



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference:	IWT051
Project title:	Securing Mongolia's Borders and Communities against Wildlife Trafficking
Country(ies):	Mongolia
Lead organisation:	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Collaborator(s):	UK Border Force (UKBF), Customs General Authority of Mongolia (CGA), National Police Authority of Mongolia (NPA), Mongolian Gender Equality Centre (MGEC)
Project leader:	Monica Wrobel
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	30 April 2019 – 30 September 2019 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media:	www.zsl.org/mongolia

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to the end September).

Output 1. Effective Border Detector Dog (BDD) Programme incentivised and capable of intercepting wildlife trafficking at Mongolia's vulnerable border crossings.

Activity 1.2: In addition to the March 2019 Detector Dog Training Centre facility upgrade, three additional pieces of training equipment recommended and used by the UKBF were presented and introduced to the CGA by the UKBF. These included: a training carousel built for the CGA to train dogs on scent detection; 45 'kong' toys which the UKBF uses to reward dogs during search training; and finally a search area was built with two brick layers to create a challenging search scenario for dogs where target odour samples can be hidden in the bricks. These pieces of equipment are all in current use by the UKBF, improving the Mongolian CGA training equipment apparatus availability to that of the UKBF's.

Activity 1.4: Detector dog training by UKBF National Detector Team Chief Instructor Robert Gray was conducted for two weeks between June 10 and June 21st at the CGA's Detector Dog Training Centre in Ulaanbaatar. Fifteen border detector dog units out of a total of eighteen national units attended the refresher training, surpassing the target participation rate of 50%. From the target project sites, there were four detector dog inspectors from Zamiin-Uud and one detector dog inspector from Khangai border checkpoint. There are no dogs currently at the last project site, Bichigt. Border detector dog unit inspectors were introduced to a new training approach of 'operant conditioning' and learnt how to search with new equipment, including the bricks and carousel.

Activity 1.5: During the refresher training (Activity 1.4), five new dog handlers were trained in UKBF training protocols. This consisted of topics including, the evaluation and exercising of

potential search dogs, indications, close search, conditioning, 'konging exercise', search stamina and marking behaviors. Detector dogs were tested to search on a variety of CGA equipment including the training hall, container wall, carousel, bricks and vehicle. During the training seven new dogs were evaluated, with five new dogs recommended for further detector dog training. To support this training, ZSL Mongolia organised and coordinated the visit of Mongolian detector dog handler Ganbold Narantugs to be hosted by the UKBF and Robert Gray, Chief Instructor of the National Detector Dog Team. The one week visit during May 25th – 31st 2019 was organised to exchange knowledge, ideas, and experiences around detector dog training and operations between the two customs agencies.

Activity 1.6 and 1.7: During June-August 2019 the UKBF drafted performance metrics for the CGA to evaluate handler/detector dog inspector performance. These metrics will form part of the framework of a performance-based incentivisation system, which will be piloted for detector dog units at priority sites by the end of the 2019. The CGA is currently reviewing the draft performance metric monitoring system.

Output 2. A newly established inter-agency Wildlife Crime Control Task Force (WCCTF) integrating the work of well-trained Customs, Police and Border Defense Agency staff.

Activity 2.1: UKBF Guy Clarke (CITES team leader) and Samantha Trackman (CITES team senior officer) delivered a total of three three-day training workshops for 102 Mongolian law enforcement staff in IWT and CITES enforcement during the first two weeks of September. Of the total, 47 officers were female (46.1%) and 55 were male (53.9%), surpassing the project target rate of 30% female attendance. Training participants included the CGA (49 officers), Police Crime Investigation and local police departments (16 officers), Border Defence Agency (18 officers), General Agency of Specialized Inspection (12 officers) and the Law Enforcement University (7 teachers). Training included topics such as CITES legislation, multi-agency approaches to wildlife crime, CITES inspection procedures in Mongolia, risk profiling, gender issues (delivered by the Mongolian Gender Equality Centre), and the role of Customs in combatting wildlife crime.

Activity 2.2: During the UKBF law enforcement officer training (Activity 2.1), ZSL Mongolia's project officer delivered an introductory presentation on Sorgog application, and training on how to use it. Officers who didn't already have the application downloaded it and their respective units were encouraged to train their colleagues on the Sorgog application and its use.

Activity 2.4 – 2.5: To support Mongolia's presence at international conferences and workshops, ZSL Mongolia is searching for suitable international event for Mongolian officials to attend and is in ongoing discussions with the CGA and UKBF.

Activity 2.6: To monitor trained law enforcement staff outcomes, ZSL Mongolia signed a contract with local authorities to receive quarterly reports on performance indicators (i.e. confiscations). ZSL is expecting a report in November from the CGA for operations between June 2018 and October 2019.

Output 3. A capable Community Surveillance Network (CSN), gathering vital intelligence and raising public awareness on 'wildlife trafficking at project sites.

Activity 3.3: As reported by the public police officers, public awareness raising talks were given to local communities about IWT. Zamiin-Uud Police conducted talks to 350 people of 116 households. Bichigt public police conducted talks to 430 people. To raise awareness of IWT related issues to those crossing the Mongolia-China border, ZSL Mongolia commissioned the development of two promotional videos on IWT that will be distributed to police and customs

partners. These videos will be shared/played on a television screen that ZSL installed at target border checkpoint crossings at the three project sites. The videos will raise awareness on relevant legal sanctions around IWT related crimes, and the ecological roles and significance of high-risk animals that are subject to IWT. The videos depict the donor's logo (UK AID) and ZSL logo and are ready for launch.

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.

No notable problems to report.

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

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No issues to raise.

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.**