (via the MEP website and other internationally distributed blogs e.g. National Geographic) to reach the wider international community.</p> <p>4.6. Two conference / symposium presentations per year.</p>	<p>4.1. & 4.2. Copies of field manuals; photos of manual in use by eco-guardians & APU.</p> <p>4.3. Copy of census report and emails distributing report to partners/stakeholders.</p> <p>4.4. Article submission receipt(s).</p> <p>4.5. Web-links to newsletters / blogs.</p> <p>4.6. Presentations/talks & conference agendas (proceedings when available).</p>	<p>Materials are prepared and disseminated according to the work-plan.</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1. Training workshops for community eco-guardians (five 2-day workshops in year 1; five 1-day workshops in years 2-3).</p> <p>1.2. Incentive payments are made on a monthly basis to the 50 best-performing eco-guardians in return for CBNRM and elephant protection activities.</p> <p>1.3. Monitoring of eco-guardian activities by community leaders and MEP field team.</p> <p>1.4. Annual household surveys with the 50 eco-guardians that receive training and incentive payments.</p> <p>1.5. Activities related to the launch of the process of formal recognition of the eco-guardian role</p> <p>2.1. Community reports on elephant movements and poaching activity are collected, processed and forwarded to the APU.</p> <p>2.2. APU conduct proactive missions for >15 days/month across all 8 core communes of the elephant range.</p> <p>2.3. APU responds to community reports on poaching related activity (reactive missions) across all 8 core communes of the elephant range.</p>			

- 2.4. APU mission reports created, analysed and synthesised into quarterly reports.
- 3.1. Elephant census strategic plan and methods completed and accepted by project partners and census participants.
- 3.2. Elephant census training provided to community eco-guardians, APU personnel and other participants (3 days for 132 participants).
- 3.3. Ground census completed by communities, APU and other participants during 10 consecutive days.
- 3.4. Aerial census completed by aerial surveillance unit during 5 consecutive days.
- 3.5. Census data collated and analysed and report completed and distributed to all partners and stakeholders.
- 4.1. Field manual for community eco-guardians written and distributed.
- 4.2. Field manual on elephant monitoring for APU written and distributed.
- 4.3. Elephant census report written and distributed.
- 4.4. Article(s) on community-based elephant monitoring and protection written and submitted to peer-reviewed journal.
- 4.5. Blogs written and published online.
- 4.6. Conference / symposium presentations delivered.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

In future years it is our intention to develop a series of standard measures in order to collate some of the quantitative measures of activity, input and output of IWT projects. These will not be measures of the impact or effectiveness of IWT projects but will contribute to a longer term dataset for Defra to draw upon. The collection of standard measures data will be important as it will allow us to understand the combined impact of all the UK Government funded Challenge Fund projects. This data will therefore provide useful information for the Defra Secretariat and for Defra Ministers regarding the Challenge Fund.

The standard measures for the IWT Challenge Fund are currently under development and it is therefore not necessary, at present, to complete this Annex. Further information and guidance about the IWT standard measures will follow.

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the subject line.	x
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	x
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	x
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	