



(due 31st October 2019)

Project reference: IWT 054

Project title: Tackling Central Africa's illegal urban wild meat demand

Country(ies): Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo (ROC)

Lead organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Collaborator(s): Michigan State University (MSU), Juristrale, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), Ministry of Forestry Economy (MEF).

Project leader: Robert Mwinyihali

Report date and number (e.g. HYR1): 31st October 2019/HYR2

Project website/blog/social media: @wcs_congo @WCSRDCONGO wcscongoblog.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable.

Twelve activities were scheduled for Q1 and Q2 of Year 2. Progress is summarised below:

Output 1. Consumption and trafficking of PAC (Pangolins, Apes and Crocodiles) is sufficiently understood to develop partnerships and strategies

Activity 1.3 Monitor trafficking routes and identify traffickers and consumers

Investigators in Brazzaville, Kinshasa, Ouessou, Impfondo and Mossaka have conducted over 200 deployments into wildmeat markets or along trafficking routes, submitting over 300 information reports to date. These deployments have identified several geographical points of interest relating to PAC trafficking, as well as uncovering pricing, packaging and transport methodologies. Analysis and understanding of routes, identities and methodologies continue.

Activity 1.4 Set-up and maintain intelligence database

The database currently contains the findings from 165 deployments to wildmeat markets. Data entry is ongoing, with the database expected to be up to date by Q3. The database is secured through user access restrictions and is currently being split into two so that data relating to non-wildmeat activities (i.e. unintended uncovering of ivory trafficking) is stored separately.

Activity 1.7 Monitor dwarf crocodile supply from source to city

Before this reporting period, during Q3-Q4 of Y1, data were collected in Lac Tele Community Reserve, ROC, on hunter effort and catch, perceptions of change in abundance and the organisation of crocodile hunting. Transport routes to major cities were monitored and the number of crocodiles counted - 3,600 individuals were observed over a 4 month period. The full report from this study is now available and has been submitted with this half year report.

Activity 1.8 Research the motives and context for consuming PAC

A qualitative protocol was developed to deepen our understanding of the motives for wildmeat consumption, with a particular focus on apes. Interview guides were produced for focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, and approval was obtained from the WCS Institutional Review Board for research ethics. Focus group discussions with men and women of different ages and education levels began in Kinshasa and Brazzaville in Q2 and will continue in Q3.

Activity 1.9 Prepare a typology of PAC consumers

The data from 79 individuals who said they either preferred or last consumed a PAC species

during a quantitative survey conducted in Y1 will be combined with the qualitative findings from the focus groups and interviews, as well as anonymised intelligence data, in a MAXQDA qualitative data analysis database that will help us to build profiles for pangolin, ape and crocodile consumers. This will enable the preparation of the PAC consumer typologies originally envisaged during this period but which will now be completed by the end of Y2.

Output 2. Government, law enforcement partners and transport sector are engaged to implement crime prevention and law enforcement strategies

Activity 2.1 Engage government and law enforcement partners

The project has successfully engaged and shared pertinent information with partners such as PALF, Juristrale, USFWS, INTERPOL, the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force. Relationships with state bodies are still being nurtured. The proposed Wildlife Crime Taskforce in Kinshasa is in the early stages of development and a working agreement with the Lusaka Task Force is pending. Building these alliances is critical to ensuring the effective implementation of enforcement and crime prevention strategies.

Activity 2.3 Prepare situational crime prevention (SCP) strategy

Dr. Gore, a criminology expert from MSU, was selected to lead this process. The Terms of Reference were drafted and a time frame for activities defined but our matching USFWS funds have since been suspended (see Section 2a). Therefore the follow-up activities planned for Q3 and Q4 of Y2 cannot be carried out until other sources of funding are secured.

Activity 2.7 Prepare monitoring reports on crime prevention and law enforcement

Quarterly intelligence reports are produced by the Lead Investigator which include details of information gathered as well as crime prevention and law enforcement activities.

Output 3. Demand-reduction strategy targeted at urban consumers of PAC is designed and implemented in collaboration with a coalition of partners

Activity 3.1 Build demand-reduction coalitions in Brazzaville and Kinshasa

Stakeholder mapping and analysis was conducted in Kinshasa and Brazzaville to identify actors with an interest in wildmeat and an interest in either the implementation of a demand reduction campaign or wildlife law enforcement. In total 398 entities based in Kinshasa and 198 in Brazzaville were listed. National and international conservation or environmental NGOs that share our objectives were identified. A SWOT analysis was conducted on those that met our criteria for inclusion in the campaign coalition or a law enforcement working group.

Activity 3.2 Prepare behaviour change strategy

Following the participation of the Research Coordinator in a workshop at the University of Oxford on implementing behaviour change interventions in conservation, it has been provisionally agreed with Oxford that a similar workshop will be organised in DRC during Q2 of Y3 to develop the targeted behaviour change strategies focused on PAC species once we have more data on PAC consumer profiles and have developed the typologies. In the meantime, the focus will be on developing a broader campaign focused on bushmeat consumers in general, which will be conducted during Q1 of Y3.

Activity 3.3 Conduct lifestyle and media surveys of target audiences

Questions to understand the lifestyles and media consumption of different profiles of bushmeat consumers, based on sex, age, education and frequency of bushmeat consumption, were incorporated into the focus group discussions that began in Q2 of Y2 for Activity 1.8. Analysis of these data is ongoing and follow-up research will be conducted as the consumer profiles become more specific.

Activity 3.5 Engage M&E consultant in the design of impact evaluation

The external expert recruited to design an impact evaluation for the behaviour change campaign visited Brazzaville in July 2019 to develop a detailed theory of change for the Urban Bushmeat Project as a whole to better understand how different components of the project may have interacting effects on the behaviour of consumers. It is important to understand these

interactions in order to disaggregate the effects of the demand-reduction component specifically. It has been provisionally decided to use a matching algorithm to construct a credible counterfactual using data collected through a city-wide consumer survey before and after the campaign. Since the campaign will now be phased, with Phase 1 consisting of a general bushmeat reduction campaign in Kinshasa, and more targeted PAC-specific behaviour change approaches to follow in Phase 2, the impact evaluation design process is ongoing and dependent on the elaboration of the general and PAC-specific behaviour change strategies.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 3 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

As a result of US government politics at the central level, USFWS funds that were anticipated as matching funds have been withheld and it is unclear when they will be released. Unfortunately, the lapse in this funding impacts WCS's Urban Bushmeat Program in the immediate term. Until FY21 funding is confirmed or additional adequate funding from other sources is secured, it will not be possible to deliver on certain deliverables in this project, as indicated in the reporting, above.

In the absence of confirmed match funding from USFWS, some activities planned for Y2 with the DRC and ROC governments will not be carried out. These are mainly the activities included in Output 2 (2.2-2.5) and related to the crime prevention strategy, the implementation of this strategy with governments and collaboration with the transport sectors. We will update LTS as soon as we have further information on the programming of the USFWS funds.

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: The point above concerning activities that will not be carried out
Not yet

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance -

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.

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. **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.