



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

(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)

<b>Project reference:</b>	IWT053
<b>Project title:</b>	<b>Combatting transnational ivory and rhino horn trafficking networks in Cambodia</b>
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Cambodia
<b>Lead organisation:</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Collaborator(s):</b>	The General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
<b>Project leader:</b>	<i>Sotheary Sao</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media:</b>	<a href="https://cambodia.wcs.org/">https://cambodia.wcs.org/</a> , <a href="https://www.facebook.com">https://www.facebook.com</a>

### 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).

Since the project began on 1<sup>st</sup> July, activities towards output 1 are on track with key achievements including: i) open-source data mining and information gathering ii) discussions initiated on the development of SOPs with the Forestry Administration, iii) planning of the next skills-based training for law enforcement officers, iv) tracked the progress and outcomes of key court cases,

**Activity 2.1:** The Forestry Administration and General Department of Customs and Excise are the key agencies for the development of SOPs to clarify judicial processes from seizure to prosecution for wildlife cases. To date we have met with the Forestry Administration on the development of potential SOPs, during which we provided recommendations on the development process and content, and discussed how they would benefit FA's work in combatting wildlife trafficking and strengthen compliance with CITES. We will follow up with FA and have a similar initiation meeting with Customs in the next project period.

**Activity 3.1:** We are currently planning and organizing the arrangements for our next counter wildlife trafficking training course for law enforcement agencies in early December 2018, which will be funded with co-financing. This course will be in Phnom Penh and will focus on crime scene investigation, in particular evidential requirements for a successful prosecution. We anticipate attendance by 25 law enforcement officials from a number of agencies with the mandate to prevent wildlife trafficking within their jurisdiction, including Forestry Administration, Customs, Police and the Ministry of Commerce. Training will be provided by a team of national and international experts in policing and prosecuting wildlife crimes.

**Activity 3.2:** We maintain regular contact through informal meetings with proactive individuals who have joined our previous training courses, in Customs, Forestry Administration and the

judiciary,

**Activity 4.3:** Regular monitoring and recording of English and Khmer language media for articles relating to wildlife trade has resulted in 15 new articles added to the database, primarily of small-scale seizures and domestic trade.

**Activity 5.2:** WCS offices in Cambodia and Vietnam are engaging with government partners to discuss a bi-lateral meeting or exchange between these two countries.

**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.**

In the first three months of the project, we have delayed the first bi-lateral meeting due to changes in the mandates of government agencies in Vietnam, and changes within government agencies in Cambodia following the national election that caused difficulties with planning and organising such an event. During the next quarter we will make progress on this activity, and do not anticipate any impacts on the budget.

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

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

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

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

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

No

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R4 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Victoria Pinion at [IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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.**