



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

(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)

<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>Yi Yuth Virak</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).**

During this period we have continued to make significant progress towards the outputs with key achievements including i), ii) completion of an analysis of the jurisdictions of enforcement agencies, iii) support provided to champions, iv) a workshop initiating collaboration with the CCJ to increase coverage of wildlife trafficking in the media and v) regular briefings to influential aid agencies and missions to advocate for stronger action by Cambodian government agencies to CWT.

**Activity 2.1:** In the next six months, we anticipate following up the briefing we shared with FA last year with a technical workshop for all of the relevant law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to discuss management of ivory and rhino horn stockpiles, CITES compliance, and recommend solutions to these issues. We anticipate that the workshop will be hosted by MAFF (CITES MA), but are awaiting agreement from MAFF on this proposal.

**Activity 2.2:** In September, with co-financing, we contracted an independent Barrister-at Law (UK) with experience in criminal justice solutions to CWT to conduct an analysis of the mandates and jurisdictions of Cambodian enforcement agencies to investigate wildlife trafficking.

**Activity 2.3:** During the next six months, we will translate the legislative analysis and hold consultations (possibly a workshop) with law enforcement agencies and the judiciary for discussions and associated recommendations, focusing on improving inter-agency coordination.

**Activity 3.1:** The next trainings for law enforcement officers are in mid-2020.

**Activity 3.2:** We remain in regular contact with enforcement officers from Police, Customs and

FA, who are either former trainees, participants in the bi-lateral meeting (March 2019), or officers that are otherwise known to us. To our knowledge, there have not been any recent wildlife trafficking cases on which information could be shared.

**Activity 4.1:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 we helped the Club of Cambodian Journalists (CCJ) to organize a workshop on “The role of the media in Responding to Wildlife Trafficking”, to increase the interest of journalists and the coverage of wildlife trafficking issues in the Cambodian media. Seventy-nine Cambodian journalists participated and national media (print, online and tv) covered the event. This one-day workshop was an introductory event that identified that most Cambodian journalists lack knowledge of the relevant wildlife laws and how to investigate these crimes; we have agreed to provide a basic short training in November 2019 prior to supporting any field trips and investigations.

**Activity 4.3:** We have documented at least 27 media articles related to wildlife trafficking, 10 of which (37%) are focused on the criminal justice response or the government’s policy response to the issue, which is promising progress in terms of diversification of coverage.

**Activity 5.2:** The next bi-lateral meeting is planned for late 2020.

**Activity 5.3:**

**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.**

**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: Yes

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?**

N/A

**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](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.**